

Pratts Bottom

Newsletter

Winter 2020



A very warm welcome back to everyone to, what I am sure is a long-awaited Newsletter. It's fair to say it has been a while since the last edition, but we thought it was for the best while we were in the first Lockdown. However, we couldn't finish the year without letting you know there is still plenty happening in the village.

I hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and well during the most unprecedented year we have ever seen, something that will go down in history and tell family about in years to come. Especially because as a village we have all stuck together and helped each other out whilst trying to maintain some kind of normality, but working together as a community is something we have already been doing for years!

I wish you all well and that we can all celebrate with friends, family and those we cherish around us.



Editor – Laura Dimbleby

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Keep It Local – Shop Local

Let me introduce you all to Charlie, she moved to Pratts Bottom earlier in the year, during the 1st lockdown, with her partner Sam. I shall also take this opportunity to welcome them to the village and hope they get to meet us all soon.



Unfortunately, she lost her job, but with a creative background decided to start her own business 'Rushmore Living' providing original artwork and eventually all being well, home gifting/accessories as well. It was amazing to hear about how she is following her dream, by setting up a home studio and throwing all she has at it to make it a success, and uplifting to hear the passion and love she has for it.

Visit her website www.rushmoreliving.co.uk or on Instagram @rushmore_living Use promo code PrattsB10 for a 10% off voucher



Light Up The Village

Let's capture the spirit of the season and remember that Christmas is a time for giving as well as receiving.

Decorate your homes to bring some joy and light to our village for everyone to enjoy



Village Hall 100 Club

In order to raise funds for the upkeep of the Village Hall the Management Committee run a 100 Club. This is where one can buy a number/s for £2.00 per month (£24 a year) which are entered into a monthly draw. There are 4 prizes a month with a larger prize money in the December draw.

The prize money is dependant on the numbers sold. If 100 numbers are sold the monthly prizes are:

1st - £30 2nd - £25 3rd - £20 4th - £15

The Trustees of the hall are very grateful for this support as lockdown has caused the hall to be closed, so we have had no income, but the 100 club money has been extremely helpful for helping to pay for the sanitising equipment etc for keeping the hall safe.

Please contact 01689 858583 for more information. People who already have numbers are being contacted about 2021.

Village Fete Committee and Friends of Pratts Bottom Common – Lesley Jones

We are not able to gather on the Village Green to sing carols on Advent Sunday but the tree lights will be turned on sometime that weekend and we are hoping that tree decorations will be available to enable children to decorate the tree as they pass by during December.

The date for the **Village Fete (possibly 15th May 2021)** is six months away and who knows! However, we will assume that there is a good chance that it can go ahead and will plan accordingly. I think we will all need to get together and enjoy ourselves by that time, so here's hoping!

Wishing you all the best for a healthy 2021

All Souls Church – Brenda Johnson

What a strange year and we still don't know how the rest of the year will pan out. "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men" had been the case so often through the months. However, if Lockdown is lifted and we are allowed to start our services in All Souls again here is the schedule for the December Services.

December 8th – 10.30am Morning Worship and Gift Service

December 13th – 4pm Carol Service, Lesson and sung carols on a CD as sadly we cannot sing!

December 24th – 9pm Christmas Eve Communion

December 25th – 10am Said Communion

January 3rd – Holy Communion

As all services have to observe social distancing, the numbers able to attend services have been drastically reduced and regrettably there is no way we are able to squeeze those people who decided to attend a service at the last minute. I'm afraid that everyone has to book in advance, just like the National Trust. Please let me know well in advance if you would like to come to any of the above services. This is especially true of the Christmas Services...it is a case of "first come, first served".

All our real family services cannot take place, but on Christmas Eve we shall be playing Christmas carols outside the church from 15.00 – 16.30 if you happen to be passing. We also intend to decorate the outside of the church with a reminder that Christmas is not just pretty lights and

Christmas trees, but I'm sure they will feature – and also as we are unable to have a Christingle Service D-I-Y Christingles will be available! Again, dependant on allowances for gatherings.

Another COVID casualty is our village Christmas Market and All Souls always had a large presence there. For a bit of fun and fundraising, we are offering a virtual tombola with fabulous prizes! For £1, choose a number and every number wins a prize! Obviously, you can have as many 'goes' as you wish. When your prize is delivered, we can collect your cash!

