

CONTACTS

Church of England at St. Mary's. 1st Sunday: 8.00am Communion 11.00am informal "Cafe-style" service (at All Saints Hall); 2nd Sunday: 11.00am communion; 3rd Sunday: 8.00am Communion 11.00am morning worship; 4th Sunday: 11.00am morning worship.	Associate Vicar: Rev Annie Gurner, 824167, revgurner@btinternet.com Parish Office, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE website: www.hamhillchurches.org
BODY CONDITIONING CLASS - Weekly - Monday 6.30pm - 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Sue Menzies 01935 829632
BOWLS CLUB - Weekly - Friday, 7.00pm - 9.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Sylvia Warry 822044
BOYS BRIGADE - Weekly - Thursday 6.00pm - 7.30pm (now at Marrock Christian Fellowship)	Ian Rumbelow 881712
BRIDGE CLUB - Weekly - Monday starting at 8.30pm (Working Mens Club)	
BROWNIES - Weekly - Every Tuesday during term time (Hamdon Youth & Family Centre)	Jackie Poole 01935 823606
CRIME & MYSTERY BOOK GROUP	Kathy Smith 07366979178
"EVERY STEP COUNTS" - 9.30am & "HEALTH WALKS" 10.30am. Meet outside the Lighthouse	Penny on 822208 or Mark 07496 148756
FLEXERCISE FOR FUN - At Oak Tree House every Monday at 2.30pm	Di Ramsay 0845 6434702
FOOTBALL - SENIOR TEAMS - Training Tuesday evenings 6.30pm. Matches weekend	Ashleigh Bussell 07969 106205
FOOTBALL - YOUTH TEAMS - Training weekday evenings. Matches Saturdays & Sundays	Kim Campbell 07973 630121 email kimcamb73@me.com
FOOTPATHS - problems and issues contact the Parish Clerk	Sarah Moore, Clerk 822455
GARDENING CLUB - Monthly - Fourth Wednesday 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Ruth St John-Murphy 01935 829408
HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK - VOLUNTEER RANGERS - Weekly Wed. 10.00am - 3.30pm (Ranger's Office)	Paul McNeill 07973 3887129 Sonja Hellier 01460 241297 email pipershaun@hotmail.com
HAMDON BRASS BAND	
HAMDON PLAYGROUP - Monday - Friday term time, 8.30 am - 3.30 pm. 2 years old, 3/4 years old and 30 hours funding available.	Ann or Karon 01935 826832 Email: hamdonplaygroup@btinternet.com
HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT -	Maria Eames 01935 824064
HISTORY GROUP	Carol Parker 825393
LADIES CIRCUITS Thursday at 6pm in the Memorial Hall	Sue Menzies 829632r
LIGHTHOUSE CAFE - Monday & Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm	Sarah Russell 826355
MAY FAYRE - Annual Event for Sports & Recreation Trust	Denise Burton 827793
MEDITATION GROUP - Tuesdays at 8.00pm in the HCAP building (URC)	Emma Herrod 01935 829443
MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	bookings.stokememorialhall@hotmail.com, Jill Ullthorn 829513
PARISH COUNCIL - Monthly First Wednesday 7.15pm (Memorial Hall)	Barbara Brooks, Chairman 824432 Sarah Moore, Clerk 822455
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER	Carole Brown email: carolebrown@avonandsomerset.police.uk
POP-IN - Weekly - Thursday (Oak Tree House)	Paul Spearpoint 826375
POST OFFICE COUNTER (INSIDE THE SHOP AT THE CROSS)	
OPENING TIMES Monday & Friday 9.00am to 12 noon, Thursday 1.00pm to 4.00pm (excluding Bank Holidays)	
SEATED CHAIR EXERCISES - Friday at 10am in the All Saints Hall	Sue Menzies 829632
SONG BUS SINGING GROUP - Weekly Wednesday 9.15am - term time. All Saints Hall	Jeanette Rumbelow 06749 733686
STOKE AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION	Derek Goad. 824337
STOKE BABY & TODDLER GROUP - Memorial Hall, Thurs 9.30am to 11.30am in term time	carolyn_leyley@hotmail.com Facebook: @StokeBabyAndToddlerGroup
STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP OPENING HOURS - Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm; Saturday 8am - 1pm; Sunday 8.30am - 12.30pm	Lyn Foley 01935 823051/07714 005265
STOKE LUNCH CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE . Lighthouse Café last Wednesday of the month.	
STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Band Room, back of URC Training Band - Thursdays at Band Room, 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Gill Robins 01935 329904 Jane Herbert 01460 419317
STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP	Jeanie 01935 579592 or Moira info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk
TAEKWONDO & LITTLE DRAGONS - Mondays 5.00pm - 5.30pm Little Dragons; 5.30pm - 6.15pm Taekwondo Beginners; 6.15pm - 7.00pm Taekwondo Adults (Stanchester)	Jennie Clark 07921 393425
TAI CHI - Weekly - Thursday 4.00pm - 5.00pm in Memorial Hall	John 07721 060901
TINY TURRETS (Castle Primary School) - Foundation Stage Unit for children aged 2 - 4 years Two daily sessions 9.00am - 12 noon and 12 noon - 3pm. Extended provision available from 7.45am - 5.30pm ages 3+	Castle Primary School Office 01935 822342
TRIANGLE TRUST - Raising funds for Hamdon Medical Centre	Jennie Harris 881718
VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2 Cath Holloway	cath@somersetccc.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746
VILLAGE ARTISTS - Monday 10.00am - 12.30pm, Friday 10.00am - 12 noon (Memorial Hall) Thursday 7.30pm - 9.30pm (Memorial Hall)	
WORKING MENS CLUB - Daily - Lunch times & evenings	Dianna Bailey 01935 881647
YOUTH CLUB - Weekly - Monday 7.00pm at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre	Mark Greaves 01935 823297
YOUTH WORKER Lou on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk	

