

May 2020



*The Magazine for the Parishes of Alfrick with Lulsley,
Leigh and Bransford, Leigh Sinton and Suckley*

From Rev Anne

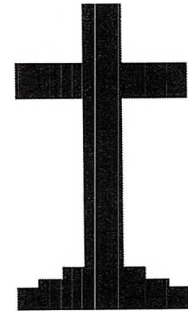
Until recently words such as 'lockdown', 'isolation' and 'self-distancing' were not part of everyday experiences for most of us. There are some in society though who know all about living in lockdown – the prisoner or captive; or isolation – the elderly, the bereaved, the marginalised; or kept at a social distance – through family breakdown, court injunction, geographic boundaries. Many will be coping well with the current situation, especially those of us so privileged to be living in more rural areas, on the edge of a city, where we have space to exercise and enjoy the beauty of God's created world. Maybe some of you have been able to catch up on the 'to do list', read some of those books gathering dust, watch theatre on-line, take up a new craft or an old one, do a jigsaw, spring clean, work in the garden. There are many others who will be struggling, out of routine, can't cope with confinement, unable to work and struggling financially, confined with their abuser, or simply does not do 'isolation'.

What is the difference between 'isolation' or 'solitude'? Solitude is a personal choice coming from an inner yearning and is actively sought. Isolation is usually forced from the outside. Solitude provides the opportunity to reflect and simply be, a time of enrichment to re-charge the batteries and return to the

So shall we pray....
O God, help us to trust you,
Help us to know that you are with us,
Help us to believe
that nothing can separate us from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

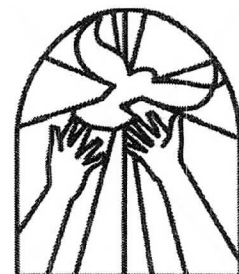
God bless you, keep you well and stay safe.

world refreshed and reinvigorated. Isolation, in contrast, narrows the walls and makes a prison, draining the will and leaving one exhausted.



We all need times in our lives to be truly alone in order to gain a new perspective and discover who we really are, but most people fear this precisely because solitude and isolation get confused. The thought of being emotionally, spiritually, and physically cut off from our family and friends is really scary.

God created us to be social beings, to be in relationship with God and all fellow humans. Whilst solitude can often give us spiritual experiences with assurances that people are waiting for us, isolation creates emotional turmoil offering no such promise. There is nothing that can replace the handshake, the hug. We read each other – eye contact, body language, what is not said as much as what is said. Isolation removes all these experiences. We may be living in isolation, apart from family and friends, but in solitude we can take comfort that we are bound together in God's love.



Leigh and Bransford

ST.EDBURGA, LEIGH



The Churches are in lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. No church services will be held, but other means of worship are being provided via wwrt.churchinsight.com or Facebook page: [worcesterwestruralteam](https://www.facebook.com/worcesterwestruralteam)

The format of the pewsheets has been changed and gives more details of all that the wwrt team are doing. Contact Alison Khan on leighrectory@outlook.com or phone her on 07984 748059 if you want to be put on the email distribution list.



Leigh and District Royal British Legion

A Tribute to Cecil Dee Who has sadly passed away.

I have known Cecil most of my adult life so on behalf of the R.B.L. I'm writing this tribute to him. Cecil was never called up due to his very bad eyesight but what he did for our branch of R.B.L. was outstanding. In his better days he and his wife Pat used to walk the roads and lanes of Bransford for the Poppy Appeal from house to house. He was also involved with Bill Collins in the planting of shrubs and plants in the New Remembrance Garden at the village hall. He attended County and Group 3 Meetings and kept us in touch with what was happening in the county. He was always a great supporter of mine when I took part in the Standard Bearing Competitions many years ago, and always ready to do anything for anybody. A man of great local knowledge and would always find an answer to your question. He was a stalwart of the branch and Bransford will miss him and so will our branch. Our thoughts are with Pat and his family

Ken Jones President Leigh & District Royal British Legion.

Peter Leigh Evans Died 18th March at St Richards Wild Wood Worcester. Cremation 14th April 2020. Kate Smith. The Old Rectory, Leigh

LEIGH AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB

As I am sure you are all aware, in this current situation the garden club meetings are on hold until further notice. This includes the visits planned over the summer.

