

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

www.glaphornchurch.org.uk

Services

Sunday 13 December 9.15 am: Covid-safe **Holy Communion** led by the Reverend Stephen Webster.



Glaphorn Christingle, filmed partly in church and partly in the school, can be seen **from 4 pm on Sunday 13th December** on the St Peter's and Glaphorn Church Facebook pages and St Peter's YouTube channel. Christingle oranges will be available inside the church gate (on Saturday and Sunday), for you to take home, so parishioners can join in. Christingles are oranges with a red ribbon round them, sweets and a candle in the top. The orange symbolises the world, the red ribbon the love and blood of Christ, the sweets all the blessings of God's creation, and the lit candle the light that Jesus brings into the world.

Sunday 20 December: there will be **no Morning Service**, but instead **Carols round the Christmas Tree** in the churchyard at 4 pm. Wrap up warm, bring a torch and come along to sing your favourite Christmas carols. While socialising is still not permitted by the government regulations, we are allowed to gather – socially distanced – outside, in the churchyard (or, to avoid congestion, just outside the churchyard wall) for worship and to sing carols.

Christmas Day: 9.15 am Covid-safe **Holy Communion** led by the Reverend Annabel Copeland (Associate Vicar).

Sunday 27 December: there will be no Morning Service, but instead Charles' usual, weekly, shortened **Evening Prayer**, which includes a short explanation of the readings. It is available on Sundays on the Glaphorn Facebook page and the St Peter's YouTube channel.

A warm **thank-you** to Bernard and Jonathan Reading for their generosity and hard work in providing and erecting the Christmas tree in the churchyard. Penny Reading (01832 274277) would be delighted to hear from anyone who can help decorate the church windows with greenery for the Christmas services.

Christmas – a reflection.

Christmas is for children – of course. However, Christian faith is something to be grown into, rather than grown out of. While children can teach us much about recovering a sense of wonder, Christmas is even more for grown-ups. Without concerning ourselves with whether things happened exactly as the lovely Nativity stories in the gospels of Matthew and Luke say, we can allow ourselves to be carried into the unfathomable depth of their mystery. Literal-mindedness does not make us say of the wondrous *Nativity* by Geertgen tot Sint Jans, 'That can't be right; babies don't glow in the dark!' We know full well that the artist was depicting the spiritual Light of the World.

The opening verses of St John's Gospel express the mystery as well as any words can. The pre-existent Word – the *logos*, the eternal creative rationality of God – 'became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth'. During his ministry, John's Jesus says, 'Whoever has seen me has seen the Father'. Jesus is not merely a good man who taught a good ethical code. He is God with us, *Emmanuel*, sharing our joys and suffering, to the point of death by agonising crucifixion. He is also the transforming eruption of timeless love, truth, beauty, value, meaning, and purpose into the world of time and space; God's purposes for His creation made transparently clear: that we may be decisively and eternally united, by and in love, with each other and with God. This is not abstract theology - it is how we should live our lives.



Charles Wide, Anglican Reader.

The Church Hundred Club

Happy Christmas to all 100 club members. It's been a very successful year with a full membership. Due to various reasons, there are now 4/5 vacancies, so if you would like a number in the monthly draw, please contact Sonya Moss on 01832 272724.

Welcome to Glapthorn newcomers:

Laurence and Kim Hamer, and Jack, in Highfield Lodge.

Karin and John, their children Ethan and Tayla, and dog Beau in Hawthorne House.

Michael Whitehouse, Kelly Oliver and dog Holly in Church View Cottage.

Sue Brewer and Nerissa Buchanan would like to warmly thank their neighbours and friends in Glapthorn for all the support, kindness and friendship they have received over the grievous loss of Bob and Ian.

GLAPTHORN C of E SCHOOL

www.glapthornschoo1.ik.uk

The children at Glapthorn are getting ready for their Christmas carol service, which we will hold in a COVID-secure way in the playground this year. There will be carols and readings, and our Robins class will be performing a nativity play to tell us the Christmas story. It has been a tricky term, but our spirits are high and the school is thriving, with the fantastic support of our parents and governors. We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2021!



