



Shepperton News



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New Bishop in Milange
Walk & Talk Support
SSLHS programme

January 2022

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends

Happy New Year to you all! I do hope that you managed a time of rest and relaxation over the Christmas season as we celebrated the birth of our Lord.

I am writing this letter in mid-December, the morning after the press conference where we were told to consider who we were planning on mixing with in the few days prior to Christmas Day. I have no idea what the Covid situation will be by the time you come to read this in January. I don't wish to second guess either so I have decided this month to share with you some words from the great poet and priest Malcolm Guite. He writes a blog, in which he chooses a piece of poetry each day on which he reflects. This piece reflects on the Hilaire Belloc poem "Courtesy"

Malcolm writes:

The poem we consider today is about 'courtesy', not a word that we attribute easily these days except if we are complaining that someone lacks 'common courtesy'. As I reflected on this poem I was taken back to my childhood when I was at a convent boarding school. I loved going to the convent chapel and kneeling to pray. I remember thinking how inadequate I was to do this, unlike the professional nuns whose prayers I considered far more powerful than my own mute and rather unhappy attempts.

I have since learned that God will inhabit the tiniest space we make for Him. Even our most feeble turning towards Him will make the angels of heaven hold their breath in excitement. Recently I read the words of a Rabbi who said, when the child of God walks down the road a thousand angels go before her crying, 'Make way for the image of God!'

Of Courtesy, it is much less
Than Courage of Heart or Holiness,
Yet in my Walks it seems to me
That the Grace of God is in Courtesy.

On Monks I did in Storrington fall,
They took me straight into their Hall;
I saw Three Pictures on a wall,
And Courtesy was in them all.

The first the Annunciation;
The second the Visitation;
The third the Consolation,
Of God that was Our Lady's Son.

The first was of St. Gabriel;
On Wings a-flame from Heaven he fell;
And as he went upon one knee
He shone with Heavenly Courtesy.

Our Lady out of Nazareth rode –
It was Her month of heavy load;
Yet was her face both great and kind,
For Courtesy was in Her Mind.

The third it was our Little Lord,
Whom all the Kings in arms adored;
He was so small you could not see
His large intent of Courtesy.

Our Lord, that was Our Lady's Son,
Go bless you, People, one by one;
My Rhyme is written,
My work is done.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy and Blessed New Year.

Rev Carole

News from Mozambique

Bishops gather for creation of new Diocese of Zambezia



On Sunday 5th December, our link town Milange, Mozambique became the 'seat' of the new Diocese of Zambezia. Bishops from Malawi, Angola and neighbouring areas in Mozambique gathered in a colourful ceremony for the collation of Bishop Vicente Msosa..

We in Shepperton have close links with Milange, having helped fund building of the church and the school. The growth of the church in this part of Southern Africa is a wonderful story. We are privileged to be linked, and of course wish Bishop Vicente well in his new responsibilities.

Fencing up at the New School Building



The fencing round the school was the last stage of the building project we have been supporting in Milange. Now the building is secure it is hoped that the school will be able to open in January.

Bereavement Support



No matter how long ago the bereavement, there are times in the year which can jerk painful memories, Christmas being perhaps the most difficult. The people who work at Princess Alice Hospice are well aware of the impact bereavement can have on individuals and how important it is to find the support of others who can truly empathise.

Bereavement Cafe

Under the auspices of Princess Alice Hospice, St Nicholas Church established a Bereavement Café six months ago, offering support and a listening ear to anyone who needs it. The Café is run by volunteers trained by Princess Alice Hospice and offers a safe, warm and friendly atmosphere where people can share their feelings with others who understand the daily challenges they face. The Café is open on the second Monday of each month from 2.30- 4pm at St Nicholas Parish Centre.

Walk and Talk

In 2022 a new option will be added for those who prefer to Walk and Talk. The first Walk is planned for the morning of Monday 17th January when Volunteers will lead a level, circular walk lasting around forty-five minutes and ending at a refreshment point. This will go ahead no matter what the weather so be sure to dress accordingly!

Walk and Talk sessions have taken place through Princess Alice Hospice in other areas for the past six years and have helped many people adjust to new circumstances. Taking the first few steps may be difficult but the benefits are many.

If you would like to join them or need more details,
just call St Nicholas Parish Office
on 01932 221621

between 10 am and 12 noon weekday mornings
or leave a message giving your name and contact
details and you will be contacted by one of their
volunteers.





