

LOPEN EYE

Lopen Parish Newsletter **DECEMBER 2020**



It's been a difficult year with Covid. Let's all hope 2021 will be better! Lopen Parish Council and all the team at Lopen Eye would like to wish everyone in Lopen a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christmas Carol Singing



Saturday 19th December at 5pm

While this Christmas is likely to be very different from before, the Government have said that outdoor singing of Christmas carols is allowed!

So please join Jonathan Delbridge at the keyboard in Church Street to sing Christmas carols for around 30 minutes.

Please bring your own mince pies, mulled wine, etc. A song sheet will be emailed out before the event so you can print this off to bring along.

It is very important that social distancing of at least 2 metres is observed between households at all times.

Lopen Christmas Lights



To get us in the mood for the festive season, we invite you all to switch on your Christmas lights on

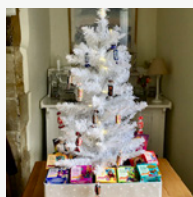
Saturday 5th December at 5pm

Let us join together as a village, whilst we toast the start of the Christmas season (provide your own mulled wine and mince pies, and perhaps wander around the village to enjoy the lights!)

Any questions then please contact
Sarah Gibson - 249325

MISTLETOE FAYRE VILLAGE RAFFLE

Despite the Covid lockdown situation the raffle went ahead, and was drawn outside in the Churchyard. £500 was raised, before expenses, which is a great effort from everyone involved.



Many thanks to everyone who supported the raffle - those who gave the prizes and to everyone who sold tickets. Plus of course those who organised it!

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2020



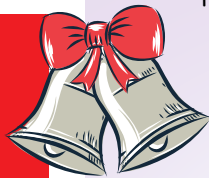
I don't think we've ever had such an extraordinary year! We weren't even sure if we would be able to send any boxes at all this year, because

of the Covid restrictions, but eventually we were given the go-ahead in September. We were very conscious of the difficulties facing everyone, and were quite prepared for this year's Appeal to be very much reduced. However, we have been overwhelmed by the amazing generosity of so many people! The grand total now is 156 boxes - a truly remarkable result!

This year, even more than ever, these boxes will be so much appreciated, and will bring great joy to many people.

Thank you again for your wonderful support!

Beryl Bellamy & Beryl Virgin



A WARM WELCOME!



Welcome to Tim & Chris Smart who have moved into Windwards in Holloway. They moved from Stawell (near Bridgwater), via Budleigh Salterton, as they sold their house two years ago!

TABLE TENNIS

The Table Tennis table will be left set up in the Sunday School Room throughout December. If you would like to use it please contact Carolyn (T: 240 717) or Angela (240 921) for the keys.



Due to the current Covid regulations (at time of going to print) only a maximum of six people from the same household or 'bubble' can use it at any one time.



Subject to applicable Covid rules in January

COFFEE STOP at the Sunday School Room

Only **£1** for a hot drink (including refill) and a slice of homemade cake.

JANUARY DATES
Wednesday 13th & 27th
10.30am to 12.00 midday



We will be running a simple version of the Coffee Stop. The good news is that you won't need to book, but there can only be maximum of 6 people in the room at any one time, so you may have to wait in the churchyard if all seats are in use!

Please bring your own mug, use hand sanitiser on entry, and respect social distancing - seating will be spaced apart.

We look forward to seeing you!

All proceeds to
The Lords Larder Food Bank

All Saints Church



We are happy to tell you that we can now open the church for private prayer. You are welcome to come and enjoy the peace and quiet in church.

Sunday mornings 10am to 12 midday
Wednesday afternoons 2pm to 4pm

Sunday 6th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion Service
9am Sunday 6th December
(without hymns)

Covid-19 restrictions apply - face coverings are compulsory for those attending, and hand sanitise on entering and leaving, 2 metre distancing at ALL times - seating will be marked accordingly (households and 'bubbles' can of course sit together).

We are still not allowed to sing, but our organists will be playing at most of our services. No hugging, no shaking hands, and sadly no refreshments afterwards. To help you, there are signs placed where you can sit or need to avoid. WC through the school room will be open during services.

STOP PRESS!

There WILL be services in church in December - but as the Eye goes to press, things are not 100% set in stone.

We ARE planning to hold a Communion Service on Christmas Day morning, probably at 10.30am.

We really don't want to, but we may need to operate a 'booking system'.

The Carol Service will be recorded and be available later this month - carols, music and readings. A video link will be emailed and also available on the Lopen village web site.

The church will continue to open twice a week for prayer.

Make sure you wrap up very warmly when coming to church, as it will be highly ventilated! This helps minimise the risk of virus transmission.

Come and check out the illuminated crib in the churchyard!

Please keep an eye on your emails, the 'Lopen News and Events' Facebook page and the church notice board for the latest updates!

From all of us at All Saints Church; a very happy and blessed Christmas to you and your families.



Telephone Scams

We have seen a vast increase in the number of telephone scams in recent weeks from fraudsters claiming to be from HMRC, TV Licencing, Amazon, Utility Companies and many others.

What do most of these have in common? When they call you be it an automated call or a person on the phone, most will eventually ask you to press number 1 on your keypad to be connected to a particular department - ***Please do not do this!***

Why did that department not contact you in the first instance? Because they need you to press 1.

The most likely outcome is you will be connected to

a premium rate phone line charging an extortionate rate for absolutely nothing at all.

Please take care and be wary of any unexpected phone calls.

BEWARE - Reported by one Lopen resident:

I've just had a call from 'Open Reach' telling me that my Internet connection was slow. I was asked to follow their instructions to improve the speed. As soon as I said I wasn't comfortable giving details of what I was asked, they said go to the 'AnyDesk' website. McAfee anti-virus software popped up with a warning that '*this website allows other people to control your PC - beware of scammers*'. I said this to the person and they immediately hung up. Watch out - they're out there!!!

Lopen Eye back copies are available on the Lopen web site as downloadable PDF files from this link:

<http://www.lopen.btck.co.uk/LopenEyeNewsletter>



SAND & GRIT FOR FOOTPATHS

With the colder weather coming there may be times when the footpaths are icy and in need of salt/grit. There are bags of this strategically placed around Lopen for you to use - 2 bags each with Rod Page at Pound Cottage, Church Street, with Seamus & Marian at the Old Bakehouse, with Steve Chapman at Ballarat Farm in Frog Street and with Michael & Valerie Canton also in Frog Street. These are for use on the pavements only. There are bags outside the Church which are for emergency use only.

There will be no Lopen Eye in January

*Do you have any news, or a story, that would interest our readers?
Items can be sent in for consideration no later than the 23rd of the month preceding cover date.*

The views expressed in Lopen Eye are not necessarily those held by Lopen Parish Council and its members.