GLAPTHORN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Despite our complete ignorance at the beginning of the year, Zoom has now become our new reality. The WI are holding monthly meetings committee meetings, Knit and Natter and a Book Club using Zoom. In October, we held our AGM confirming small changes to the committee, followed by a 'Show and Tell'.

Our November meeting was a craft workshop demonstrating the art of making decorations. This involved glue, paper and scissors; also much chattering, laughter and periods of silence when concentration became very focussed! Tim Mulroy from Rotherham joined us in December: Using PowerPoint presentations and video clips, he related the story of Nicholas Winton, 'the British Schindler'. Tim's father (and his father's twin sister) were two of the 665 children rescued by Nicholas Winton from Czechoslovakia just before war broke out in 1939. Tim would not have been here, had it not been for Nicholas Winton and this made both an interesting and moving story and a personal one.

Be inspired – widen your circle of friends and join Glapthorn WI

Glapthorn and Southwick Flower Show

We had a most enjoyable exhibition of produce and crafts in the Church Cottage garden in September, to make up for the cancellation of the show in July, and £370.93 was raised for the Cransley Hospice. We hope very much to be back to our full activities in the summer of 2021!

Nikki and Tim Hunt moved to Sussex on 2 December. Nikki writes: *'I would like to thank Glapthorn for many happy years. After taking early retirement, Glapthorn village helped me to adjust to a quieter way of life. In 2010, Tim and I served afternoon teas in the Village Hall; over the summer we raised £300 for Glapthorn Church. We also helped with the Shortwood Teas, and enjoyed church fêtes, concerts in the church, to name a few. One year, we joined the Benefield Christmas Tree competition. We have lots of great memories to treasure and take with us on our new adventure. Keep safe, everyone and I'm sure one day soon Glapthorn will be celebrating Open Gardens, Fêtes and much more.'*



GLAPTHORN ALLOTMENT GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

All is well on our wonderful allotment site with all plots taken plus a good waiting list.

As from 2 December, we shall be saying goodbye to Tim and Nikki Hunt who are moving house. Tim and Nikki will be greatly missed by all involved in the allotment. They were both instrumental in setting up GAGA and have continued to be both supportive and helpful. They will be sorely missed.

This month I have asked our plot-holders to send me a few lines on what the allotment has meant to them during Covid – below are their comments:

Sandra:

During the first lockdown the allotment saved my sanity. We were blessed with wonderful weather but even my beloved garden palled eventually and living alone wasn't easy. Despite hours of toil and commitment the peas came to nothing. In fact, for the first time since having an allotment, I never had a runner bean. However, I had fun moaning about my woes and I had a purpose at the other end of the village.

Rebecca:

The peace and simplicity of life on the allotment has been appreciated so much during the pandemic.

Anon:

It has been a lifeline and gives a walk a focus.

Steven F:

The allotment, especially during the spring and summer when the kids were off school, was a god-send. We all looked forward to our walk from Southwick to the allotment on Tuesday as part of our allowed daily exercise. We could then spend a number of hours in the amazing weather preparing the soil and sowing seeds. This became a weekly routine and we enjoyed watching our veggies growing over the coming months as a result of our hard work. Marvellous!

Richard and Ronnie:

It's been an interesting year at the spade face with soft fruits being the pick of the crop for us, due to the sunshine in April and May. Ronnie has been diligently mowing the communal grass (using a dedicated mower!) so thanks to him for that effort. We are looking forward to a rest over the winter.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and helped with the allotments.

For more information about our allotments please contact me, Heather Ball, on 01832 273601 or 07962 085 720 or by email at ball771@btinternet.com.

