

Goodbye, Farewell, Happy Christmas & Best Wishes.

If ... (not the Rudyard Kipling poem!)

1. If you're missing our little chats, I hear friends and the coffee mornings are good for a good natter. The coffee mornings are at Lode Chapel every Wednesday 10.30 until midday. At time of writing, it sounds like the Shed will be open again soon. I predict some good conversations in there too.
2. If you miss our Post Office services and little shop and you'd like to continue supporting a small village business, Stow-cum-Quy is a short bus ride, pleasant walk or cycle ride away or for a bigger business Bottisham Post Office is available. It's always good to have options.
3. If you would like to receive regular milk, eggs, etc Plumbs Dairy delivers to Lode. Their number is 01223 893033.
4. If you enjoyed the bread, this was from Lane's Bakery in Burwell. Their shop is at 20 High St, Burwell, Cambridge CB25 0HB or call them on 01638 741249.
5. If the dry-cleaning service was useful to you, they continue to run the service in Stow-cum-Quy and Swaffham Bulbeck's village shops.
6. If you enjoyed the local apple juice from Watergull Orchards you can purchase at Anglesey Abbey or for large orders contact them direct on 01945 585707 or www.watergullorchards.co.uk.
7. If you will miss me – I am not leaving the village immediately and may even see you at the coffee mornings, at other social occasions or walking around the village.

Over the years we've had lots of doors and a couple of refits, plus a disabled access ramp to improve the shop but did you notice that every year we also collected money for charity? This year was Shelter but every year it has also been for the British Legion poppy appeal. Once counted, these final figures will be in the shop window, if you're interested.

I want to thank again all the regular customers on the Post Office and shop sides. They have been reliable and so helpful, especially at difficult times. As some of you are aware we took over at 24 High Street from Steve and Valerie Clark in 2010, their family had worked for the Post Office for a couple of generations and I want to thank them for their support, especially in the early days. At first Steve was still Lode's Postie, it must have been a delicate balance to be working at his previous home but he managed it perfectly. I hope both Val and Steve understand that I did my best to continue their legacy but I do feel that the Post Office were due to close us soon. I also want to thank the holiday covers that we have had over the years. The longest serving of these was Jed, a calming and kind influence on me and very helpful. On a personal level we want to thank our neighbours the Jones'. I found running the business during the Covid peak, very stressful and both Jez and I found chatting with them through our upstairs windows really helped. Yes, we did follow all the rules and learnt a lot about cocktails and whiskies! At time of writing, we do not know what will happen to the building but trust the village will welcome the new people to this address.

It has been an honour to live and work in Lode and get to know so many residents over the years. It's certainly been my favourite, most interesting job. For Jez and I, Lode has been our first marital home, we arrived as newlyweds and have enjoyed our life here in Lode but it's time for our next adventure. In this December issue, I want to wish you all, for one final time, a happy and peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for the future.

**As they used to say in the Two Ronnies TV program,
"It's goodbye from him and it's goodbye from me".**

Corinne, Subpostmaster and Shopkeeper: 2010 to 2023