In an attempt to keep the spirit of the garden club going we have established a Facebook page, Leigh and District Gardeners' club. Members can access this to ask questions or discuss garden queries with each other or share any photos of your garden and local environment.

Alternatively please email us at kents2@hotmail.com and we will re-post for you.

Best wishes and keep safe, Marian Kent 01886 832537

Citizens Advice - Community Liaison

Lillian Somerville is your Citizens Advice Community Liaison Volunteer for Leigh, Bransford and Leigh Sinton. You can contact her by phone (01886 833526) or email (lillian@aubretiacottage.org.uk)

Leigh & Bransford Parish Council

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing restrictions, there will be no annual parish council or parish meeting this year. The March parish council meeting was held virtually, and this looks set to continue until restrictions are lifted. Planning applications are being considered by email circulation. Although the council is not meeting in person, in other respects we very much continue with business as usual. Please get in touch if there is anything you would like to report or have raised at forthcoming virtual meetings – the next will be held on Tuesday 26th May. Contact the clerk at clerk@leighandbransford.org.uk or 01684 567674. There is also lots of useful local information and links to the parish coronavirus community response helpline on our website www.leighandbransford.org.uk

Thank you to all the parish residents who have volunteered to help in the community and everyone who has stayed at home, helping to keep everyone safe. Unfortunately, one consequence of the quieter roads has been an increase on speeding, especially by motor bikes, on some of our main roads. This has been reported to the police and they have agreed to monitor the trouble spots.

After a short pause at the start of the lockdown we are pleased that WCC have agreed to allow the parish Lengthsman to resume his duties. Please let us know about any problems with drainage or with overgrown vegetation obscuring signs or visibility splays or encroaching on footways.

Play areas in the parish are still closed as requested by Malvern Hills District Council but will open again as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Parish council scheduled meeting dates 2020 (subject to change – please see noticeboards and website for arrangements) 26 May, 28 July, 22 September & 24 November at 7.00pm

***** Parish

Worship

Our Church continues to be alive and active but due to COVID-19 our buildings must remain closed. However, our worship, prayers and praise, alongside reflections and our care for each other continues. And so (until we meet again)May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen Even though we are not able to meet with you in person the clergy are available at the end of a telephone line so please feel free to contact us: Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355 revannepotter@gmail.com Rev Jen Denniston 01886 853280 jendenniston@gmail.com If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or leighrectory@outlook.com For those of you with computers, iPads or other such 'modern technology' the team are continuing to find creative ways of offering worship through our youtube wwrtlivestream as well as keeping you informed through the website www,wwrt.churchinsight.com and A Church Near You.

Leigh and Bransford WI

Hello to all at Leigh and Bransford WI. I sincerely hope you are all keeping safe and well in these extremely surreal times. I know that many of you are keeping an eye on each other and those near to you who may need a little extra support.

As many of you are aware, it is with immense sadness that I must report the sad passing of Gill Gardiner. Gill was a lovely lady in every sense; her ability to make you smile was amazing. We all have our own memories of Gill, and we will celebrate her life, as a group, in due course when we can all be together again.

As this report goes to press, I cannot tell you when we can all be together again; however, I can promise you that when that time comes we are going to have an amazing celebration of friendship, support for each other and pure and simple delight at all being together again, which is something I suspect we all took so very much for granted and which I, certainly, have very much missed.

Ladies, please take care as we all continue to adapt to the new normal way of life.

Angela Dancer, President of Leigh and Bransford WI.

CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEIGH AND BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL

1. **BOOKINGS** It will, of course, come as no surprise to anyone that the Hall Trustees took the early decision to close the Hall for at least 12 weeks from Monday, 23 March. This means that due the current situation we are not accepting any new bookings which would be due to take place in the 12 week period from **Monday 23 March to Sunday 14 June 2020**. We have contacted all our hirers who already had bookings scheduled to take place between those dates and, according to their instructions, have either rescheduled them or if they chose to cancel, refunded any advance payments made in full. Bookings for events on or after Monday, 15th June may still be made online via our website at: www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk but are obviously accepted on the understanding that they are subject to the current restrictions on public gatherings being lifted. If, due to restrictions still being in place after 15th June, your booking has to be postponed and rescheduled (subject to availability) we will apply any payment made in full to your new hire date - or in the event that you need to cancel, we will make a full refund.