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK: MRS. SARAH MOORE, 24 HIGH STREET, STOKE SUB HAMDON TA14 6PS
TELEPHONE: 01935 822455 E-MAIL: -clerkshpc@hotmail.co.uk

Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

CORONAVIRUS

hub office at the Community Shop. All houses in Stoke will have received a leaflet with all the details of how to get help and details will continue to be sent out over the coming months and put up on the website.

Regrettably the Police have already reported instances of scammers knocking on doors, offering to shop - and walking away with the list and the money, never to return. Our Community Help Volunteers will only come if YOU ask them to. They will never ask to come into your house. They all carry an official Parish Council badge with a unique number against their name and will show you their driving licence or other ID. You can always ring the Shop to check their ID - no one will mind. If you are offered help yourself by someone knocking at the door, please only rely upon people you know or trust to help you. If unsure, use Community Help.

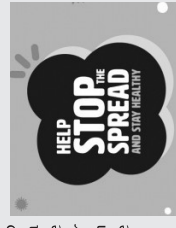
If you are feeling isolated and worried and would like someone to ring you on a regular basis, the Friendly Visitor scheme run by the Parish Council and AgeUK Somerset has 6 lovely local volunteers who can do just that. Again, just ring the Community Shop on 509100 and tell them you'd like a call.

Young people in the village are being looked out for too. The Youth Worker at the Hamdon Youth Centre is setting up a closed Facebook group for young people to join to offer support and provide activities for them to take part in like quizzes etc. The Facebook group is called Hamdon Youth Support Group. Any young person can ring Lou Chant herself on 07402 987921 if they need to talk - about anything.

The Rev Annie Gurner tells us that St Mary's Church can also offer support: ring the Church Parish Office on 824167.

