



# Village Newsletter

May/June 2021

At last it's beginning to really feel like spring now that the cold winds and night-time frost seem to be behind us. I have my fingers crossed at this point! The daffodils in Lower Elkstone have been beautiful as always and now the bluebells are at their best - a little late this year but very welcome none-the-less. The swallows swooping, the sound of the curlews, the perfume of the bluebells and wild garlic, the lambs fattening and the cows back in the fields all help to bring optimism back into our lives, not to mention the opportunity to socialise indoors again and no longer have to freeze in the pub garden! We hope that 21st June will bring a further return to normal life - whatever that may be. Unfortunately not everyone is able to fully enjoy the season and we extend our thoughts to those still suffering the after-effects of Covid in whatever way.



Lambs resting in the sunshine



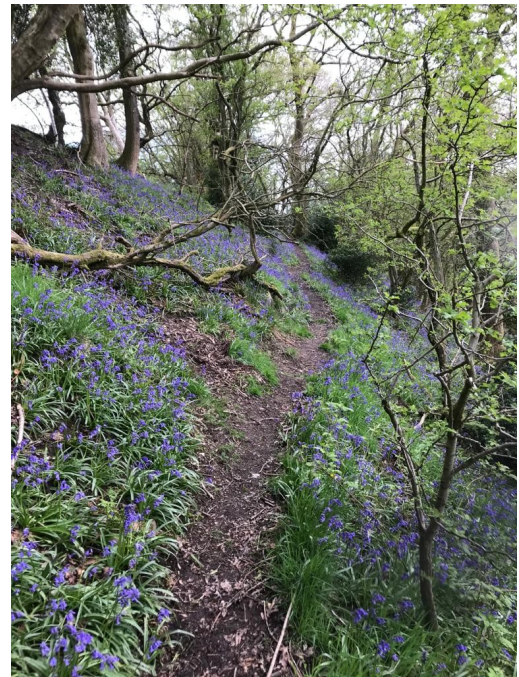
Evening sun over Ecton Hill from Mount Pleasant

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Annie Gregory and James Dennis who will marry in London on 24th May. We wish them every happiness in the future and hope that we'll be able to provide a photograph in the next newsletter.

### LENGTHSMAN

We were really sorry to see Roger Miller step down as village lengthsmen after he took on full-time employment elsewhere. He did a marvellous job and was extremely conscientious about his work, always going the extra mile. We wish him well with his present project and welcome Steve Billings from Leek who has taken over the role. Steve has been the Butterton lengthsmen for some time and comes highly recommended.



Elkstones' lovely bluebell wood

## Neighbourly News

We send our best wishes for a rapid recovery to Peter Grant who is recovering after a fall at home resulting in a broken hip. We are thinking of you Peter and Margaret.

# Church News

The 2020/21 Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Warslow with Elkstone Parish Council was held on Sunday 9th May. It is at this annual event that church wardens, officers and PCC members are elected. The meeting was shocked by the announcement from Reg and Liz Meakin that they were not going to stand as Church Warden and Treasurer (Reg) and Secretary (Liz). Reg and Liz have been involved with the PCC for about 30 years and have worked extremely hard behind the scenes and with fundraising events. It's hard to imagine the Flower Festival without them and it wouldn't be the same without Reg's tombola! They say they are still willing to support the church but don't feel they are able to continue as officers.

Until this meeting Reg Meakin and Rachel Moorcroft were joint church wardens of both churches although Reg took responsibility for St John the Baptist, Elkstones and Rachel for St Lawrence, Warslow. The Meakins' departure will obviously be a great loss to St John's. No one at the meeting was willing to take any of the posts vacated by them so for the time being Rachel will be the sole Church Warden of both churches. The treasurer's job can be amalgamated with St Lawrence but historically the church's funds have been kept separate and the general feeling of Elkstones villagers is that we would like it kept this way.

Thanks to Reg and Liz's hard work and the generosity of donors St John's is in a healthy financial position and Reg reported in his treasurer's report that 2020/21 saw a surplus of funds.

So, Elkstones villagers, if you would like to see St John the Baptist retain its distinctiveness as our village church please think about helping out and taking one of these roles. As you know St John's is the centre of our small community. Attendance at regular services may be small but we can always guarantee to fill the church on high days and holidays: Wakes; Harvest; and Christmas and as a meeting place for the ladies' S.E.W.I.N.G group.



Reg at his Tombola Stall in 2005

Reg and Liz and, of course, the vicar, (Father John Baines 01298 83411) will be more than willing to discuss the roles with you.

We are sure you would all like to join us in thanking Reg and Liz for their hard work for St John's over the last 30 years. More time to spend with grandchildren now Reg and Liz!

## EDITOR'S CLOSING THOUGHTS

Glad I'm not a kangaroo mother. Imagine all this rain and the kids having to play inside I popped into Leek when the sun was shining and saw a line of guys waiting outside the hairdressers. I thought, what a lovely day for a barber queue I get annoyed when people ring up complaining about the weather. That's why I lost my job with Mountain Rescue

### .....and from Rob.....

This happened yesterday and is important information for our age group (over 65) A friend had his 2nd dose of the vaccine at the vaccination centre after which he began to have blurred vision on the way home. When he got home, he called the vaccination centre for advice and to ask if he should go see a doctor, or be hospitalised. He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but just return to the vaccination centre immediately and pick up his glasses.

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