2. **CENTENARY EVENTS** Sadly we had to cancel our first centenary celebration AFTERNOON TEA event on the afternoon of Sunday, 5th April and, due to the uncertainties have also reluctantly postponed the CLASSIC CAR AND BIKE EVENT due to take place on SUNDAY 12 JULY. New dates for these events will be arranged and announced in a future edition of the Sphere and on our website.

3. **SECURING OUR FUTURE VIABILITY AS A COMMUNITY VENUE** The trustees wish to assure all our residents and friends from further afield that the Hall, which is a regulated charity, will re-open as soon as restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so. Thanks to all your previous hire business and subscription support to the "Friends of Leigh and Bransford Hall" (our monthly cash prize draw scheme), over the past few years, we have been able to set aside sufficient financial reserves to survive a period of extended closure due to major national disasters like the current coronavirus pandemic. We will be ready and waiting to welcome you, your club, your organization and your event and its guests back as soon as we possibly can. Our Hall is a vital community asset and we are dedicated to keeping it a viable and sustainable resource for everyone in the years to come.

4. **FUND RAISING – FRIENDS OF LEIGH & BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL** Finally, on the subject of fund raising – because of the current lockdown we have put different arrangements in place to enable us to continue making the usual monthly cash prize draws for the "*Friends of Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall*". All winners will be notified in the usual way. As the current subscription year comes to an end in July we very much hope that those of you who pay by annual standing order will continue to support us for a further 12 months. Renewals are still just £10 per ticket per annum. Due to the current situation however, we may not be able to make our annual door collection from those of you who choose to pay by cash – so we are asking whether you would be willing to set up a standing order to cover your annual subscription of £10 per ticket. It's really simple to do and **Patrick Mills**, who leads for us on the scheme, is more than willing to help and advise on how to do this if you need help and to give you our banking details. We are also keen to welcome new members – it costs just £10 a year per ticket. Half of all the money we collect through the annual subscriptions is used to help improve the Hall's facilities and the other half is returned over the course of the year in the form of a monthly prize money draw. In the current subscription year we will have raised over £1,700 of which over £850 was given out as prize money to subscribers. If you would like more information about how to support the Hall by joining our monthly prize-draw fund-raiser, or to set up a standing order please contact Patrick by email at patrickmills567@gmail.com If you don't have an email account you can phone him instead on **01886 832025**

5. **CONTACT US** You can still contact us by email at: info@leighandbransfordhall.co.uk with any queries or questions you may have. We try to answer all emails with 72 hours. We will also post updates and further information on our website, please visit us at: www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk

Thank you all for your continuing support and please, stay safe!

The Trustees of the Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall April 2020

VILLAGE INFORMATION

STD 01886

ALFRICK-w-LULSLEY

Website at - <http://www.alfrickandlulsley.org/parishcouncil>

VILLAGE HALL Booking on line at www.alfrickandlulsley.org or for information and advice email info@timesaversconcierge.co.uk or phone Adrian Biggs at 01905 312456
PARISH COUNCIL - 4th Thursday 7.30 pm. Clerk Mr. Geoffrey Brewin 821386
RVS THURSDAY CLUB - Alt Thursdays 2.00 pm Mrs. Newitt 884784
RVS Representative - Mrs J. Cooper 832444
AGE UK Contact Brenda Collins 833358
ALFRICK PLAYERS Contact Alan Soper 832354
PILATES GROUP - Village Hall Tues 5&6 pm email sallyp88@btinternet Sally Porter 821654
W.I. - 2nd Wed at 7.30 pm. President Carol Boughton 884210
ALFRICK & LULSLEY SHOW - 3rd Monday 8.00 pm Contacts Linda Fishwick 832617
and Anne Potter 832355
TENNIS CLUB - Membership. Dympna Jardine, 4 Crews Hill Court, Alfrick 830085
GARDENER'S CLUB - 3rd Thursday Mrs. Marion Kent 832537
TABLE TENNIS - Mondays 6.00 to 9.30 pm Contact Richard Steele 821777 Sue Adams 830190
COMMUNITY CHOIR Contact Keith Bramwich www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com 07771600776