1st Shepperton (St Nicholas) Scout Group January Report

A Happy New Year to you all as we, in Scouting enter another period of uncertainty. As I write this in mid-December, I am still waiting for my celebrations to begin, but these have already been muted by other issues. Firstly, I was ‘pinged’ by Test and Trace – incorrectly as it turned out as someone could not differentiate between a direct ‘contact’ with a Covid-19 positive person and the Group ‘contact person’ – but I still had to wait for the result of a PCR test! Then there were the rule changes as we returned to ‘Yellow’ status and the return to mask-wearing for all of Scout age and over. As you read this, guidance may have changed again and it is becoming more difficult to keep up with the necessary changes to risk assessments, etc.

We made the decision to end our autumn session early (in the week of 6th December) to minimise the possibility that any infection picked up at section meetings would not require 10 days isolation over Christmas itself. I’m sure our parents appreciated this move, although infections could still be acquired elsewhere. As such, there are only a few activities to report.

The Beavers held their end-of-term party, the highlight of which was a game of ‘Hungry Hippos’ – but not as you would normally play it. This time the Beavers were manoeuvred on skateboards to collect balls and put them in washing-up bowls!

The Cubs managed two meetings – the first to do some crafting, making Christmas cards and toilet roll snowmen (no panic-buying of toilet rolls was involved I’m assured) before also closing with the traditional party.

Scouts had to cancel their first meeting of the month due to Leader availability, but they closed with an evening of ‘bowling and burgers’ at Tenpin Feltham.

Whilst the Leaders have now planned for the coming term there will be built-in flexibility as we don’t know how the national situation may develop and we will have to adapt accordingly. The Beavers are hoping to have a ‘sleepover’ at Walton Firs at the end of this month, something we have not had for many years, and there should be the County activity day ‘Bazzaz’ in May. The Cubs have their bi-annual District weekend at PGL in February and a District Camp in July and the Scouts are hoping for the re-scheduled ‘Scoutabout’ in July. As a Group we are keeping our fingers crossed for the return of Shepperton Village Fair which is traditionally our main source of funding.

I would like, at this point to express the Group’s sincere thanks to the Fuller family for the generous donation of £1000 in memory of their son, William, who tragically died in a traffic accident in 2018. William was a Beaver Scout and Cub Scout with 1st Shepperton (St Nicholas) from 2004 – 2006 and we are currently looking for a suitable project that we can undertake in his name.

We have to remain optimistic that things will begin to improve again – and we will always be guided by our motto ‘*Be Prepared*’. There has never been a better time to get involved and, if you feel you could join our team of Leaders to help enhance the provision of Scouting in Shepperton for the future - and have some fun along the way, please get in touch. Bear in mind that, nowadays, volunteering is more flexible, and it is not necessarily a 30-year commitment! Additionally, if you have young people wanting to be Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts or Scouts - please contact the Group Scout Leader at stnicksscouts@btinternet.com or phone us on 08450 946236.

May I again wish you all a very Happy New Year. Stay safe, and please consider if (and how) you could help our 111-year-old Scout Group to continue successfully into 2022 and beyond.

David Fern
Group Scout Leader



Shepperton District Girlguiding



1st Ashford Common Rainbows were off to meet Santa on *Mizens Miniature Railway* on Saturday 11th December, then ended the term with a traditional Christmas party for their last unit meeting. They enjoyed playing musical bumps, statues and chairs, pass the parcel and “squeak, piggy, squeak” before sticking Rudolph’s nose and a Christmas bauble in the correct places, blindfold. The Rainbows were lucky enough to see Santa a second time when he arrived in the middle of the party tea and handed out presents. Everyone went home happy!

Instead of a Christmas party, **1st Halliford Rainbows and Brownies** ended the term with an eleventy-first birthday party, to celebrate 111 years since the founding of Girlguiding in 1910. But Christmas wasn’t ignored. Three of the Rainbows attended the *Rainbow Winter Wonderland* at *Hérons Wey Guide Campsite* at the beginning of December, whilst almost half of the Halliford girls joined **1st Littleton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides** for a Christmas Sleepover at *Paxmead* over the weekend of 10th-12th December. The Rainbows and younger Brownies worked for the *Advent Pawprint Challenge* from Friday-Saturday, whilst the older Brownies and Guides gained the *Pantomime Pawprint Challenge Badge* over Saturday-Sunday. Let it be known that the younger girls were MUCH better at going to sleep quietly and quickly! They all went home after lunch on Saturday proudly wearing St Lucy’s Crowns and sniffing pomanders, leaving the Leaders just time to Covid-clean the premises before the older Brownies and Guides arrived. After experiencing traditional pantomime tropes for themselves by running Pantomime Dame relay races, making their own hobby horses to race again as pantomime horses, then designing and painting clown faces on each other, the girls devised their own short pantomime productions in small groups, which they got to show to their parents before leaving on Sunday afternoon. Most of the **1st Halliford Rainbows & Brownies** will finally call an end to the term by attending a performance of *Elf Jr.* by *Themba Theatre* in Walton on Saturday 18th December.



