

Dates for your diary:

St James Church: The church is re-opening for services this Easter - see pages 1&3 for details.

Food Bank Donations: St James Church will be open for non-perishable food bank donations from those attending the Easter Sunday service, from 10.30am onwards.

Spaldwick Parish Council: Meetings are currently held by video conferencing. Contact the Parish Council for details: clerkspaldwick.pc@gmail.com

April 2021

To advertise or contribute news: spaldwicknews@gmail.com



SPALDWICK

NEWS

“Together Again” - by Spaldwick Primary School Head teacher, Louise Worrell

After two months of the pressures of home learning during lockdown, Spaldwick's children returned to class in early March.

Youngsters were welcomed back with balloons and confetti cannon, with posters on the front door reading “Together.”

Head teacher Louise Worrell writes: “On 8th March we reopened our doors and welcomed all the children and staff back to Spaldwick Community Primary School.

We have been so pleased to see so many smiling faces and we have been really impressed by the children's resilience and how quickly they have all settled back into the routines after having had so much time learning at home.

It has been lovely to have our Spaldwick community back together and we are looking forward to the coming months when we can start to work more collaboratively again.”



St James Church Spaldwick - Open for Easter



We are pleased to be re-opening for church services this Easter and want to invite children and adults to take part by making an Easter Garden.

To help you do that, please scan the QR code (right) for a video with some ideas. Bring your gardens to the churchyard on Good Friday or Easter Saturday to line the path.



Spaldwick services:

- Thursday 31st March, 7pm - Maundy Thursday communion
- Easter Sunday, 9.30am - Holy Communion
- Sunday 11th April, 4pm - Family worship
- Sunday 18 April, 9.30am - Parish Communion if the weather is dry! Stow Longa has an outdoor service planned, but this will be cancelled if rain is likely.

The other Easter Sunday services around the benefice are shown below.

Please note that one way systems will be in place in all churches and you will be required to maintain social distancing. Please bring your face mask and your phone with the track and trace app on your phone (or we can take your contact details instead).

All services will be first come first served, if the church is full you will be asked to stand outside.

- 6am - Sunrise Service, Tilbrook
- 10.45am - Holy Communion, Kimbolton
- 4pm - Easter Garden and Egg Service, Kimbolton.

There are also some other services during Holy Week - check out our website www.kymchurch.org.uk closer to the date.

:: More updates from St James Church can be found on page 3.



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Concerns raised over busy A14 junctions

The MP for North West Cambridgeshire is meeting with Highways England to discuss safety concerns at various junctions along the A14.



Shailesh Vara (pictured right) has been contacted by a number of residents and Parish Councils who are trying to improve the safety at a number of the junctions. These include the junctions at locations including Spaldwick, Ellington, Easton, and Brington.

He said: "The A14 is a very busy road and the junctions to a number of the villages are dangerous to road users. This needs to be addressed and it is important that residents are able to directly put their concerns to Highways England. As well as working towards a longer-term solution, I hope that in the meantime Highways England can be persuaded to take some short-term action to make the junctions safer than they currently are."

Martin Fellows, Regional Director of Highways England said: "We appreciate the desire for local parish councils to secure improvements to this section of the A14 and we're engaging with them to understand their particular concerns about these junctions.

We're currently investigating options for appropriate short-term minor safety improvements."

Spaldwick Allotment Committee - by Carmen Martos

The saying "March winds, April showers, brings forth May flowers" is pause of thought.

April, indeed is known for its mix of sunshine and showers. With daylight lengthening and temperatures rising, April showers gently tickles everything to wake it up. Daffodils and tulips greet us with their sunny disposition, trees are budding and sown vegetable seeds are germinating or 'popping' as I like to term it affectionately.

Down at the allotments, a steady stream of allotmenters are emerging from hibernation to tend to their plots in readiness for planting out their seeds and plants. Longer, brighter days put people in the mood for gardening. Spring has arrived!

Don't be duped by the rising temperatures, though, as Jack Frost still lingers (like a bad smell) every now and again and catches us out with his frosty nights. Keeping one eye on your germinating seeds and another eye on the weather forecast would be prudent. Sow chillies and tomatoes indoors, in readiness for that Mediterranean weather (we can still feel European even if we have left the EU). Although peas can be sown directly outside now, it may be wise to sow them indoors first until they are approximately 15cm. This gives them a fighting chance from munching mice.



