



Ashwater Locked Down and **Unlocked** (2)

The church building is still closed, but nobody has told the bluebells. Along with the whole of the natural world they carry on, oblivious to the difficult time we humans are experiencing. Whether in our gardens or the places where we take our exercise, the beauty of nature has the power to uplift our spirits.

We have to recognise that there are people in our community who are anxious, and are finding the lock down a real struggle. The recent invitation to share our experiences of how we are occupying ourselves during the lock down was intentionally upbeat - we wanted people to get enthusiastic about the idea. But the invitation was meant for everybody, and it would be so valuable to have contributions from people who are finding the situation we are in stressful. For the venture to be successful, the whole community needs to be involved, so the information which follows applies to all.

In the first place, there will be no *selection* of material to be included. We will find a way to display or share everything that is received. If you prefer your contribution to be anonymous, that is fine. Let your thoughts develop. There is no rush. The lock-down may go on for some time yet, and you do not have to *finish* what you have started during the lock-down itself. Indeed, it would be good to hear of things that people have discovered which they plan to continue into the future. Not only that, it may be many, many months before we are able to celebrate and give thanks for our coming through this pandemic. So, you've got time.

At this stage it would be helpful to have feedback on your feelings about this project. You may have thought of things which have escaped us, and which would greatly assist our planning. For the moment, the person to contact is Trevor May. My email is trevorfmay@hotmail.com. My telephone number is 01409 211523.

The church is trying to maintain contact by video and by telephone. All are welcome to join any of the services and other activities which are available online or through telephone conference calls. For more information, visit the church website (ashwaterparishchurch.com) or contact Revd Stephen Skinner (revstephenskinner@ashwaterparishchurch.com)

Stay safe. Stay positive.

Trevor May