1st Littleton Guides of course, had already practised being musical when they put on a Christmas concert for their parents at their last unit meeting of the term. **1st Littleton Brownies** officially ended the term with a takeover by *Maiya* who taught her fellow Brownies over zoom how to make a Christmas stocking: her final challenge to earn the *Brownie Gold Award*. Well done, *Maiya*!

2nd Shepperton Guides also enjoyed a fun party with friends, learning how to play the bell-plates, before finally drawing the term to a close with a trip to *Hampton Court* to ice-skate on a beautiful dry evening.

2021 has been a challenging one for Girlguiding in Shepperton. We started the year in lockdown with all meetings online. Most units were able to return to face-to-face meetings outdoors after Easter, and then came the return indoors either during the summer, or later in the autumn, until increased rates of Covid infection drove different units back online for some meetings. All units had girls absent from meetings because they had tested positive or were otherwise having to isolate - with the inevitable disruption to planned badge work. We all look forward to a reliable return to normality in 2022. In the meantime we thank all those dedicated volunteers who have kept their Promise and *done their best* to provide a true experience of Girlguiding for all our young members in Shepperton District, throughout the pandemic. THANK YOU ALL!

If your daughter is interested in Rainbows (4-7), Brownies (7-10), Guides (10-14) or Rangers (14-18+) in Shepperton District, please contact Julie on girlguidingriverash@gmail.com

We also welcome enquiries from adults who would like to take part in Girlguiding as Guide Leaders or Unit Helpers (Full training offered, no previous experience necessary! You don’t have to have a daughter in Girlguiding to take part yourself.)

New Year Wishes

Tis the year to be jolly? Well; maybe we settle for healthier and safer. There may be new rules, or old ones re-introduced into our lives to protect us. But whatever is imposed we still need to look out for ourselves too. We could wish that scamming stops, but let's assume that we still focus on repelling it. We are learning to be vigilant; still very wary of any approach from a stranger, by email, text or old fashioned phone. Offering unbeatable deals or to scare us witless for we have somehow sinned. At this time of year possibly threats from a claimed employee at HMRC re our tax. Fake emails will invite us to click a link. This leads to a cloned tax office site that then collects our bank details for the bad guys to steal all we have. But we're much more wary now and can seek advice.

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2021/11/hmrc-issues-tax-scam-warning-to-self-assessment-taxpayers-heres-what-to-watch-out-for/>

Shepperton and Sunbury Local History Society

The Society was founded in 1951 to foster interest in local history, particularly of our own area, namely Sunbury, Shepperton, Charlton, Littleton, and Halliford. The society is active and friendly, arranging monthly talks, creating exhibitions, and running stands at local events. Members receive two newsletters and two Journals (containing local history research and stories) per year. Single membership costs £8.00 a year and joint membership is £12.00

It is easy to join - come along to one of the monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to May. They are mainly held in the lecture theatre at Halliford School, starting at 8.00pm Talks are followed by an exhibition of local photos, maps, archives, and a chance to chat. There is plenty of free parking available on site at the school in Russell Road, Shepperton. The lectures are free to members, and non-members are welcome at £2.00 per person.

Talks are currently being held 'in person' but are dependent on the Covid situation and Halliford School being able to host them. In the event of a talk not being held in person then a Zoom presentation is arranged instead.

The remaining lectures of the current programme are as follows

20 Jan 2022	Willow - a Local Industry, by Sally Fletcher-Pemberton
15 Feb 2022	AGM, plus a short talk
15 Mar 2022	The Story of Squires Garden Centres, by Colin Squire
19 Apr 2022	Sir Henry Cole – a Victorian Dynamo, by Nick Pollard



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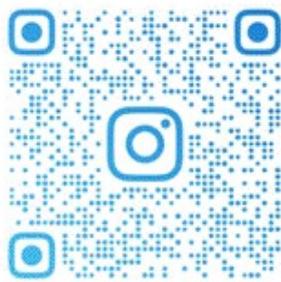
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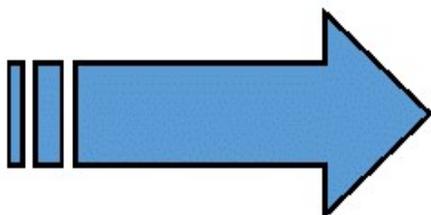
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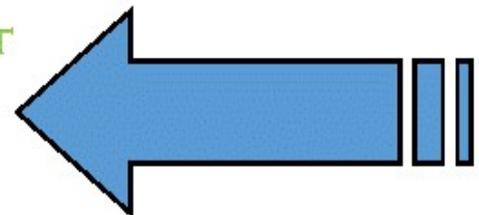
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22nd December

Marjorie Alison Innes

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