Aim to bury those chitted potatoes by the end of the month (second earlies in the first two weeks and maincrop in the second two weeks). As seeds and plants begin to stretch and pose for their sun salutation, unwelcome weeds start to encroach and gatecrash the plot. As Monty Don reminds us "A weed is a plant simply in the wrong place," so escorting them off the plot little and often is a wise move.

A new allotment year welcomes two new families to the allotments, who are duly inaugurated and badged as "Spaldwick Allotmenters." Gardening requires lots of water, mostly in the form of perspiration. I can't promise you digging isn't hard work and growing veg won't be 'trowel and error', but I can promise you a very welcoming small community who not only shares plants and produce, but more importantly shares (with a smile) a wealth of wisdom for growing vegetables – and this shared wisdom come completely free!

If any Spaldwick resident is interested in joining our 'gang' of Allotmenters, please email spaldwickallotments@gmail.com - there is a small waiting list but there will be a few more plots becoming available shortly.

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Ringling in honour of Captain Sir Tom Moore

The Tenor bell at St James Church rang out 100 times on Saturday, 27th February. It was tolled in honour of veteran and NHS fundraiser Captain Sir Tom Moore, who passed away at the beginning of February aged 100 - along with everyone who has died during the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Busy Bells of Spaldwick** - Though full circle bell-ringing is still silenced under current guidelines, we continue to fill the air with the sound of the chimes pealing out, (all performed with social distancing and guidelines in place).

These short peals are available to everyone to mark your special occasion (in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary) for a donation of £10.

Get in touch for more details by emailing: spaldwickbells@gmail.com - we would also like to hear from you if are a lapsed ringer who would like to join us.



St James Church (Continued from page 1)

- **Food bank donations** - St James will be open for non perishable food bank donations from those attending the Easter Sunday service, from 10.30am onwards.
- **Communion at Home** - The vicar is now able to offer communion at home to those not able to attend church. If you or someone you know is continuing to shield, please get in touch.
- **Summer Festival** - We look forward to sharing details of our summer festival of services and concerts that will take place across all of our churches this summer.

To contact Rector Rev Philip Howson:

Email: revphiliphowson@icloud.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/revdphiliphowson/>

Phone: 01480 869081

Cherry Tree awarded to Spaldwick School

Spaldwick Primary School will soon be the recipient of a flowering cherry tree, courtesy of Frosts Garden Centres.

The chain asked for nominations to mark their 75th anniversary, and were inundated with suggestions. Spaldwick School was one of 75 organisations selected.



Lots of EGG-citing activities planned for our Easter holiday club!
Don't forget to reserve your place – all 2-11 year olds welcome.

	<i>morning</i>	<i>afternoon</i>
Mon 29 th NATURE LOVERS	Nature Walk Decorate Eggs for Hunt	Daffodil/Daisy Portraits Egg Hunt
Tues 30 th EASTER CRAFTS	Easter Hats Window Art	Cobble Painting Bunny Cards
Wed 31 st MAD SCIENTISTS	Puffy Slime Rainbow Ink	Colour Blast Eggs
Thurs 1 st EASTER CRAFTS	Peg Easter Eggs Dream Catchers	Footprint Chick Cards

	<i>morning</i>	<i>afternoon</i>
Tues 6 th MAD SCIENTISTS	Lava Lamps Shadow Boxes	Quick sand Tie Dye
Wed 7 th EASTER CRAFTS	Pompom Chicks Easter Baskets	Paper Daffodils and Tulips Spring Caterpillars
Thurs 8 th BAKE AND MAKE	Chocolate Egg Nests	Decorating Easter Biscuits
Friday 9 th MINI EXPLORERS	Forest School Nature Walk	Leaf Art Bug Hunt
Monday 12 th GREAT OUTDOORS	Giant Hedgehog Art Flower Name Art	Sports on the Field Egg Races

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9am – 4.30pm → £25
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Spaldwick village website gets a new look



Have you visited the Spaldwick village website recently?

Spaldwick village website



Welcome to the website of Spaldwick village. We are a small, friendly community in Cambridgeshire, conveniently situated just off the A14. Spaldwick is located four miles north east of Kimbolton and seven miles west of Huntingdon. Cambridge is now 25 minutes away by car thanks to the new A14 Huntingdon bypass. Spaldwick has a primary school, playgroup, popular pub, ultrafast 'gigabit' broadband (arriving in 2021) and a service station with shop and restaurants. This website is provided by Mark Heath. To get in touch, [contact us](#).