LEIGH & BRANSFORD

Website at <http://www.leighandbransford.org.uk>

MEMORIAL HALL - Booking & Keys: www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk
HALL COMMITTEE - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 3rd Tuesday in January then every other month.
AGM 3rd Tuesday in May Chair: Jon Gamble - j_e_gamble@hotmail.com
PARISH COUNCIL - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 4th Tues in Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov
Clerk to Council Mrs. Jackie Barker 114 Fruitlands, Malvern WR14 4XB 01684 567674
Footpath Warden Gary Mellor 01886 288370
PRESCHOOL Sherridge Road Leigh Sinton Open 8.30 to 3 pm Katie Wiggins 07854477445
W.I. - Memorial Hall 1st Tuesdays - 7.30 pm President Mrs Angela Dancer 833737
BOWLS (Indoor) Memorial Hall - Mondays 7.30pm-9.30 pm Mrs. C. Hall 832650
Knit & Natter - Royal Oak 2-4 pm last Thursday of the month
MALVERN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE L/S www.malvernmarialarts.co.uk 833033
TAE KWON DO Weds 6.30 -7.30 pm. Julian Burton 07770 822033 833033
BOXFIT/CIRCUITS/WING CHUN/TAI CHI/QIGONG Kev 07725 161178 830175
PILATES - Tuesdays 9 - 10am Di Fox 07775 795670
Branches Day Opportunities 10am-3pm Mon-Fri jesshibbert@hotmail.com 07572 398095 833382
SCOUT HUT 1st LEIGH SCOUTS
Explorer Scouts Thurs 7.00-9.00 pm (14-18) Stuart Diplock 880078
Scouts Fri 7.00-9.00 pm (10-14) Matthew Cooper 884277
Cubs Tues 6.45-8.15 pm (8-10) June Etheridge 01905 425793
Beavers Wed 5.30 - 6.45 pm (6-8) Joanne King 833925
1st LEIGH GUIDES Mondays 7.30-9.00 pm Mrs. Valda Cane 833115
BROWNIES - 1st Leigh - Wednesdays 6.00 - 7 15 pm Mrs Kaye James 832304
RAINBOWS - Thursdays 6.00 - 7.00 pm Ann Osborne 833480
AGE UK Contact Margaret Hamilton 833412
WREKIN SPIRITUAL CAFE 1st Wed 11am - 1pm Contact Clair McDonald 884888
LEIGH & BRANSFORD BADGERS FC - Senior Coach Bosko Medakovic 07979 725196
LEIGH & BRANSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL Head Mr Stuart Bill 832342

SUCKLEY

Website at <http://www.suckley.net>

VILLAGE HALL Keys/booking Steve Boughton 884210
PARISH COUNCIL Clerk Mrs Diana Taylor 01684 569430
SUCKLEY PLAYING FIELDS All weather pitch for football or tennis.
Bookings: Mr C Luton 884558
Two Football Pitches Mrs C Luton 884558
Skateboard Area Mr P Beaumont 884550
SUCKLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Contact Nessa Haworth 884383
LADIES KEEP FIT Tuesdays 11-12 noon Carol Boughton 884210
BELL RINGING - 1st, 2nd, 4th Weds 7.30-9.00 pm Captain Mrs Linda Taylor 884280
SUCKLEY SCHOOL Church Lane Headmistress Mrs Sheila Marshall 884283
GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME 840480

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Leigh & District Branch Contact Shirley Tasker 832669

Last Friday in March, July, September and November at 2.30 pm in the Bear & Ragged Staff

WEST MERCIA CONSTABULARY Emergency 999 Other matters 0300 333 3000

PC 3381 Sarah Ransome-Williams CSO 6494 Tracey Caldwell CSO 6481 Collin Davies

Local Policing Team Kempsey/Alfrick based at Upton Police Station