Please contact me to book places at our services and also if you would like to take part in our unique tombola.

email

lancejohnson100@hotmail.com

phone 01689 858840



Rev Susan

Hello again, it's difficult to believe that my husband and I moved into the parish a whole year ago. It's certainly been an unusual year with totally unexpected experiences. Yet still it's been wonderful meeting everyone (when COVID restrictions have permitted) and getting to know the area too.

Over recent weeks a phrase I have heard repeated a few times is that "Christmas is cancelled". Well it's true the shopping malls, city centres and even the preparations for church services may look very different in the light of the restriction which face us all, but I can assure you Christmas isn't cancelled this year or any year. The message of Christmas remains the same as ever "God is with us" whatever circumstances we face, whatever trials and tribulations, joys and celebrations we may have.

Christmas is a time of hope, love and joy. So whether you are decorating the Christmas tree, placing shopping in the Food Bank collection boxes or stressing over the Christmas dinner being ready in time, please remember the Christian message of the little child born in Bethlehem who is Immanuel, God is with us.

I hope and pray that we may be able to celebrate with our friends and families but let us do so safely and sensibly as restrictions permit.

If you get the chance to come along to All Soul's for one of our services you will be very welcome – though please book your seat. In the meantime, all of us at All Soul's wish you a peaceful and Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.



Keep It Local – Stay Local

Throughout December at the weekends we will be running **The Bulls Head Winter Garden**. Covered and heated outdoor tables to book for groups of 6 following the current guidelines. Serving Mulled Wine, Cider and Hot Toddies. Delicious Belgium Hot Chocolates and Bratwurst Specials. We will also have some themed family day for all to enjoy

www.bullsheadprattsbottom.co.uk

**The Residents Association would like to wish
you all the very best wishes for a Peaceful
and Happy Christmas and Healthy and
COVID free New Year**

CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP

*** SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER
5:30PM**

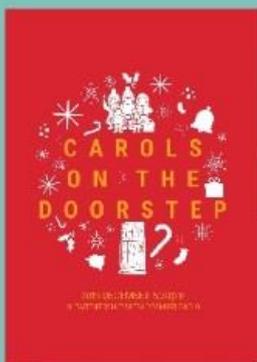
**Join us for a National carol sing on your
doorstep with your neighbours.**

It's so easy to join in....

*Download and print the Carol Sheet and invitation from
www.premierchristianradio.com. or
www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org

*Pop them through your neighbours' doors inviting them
to join you

*5:30pm on 20th December tune your radio to Premier
Radio or Freeview 725 or download the Premier Radio app
on your phone, then sing along to the Carols played. Why
not wear your festive jumpers too and even bring out
something to shake or rattle?



<https://www.facebook.com/CarolsOnTheDoorstep>

Residents Association – Rebecca Randall

I am writing on behalf of the Residents Association and hope that everyone is keeping well. At last we have some good news for a change it is encouraging to see there are now several vaccines on the horizon.

Many local people are walking in the beautiful countryside surrounding our village and it is good to see the footpaths being walked which can become quickly overgrown if they are not used regularly. There are also many willing volunteers who can be seen picking up litter in Pratt Bottom. Keep up the great work! – but sadly, they would not be required if a few people did not discard drinks cans, crisp packets, cigarette packs and an assortment of other debris in the hedgerows and lanes.

There are several For Sale boards in Pratts Bottom and these are quickly replaced with Sold. It is encouraging to see the property market so buoyant and that many people choose to live here. We welcome all new residents and hope they enjoy living in Pratts Bottom.

On 11th November The Bulls Head arranged a respectful 2 minutes silence. Thank you to them for arranging. I attended this moving event and have posted a photo of this sombre occasion on the Gallery on the Pratts Bottom website www.prattsbottom.co.uk Please send me any photos of events or walks during lockdown and we will continue to build on our gallery of photos. We started enthusiastically in March with lambs and spring flowers but now need some lovely autumnal colours to keep it seasonal.

The Pratts Bottom website is also a very useful tool to keep up to date with events and notifications in these fast (or should I say 'slow') moving times. The Village Hall 100 Club winning numbers are a recent addition to the front page. If you are a local business and would like to advertise on the website please get in touch via the website. We need your support to keep the Pratts Bottom website 'up and running'!