Ivy Way resident Mark Heath has been busy giving the site a fresh look, with lots of useful and interesting information about where we live.

You can re-read past copies of Spaldwick News, find out about the latest developments with the Spaldwick Ultrafast broadband project and read about the village's history and facilities.

There's also the ever-popular "Photographs" section, with a wealth of pictures from the present day and times gone by.

- Visit the Spaldwick website now: www.spaldwick.com

Spaldwick Neighbourhood Watch update - from David Henrick

The policing portion of council tax is set to rise by £1.25 per month (based on a Band D property), following a decision made by Cambridgeshire's Acting Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby.

The Commissioner asked members of the public through a recent on-line survey whether they thought his proposed increase was value for

money - a total of 1,270 people responded to the survey online with the majority (70.06%) agreeing that it was.

The additional funding will be used to provide:

- An increase in call handlers
- Additional cyber/online prevention officers and digital media investigators
- Additional capacity for handling digital contact from the public
- An increase in support for responding to calls for service from vulnerable people
- Additional support for the development of frontline officers.

For more information and a breakdown of the increase per household band please visit: www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk

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Spaldwick Parish Council

February's meeting was held on Thursday 18th by video conference, due to current Covid-19 restrictions.

Attending the meeting virtually were: Chairman S Fane de Salis, Vice Chairman G Smith, Councillor S Jackson-Rimmer, County Councillor I Gardener, S. Cardwell (Clerk) and two members of the public.

Here is what was discussed, based on the draft minutes:

- County Councillor Ian Gardener addressed the Council to provide an update regarding Covid-19 help and case numbers in the area, the County Council budget for the financial year (including footpaths and flood prevention) and Council tax increases.
- Councillor S Jackson-Rimmer also raised the issue of noise coming from the A14 with County Councillor I Gardener.

Highways, footpaths and byways:

- Huntingdonshire District Council is investigating the issue of motorcyclists using byways during the winter months - signs need updating to prevent this. The Parish Clerk confirmed she has chased this again, but has had no response.
- The ongoing issue of a missing stile (resulting in a blocked path or escaped horses) has been re-raised with the footpaths coordinator at Cambridgeshire County Council by M. Ager.

Town & Poors Charity Field (Allotment Field)

- The planning application for a hard standing has now been approved.
- Three contractors were sent details of the works required for the hard standing, with R. Purser asked to complete the work for the quoted price of £32,736, based on him being local with a good reputation.
- The possibility of fruit trees for the allotments was also discussed - Cllr G Smith will obtain further details regarding the proposal from the Allotment Association.
- Following talks with a resident wishing to install beehives, it was suggested that a draft Beekeeping policy be amended to include the number of hives to be installed and any amendment to that number to be agreed by the Council. Cllr G Smith will speak to the Allotment Association regarding any allergies.

Firefighters come to the rescue on the A14

A car transporter had a lucky escape from serious damage on the A14 near Spaldwick. On 9th March, fire crews from Huntingdon were returning from training when they spotted this burning car, which was being towed behind a lorry.

Photo credit: Martin Short





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Spaldwick Waste Bin Collections for April/May 2021:

Grey		13th April	27th April
Blue	6th April	20th April	4th May
Green	8th April	22nd April	6th May

A complete list of materials that can be recycled can be found at:
www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/whatgoesinwhichbin

SPALDWICK COVID-19 SUPPORT NETWORK

A small group of Spaldwick residents are continuing to help those in our village who are vulnerable or are having to self-isolate. We are pleased to say that at the moment there is a lot less demand for assistance, and is now mainly the collection of prescriptions from the Kimbolton and Alconbury surgeries.

If you would like help please get in touch using the contacts listed below, either by a phone call (leave a message if no answer) or text message, and they will take it from there.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Amba – 07526 382240

Julia – 01480 890203

Becky – 07958 306740

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Citizens Advice Bureau - National Advice Line 03444 111 444 www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- Universal Credit - Help to claim line 0800 144 8444
- Disability Huntingdonshire - 0330 3553 256 info@dish.org.uk
- Family Action - This group helps to provide practical, emotional, and financial support to families. www.family-action.org.uk (Family Line Providing a listening ear to help with parenting questions or give guidance around more complex issues). Mon-Fri 9am-3pm, 6pm-9pm Phone 0808 802 6666 Text 07537 404 282 email familyline@family-action.org.uk

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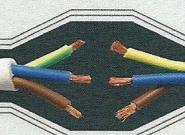
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