How YOU can help too

This is the time we all need to look out for our immediate neighbours - knock on their door and see if they are o.k. Sometimes people are afraid to ask. Want to become a Volunteer yourself? Please contact me: I will take your details provide you with a badge and let the Co-Ordinators know.



We're all in this together....

The coronavirus pandemic is having a huge effect on all of us, and for many, it will be the first time that such a major event has happened.

In our own village it has meant closure and loss of essential income for many of our community venues and cancellation of fund-raising initiatives like the Charity Shop etc. The Government has suspended for the present all council meetings taking place with powers delegated to the Parish Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair to keep essential services going in the village. Our schools closed from Friday 20th March, and our Surgery and Pharmacy are struggling under very difficult circumstances. Many parents are now home working where possible and some may even lose their jobs. So, at this difficult time, we stand stronger when we support each other and when we work together. Please support your local businesses whenever you can, they need our help.

It is important for the health of the whole nation that we all do stick to the guidelines on "social distancing", not meeting up in groups, and ensuring that we "self-isolate" indoors if we are in one of the vulnerable groups. If we ALL do this, we really do stand a chance to reduce the spread in Stoke. So please don't cheat.

What can I do if I need help?

There's a new Community Help scheme that's just been set up over the past couple of weeks in Stoke that can help you if you can't get out for any reason. A lovely group of volunteers from organisations right across Stoke have banded together in a big community initiative to provide practical help for the most vulnerable in our village. If you can't get out and need help with shopping, prescriptions, dog walking, etc all you need to do is ring the Stoke Community Shop on 509100 and a Volunteer will contact you and help you. It's a free service. A huge thank you to those who have already signed up to help.

No one organisation is running this - we're all mucking in to support each other. The Parish Council are taking volunteer details, providing official volunteer badges, "safe-guarding" guidelines: the day to day stuff is being run by the Community Shop providing the shopping facility; Val Stidson and Paul Goulder are co-ordinating the Volunteers and responding to residents' telephone calls. Val and Paul and their helpers will be operating from a Community Help

Articles for the Newsletter, or to advertise forthcoming events: please email or post to Sarah Moore by 16th of previous month. Contact information is at the bottom of this newsletter.

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How to make the best of it

With schools closed, pubs and venues closed, parents may be now working from home, and some of us not able to go out at all for up to three months, it can all be a bit overwhelming. What on earth can we do now with our leisure time? So, let's turn a negative into a positive! It's actually a wonderful opportunity to:

- Pick up the phone and ring that friend, family member or neighbour you've always been meaning to call. They'll love you for it.
- Watch TV comedies and tell jokes – a belly laugh every day is good for our emotional health.
- Play silly games and quizzes with your kids
- Learn new things via the internet.
- Do some gardening
- Read a book, knit, sew, draw or make something – or learn how to!
- Do all the odd jobs and decorating you've been putting off for ever "because you haven't the time"!
- Take the opportunity to walk out in the fresh air (keeping your distance from other people). We have acres of lovely countryside on Ham Hill. Many of the National Trust houses are opening their gardens without charge, including Montacute House.

Look out for one another. Be kind. Someone may be facing challenges you know nothing about. Stoke is an amazing village with a strong history of self-support and we will get through it somehow - together.

Stay safe and well.

Cllr Barbara Brooks, Chair
01935 824432 chairshpc@hotmail.com

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Stoke Active Walkers has been cancelled for the time being, due to Covid-19 risk.

HAM HILL VOLUNTEER RANGERS

Volunteering on Ham Hill has been cancelled for the time being, due to Covid-19 risk.

STOKE BAND NEWS

This year the band celebrates 75 years since it was reformed in 1945. To celebrate we are planning a free concert at the Prince of Wales on Saturday June 13th at 2:00pm. The concert will also commemorate band members who are no longer with us, especially former principal cornet player Larry Terise who passed away in January.