NATURE NOTES NOVEMBER 2020

Not a lot has happened in Short Wood during the last few months, mainly due to Wildlife Trust staff being restricted in their movements by the on-going Covid-19 regulations. Luckily the Wildlife Trust has been given permission to resume essential work on their reserves. As Short Wood and Glapthorn Cow Pasture are SSSIs the trust has a legal responsibility to perform certain maintenance tasks which will be carried out over the next three months or so.

Having, in past columns, concentrated on Short Wood this time we will look at Glapthorn Cow Pasture.

Have you been up to Glapthorn Cow Pasture recently? Read or contributed to the Logbook alongside the Interpretation Board?

The Cow Pasture is quite unique in having a Logbook that gives visitors the opportunity to share what they have seen, heard or just say if they enjoyed their visit. There was recently a note recording that 'we got lost!' Have a read.

The Warden can't be there all the time and the more eyes the better. Notes in the Logbook are particularly helpful at certain times of the year but are always of interest.

The eagerly awaited return of a Nightingale after an absence of two years was first recorded in the Logbook on the 26 April 2020, a week later than usual but very welcome.

The wood is also known for the rare Black Hairstreak butterfly. Recording the first sighting of them in early June is important to butterfly enthusiasts.

There is not a lot of activity in the wood at the moment, but what should you look out for in the winter that

you may want to share in the Logbook?

Woodcock can be seen wintering in the wood between November and March after migrating south.

Badger latrines are easier to spot now the grass has died down, as are the deer slots (the name given to deer footprints) that are also easier to see when the rides are wet. There are two sizes; the larger ones being Fallow, and the smaller ones show that the resident Muntjac are around.

Record anything that you or members of your family have seen or heard. 'Buter Cup' and 'Stin in netols' were observations written in the Logbook by one of our younger visitors. You will also find observations by very knowledgeable visitors.

Keith Alvey & Dick Smith (Wardens Short Wood & Glapthorn Cow Pastures)

WINDY SPIRE POCKET PARK PROJECT

The final planting of the hedging and spring-flowering bulbs has been completed at the Pocket Park, and it is looking very nice, and will look even better next Spring, when the bulbs flower and the trees and hedging come into leaf. The Committee hopes to be able to put up a sign at the gate in 2021, which will finish the work appropriately.



GLAPTHORN PARISH COUNCIL

Glapthorn Playing Field

Villagers could be forgiven for thinking that there has been little activity on the Playing Field in recent months! But this is in fact far from the case, as we have been successful in making additional funding applications to finance the final elements of the scheme; whilst also working to conclude statutory planning condition requirements with ENC Planning.

So, we are delighted to report on the following key stages of the development:

The **Playground** installation is in progress and due to be completed by Christmas.

The **Car Park** is expected to be open for the new school term in January.

The **Outdoor Gym** will be installed in the New Year.

The **Playing Field** secondary "slit" drainage will be completed in Spring, after which the pitch should be ready for use.

Once again, we are very grateful for the support and help from the community and in particular their patience during these final stages of the development.

The Parish Council

Parish Council meetings continue to operate remotely via Zoom whilst the Government restrictions remain in place. Villagers are able to join the meetings for the "Open Forum"; details




on how to join the meetings are published with each agenda.

Communication & Contacts

Information relating to the Parish Council along with other Glapthorn and East Northamptonshire organisations can be found on the village website www.glapthorn.org.uk

Please note that on 16 December, Parish Councillors will adopt new email addresses which can be found in the Parish Council pages on the Glapthorn website. In future, these email addresses should be used for all Parish Council matters.

You may also follow us on Facebook  and

Twitter  @GlapthornCou

If you have any Glapthorn Website or Social Media content or news stories you want to share then please contact David Cashmore: cllr.cashmore@glapthorn.org.uk or 01832 274768.

You can also contact the Parish Council directly via email: parish.clerk@glapthorn.org.uk

Please send items for the March newsletter to Ursula Wide by 1 March. Email: ursula.wide@btinternet.com.

This newsletter is produced by the Church Council for the benefit of the Glapthorn Community.