



# ASH CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

EDITOR: CAZ HALFHIDE

27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Firstly, my apologies for the lack of newsletters over the last few months. With so many events, clubs and activities cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, I found it impossible to come up with a format that did not further highlight the fairly despondent situation that we have all found ourselves in.

In March 2020, our lives were dramatically changed as we entered into the first lockdown. A lockdown that was intended to stop the spread, shield the most vulnerable and protect our NHS.

As a community, we had challenges to overcome. Challenges that most of us would have never envisaged facing, but, together as a community, we did it!

The community spirit within this Parish (including Ash, Witcombe, Milton & Durnfield) shone bright and we are asking you all to help make it shine again this December and over the Christmas period.

As I write this, we are in our second lockdown. Whilst we all hope to come out of this on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and we have the wonderful news that a vaccine is coming .....it isn't here yet.

December and Christmas 2020 are for most of us, likely to be very different and with the probability that many of the things that we would normally do, cannot or will not be able to happen.

A few of us got together to see if we could come up with some 'socially distanced' ideas to make a difference.

So, we are asking you for your help to 'Embrace the Spirit of Ash' and 'Light up Ash for Christmas 2020'

We have a number of events planned (mainly aimed at the children in the village) and would be delighted to receive the villages support. To include:

- **The Village Christmas Tree, on the corner of Main Street and Martock Lane will be 'lit up' on 5<sup>th</sup> December (due to social distancing requirements, there will be no official switch on time)**
- **Light Up Ash for Christmas 2020 – Decorate Your Houses & Front Gardens**
- **Children's Christmas Riddle Trail – 24 Clues to be found around the village**

- **Christmas Theme Scarecrow Competition (£25.00 voucher prize to the winner)**
- **Family Christmas Walk Around the Christmas Decorated Millennium Wood (with a Surprise Visitor and Magical Wish Tree)**

Posters detailing these events can be found on the various noticeboards around the village.

Enclosed with this newsletter are two items:

1. *'Ash Christmas Spirit 2020' Heart Bauble – This is A Gift to Each Household in Our Parish*

These have been handmade within the village and we hope will be kept for the future, as a reminder of how our community came together in a year that no one could have ever envisaged.

2. *A Book of Raffle Tickets – Raising Funds for Holy Trinity*

Covid-19 has also had a massive impact on the church's income. Not only because of the closure of the church during lockdown, but also the cancellation of the Wednesday coffee mornings and now the Christmas Sale, which together usually contribute around £3000 per year to our funds.

As you will see, we have increased the value of the prizes to be won and have made them all vouchers (which can be specified by the winners).

To just purchase one ticket would make a big difference. To purchase a book would make a huge difference.

If you would like to support this, please put the completed ticket stubs and money in an envelope and put them in the post box at The Bell Inn by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. (The post box will be emptied several times a day)

I need to thank those that have 'embraced the challenge' to organise these events and activities (together with a couple of surprises that I haven't mentioned), Morrison's Supermarket for being a star (yet again), and Ash Parish Council who have agreed to sponsor anything that we haven't managed to convince someone to donate!!

Keep Safe, Keep Smiling, WE WILL GET THERE, and thank you for your support.

Caz





IF WE WORK  
TOGETHER, WE CAN

LIGHT UP  
ASH FOR  
CHRISTMAS  
2020

***DECORATE YOUR HOUSE OR  
FRONT GARDEN***

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**IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, PLEASE  
CONTACT CAZ: TEL: 01935 822727**

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Can you solve the  
Christmas Rhymes,  
that are around the  
village you will  
find??

FROM 1ST  
DECEMBER  
24 TO FIND



ASH  
MILLENNIUM  
WOOD

# Family Christmas Walk

BRING A TORCH & BRING A WISH  
TO ADD TO OUR MAGICAL  
WISHING TREE



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Dec. 12th & 13th, 2020  
3pm - 6pm  
(Special Guest\*  
Appearing on Sat 12th)

\*SUBJECT TO COVID RESTRICTIONS  
ALLOWING

# **‘CHRISTMAS THEMED’ SCARECROW COMPETITION**



**£25 VOUCHER\*(OF CHOICE)  
TO THE WINNER**

**NO FORMAL ENTRY REQUIRED – WE JUST  
NEED TO BE ABLE TO SEE IT FROM THE ROAD**

**JUDGING TO TAKE PLACE 15<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**\*SPONSORED BY ASH PARISH COUNCIL**