After Easter we are planning to start up the training section again. The sessions will be on Thursdays at 7:00pm starting on 23rd April. We welcome anyone of any age who are willing to learn an instrument and anyone who has played previously and wants to start again. Tuition is free and we will provide an instrument and insurance. All our tutors are DRB checked. Please contact Jane Herbert on 01460-419317 and don't be afraid of the answerphone.

Of course, these plans could change in light of the current Covid-19 situation.

EVERY STEP COUNTS AND HEALTH WALKS

Why not come along and join us on our led walks and enjoy seeing the lovely, everchanging countryside around Stoke. You will receive a warm welcome, lively conversation and the opportunity for a cup of tea or lunch at the Lighthouse Café after the walks.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month and both walks start and end at the Lighthouse Café opposite the Fleur de Lis pub.

'Every Step Counts' walks begin at 9.30am and last approx. 30 to 40 mins, walking on pavements or paths around the village.

Health Walks start at 10.30am and last approx. 90 minutes, walking along tracks, footpaths and occasionally ascending Ham Hill and visiting neighbouring villages. Just turn up, wearing suitable clothing and shoes for the weather.

If you would like more information, please contact any one of the four trained walk leaders: Mark & Jane 07496148756 Penny 822208 or Anne 826256

POP IN

Pop In meet at the Oak Tree House on Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm. We like to chat over tea and cake

and join in games such as board games and Boccia or listen to a speaker from a variety of backgrounds.

We realise that many people are missing out on socialising with us because they need transport. Is there anyone in Stoke sub Hamdon who would have a few hours free on Thursday afternoon to pick up a few older people from the Stoke sub Hamdon area and drive them to and from the group? We will pay 45p a mile for petrol. If you would be interested, please contact Paul on 07770348767 or Cath on 07968521746.

CHARITY SHOP

Having moved across to our new premises, reluctantly the Committee has decided not to re-open the Charity Shop at the present time. As this is not an essential service, we have to play our part in heeding Government advice and reducing social contact within the village. The shop however will be ready to have its grand opening as soon as official advice allows.

For the same reason, we are also postponing the Charity Shop Jumble sale that was due to take place on Saturday, 4 April in the Working Men's Club. Charity Shop Committee

MAY FAYRE

It is with regret that we have had to cancel this year's May Fayre on Monday, 25 May. We had thought about postponing it until late summer, but the Covid-19 situation is too uncertain. On the bright side, next year will be the 25th anniversary of the May Fayre so we can all look forward to 2021!

Keep safe everyone - May Fayre Committee

YOUTH NEWSLETTER

YOUTH CENTRE

Youth Centre is setting up a closed Facebook group for young people to join to offer support and provide activities for them to take part in like quizzes etc. The Facebook group is called Hamdon Youth Support Group. Any young person can ring Lou Chant herself on 07402 987921 if they need to talk – about anything.

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

With the news that schools are closing and with two of our regular assistants in self-isolation we have had to close our Youth Clubs in both Stoke and Norton from 18 March for the foreseeable future.

We are very sorry not to be able to support our young people at this time and hope to be back as soon as we are given the all clear. We will miss you all.

All our good wishes go to our young people and their families. Stay well. Check our Facebook page for latest info: <https://www.facebook.com/hamdonsyouthgroup>

For more information please contact Lou Chant on 07402987921 or email lou.chant@cp.me.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

In line with Government advice about social distancing because of the COVID-19 virus the National Association of Local Councils have advised Parish Councils to suspend all meetings for the foreseeable future. Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council resolved at a meeting on Friday 20th March to follow this advice and to delegate powers to the Parish Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure minimal disruption to Council business.

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: www.police.uk. If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime, then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.

VE DAY 75 VILLAGE PICNIC AND HOG ROAST

Sadly, in light of the coronavirus and the importance of social distancing it has been decided to postpone the VE Day picnic and hog roast. All being well, we are hoping to hold the event at the end of July, but this will be dependent on the progression of this virus.