

# Parish News

*Kington, Huntington & Titley*

April 2024



# SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

email: [office@sargeantsbros.com](mailto:office@sargeantsbros.com)  
Tel: 01544 230481

Mill Street, Kington  
Herefordshire  
HR5 3AL

**HEREFORD** 461 via Lyonshall 462 via Eardisley

Journey times vary Kington to Hereford approx 65minutes

**Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON**

	461	461	461	461	461	461	462	461	461	461	463
Mon-Fri	0645	0720	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1540	1710
Saturday	-	0720	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1540	1710

**Returns Railway Station, HEREFORD**

	461	461	462	461	461	462	461	461	461	461	461	
Mon-Fri	0748	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1615	1700	1815
Saturday	-	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	-	1700	1815

**LLANDRINDOD WELLS**

**Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON**

	461	461	461	461	462	461	461	462	461	461
M-F Coll Days	0600	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810
M-F Coll Hols	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810
Sat	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810

**Returns from Railway Station, LLANDRINDOD WELLS**

	461	461	461	462	461	463	462	461	461	
M-F Coll Days	0638	0900	1108	1208	1308	1408	1600	1708	1808	1850
Sat & Coll Hols	-	0900	1108	1208	1308	1408	1605	1708	1808	1850

**KNIGHTON Route 41**

**Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON**

M-F		0610	0820	1010	1210	1520	1730
Sat		-	0820	1010	1210	1520	1730

**Departs Bus Station, KNIGHTON**

M-F		0642	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805
Sat		-	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805

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# THE KINGTON PARISHES



**St Mary, Kington**      **St Thomas a Becket, Huntington**  
**St Stephen, Old Radnor**      **St Mary, Kinnerton**      **St Peter, Titley**  
**www.kingtonparishes.org.uk**

## CLERGY

### Vacancy

The Revd Prebendary Michael Kneen, Rural Dean of Kington and Weobley      07979-852733  
Enquiries contact:      Parish Office      email: [office@kingtonparishes.org.uk](mailto:office@kingtonparishes.org.uk)

## ASSISTANT CLERGY

**Rev Tony Jardine**      9 Park Green, Kington      01544 239160  
**Rev Paul Buckingham**      Cae Pengelli, Bryngwyn, Kington HR5 3QL      07557 301005

## READER

**Rob MacCurrach**      33 Cutterbach Lane, Kington, HR5 3EH      01544 231848

## CHURCHWARDENS

**Kington**      Miss Ann Edwards      01544 230271  
6 Headbrook, Kington HR5 3DZ  
Mr Rodney Bowdler      01544 231501  
Bridge House, Bridge St, Kington HR5 3DW

**Huntington**      Mrs Fiona Shone      01544 370391  
Huntington Court, Huntington, Kington, HR5 3PZ  
Mr Peter Kelly      01544 370266  
Greenfield Farm, Huntington, Kington HR5 3PZ

**Old Radnor**      Mr Michael Jones      01544 370259  
Weythel Farm, Old Radnor, Presteigne LD8 2RR  
Mrs Rosemary Watkins      01544 230174  
Dunfield Bungalow, Stanner Rd, Kington HR5 3NN

**Kinnerton**      Mrs Ruth Jones:      01547 560207  
Upper House, Kinnerton, Presteigne, LD8 2PE  
Mrs Sue Thompson      01547 560333  
Court Farm, Kinnerton, Presteigne, LD8 2PE

**Titley**      Mr Dick Allford      01544 231052  
Pinecroft, Titley, Kington, HR5 3RL

## MAGAZINE EDITOR

Miss Freda Lymath      [freda@sparkiesofkington.com](mailto:freda@sparkiesofkington.com)  
Arrow Weir House, Kingswood Rd, Kington HR5 3HD      01544 231780

**St. Mary's, Kington PCC is a registered charity and its number is 1185453**

## *Letter from the Cathedral*

April marks the 100th anniversary of the first broadcast by a monarch of the United Kingdom, when King George V opened the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in north London in April 1924. The speech lasts about six and a half minutes, and you can hear it in all its scratchily-recorded glory on YouTube.

I wonder if anyone then had any idea how much broadcasting would change in the coming century? We now take for granted the fact that we can see and hear almost anyone in public life at any time thanks to a 24-hour media. TikTok and Instagram have brought broadcasting within reach of any of us with a smartphone.



Communication seems to be hard-wired into us as human beings. That shouldn't surprise us, because our God is a God who communicates. Back in the earliest chapters of Genesis, it's the voice of God that brings creation into being. When Jesus is awoken by his terrified disciples in the middle of a storm, it's his words shouted into the tumult that calm the winds and the waves. When the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles at Pentecost, they speak the message of Christ crucified and risen in words their hearers can understand.

The story is told of a rabbi who could never get further in his reading of the Scriptures than Genesis 1:2, "And God said." The wonder of a God who speaks was too much for him to take in.

I wonder if that's why we love podcasts, audiobooks, and the radio so much – because it's as if someone were sitting next to us and chatting? As if we're listening in on a conversation that we're invited to be part of?

I wonder, too, if that's why words can wound us as well as heal us – because they go deep into the heart of our being?

The apostle James talked about the power of speech, how hard it is to tame the tongue, and how inconsistent we are when we say, "Praise God," in one breath and in the next run down another human being. Those are challenging words in an era where talk is easy, but we do well to take them to heart.

There are other times when we are slow to speak, perhaps out of anxiety or fear. Once such time can be when we try to talk about our faith. In this, our Diocesan Year of Faith, we are all encouraged to have confidence that the story we have to share in our Christian faith is one people want to hear, and to become more comfortable talking about our faith.

We may never become those who broadcast to the world, as King George V did 100 years ago, but I wonder how we could learn to "broadcast" our faith in simple ways, and speak words of life to those who are longing to hear them?

*AD Fiona*

## Views in a Vacancy

*Whan that Aprille with his shoures sote  
The droghte of Marche hath perced to the rote,  
And bathed every veyne in swich, licour.....  
Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages...*

So begins Chaucer's book, written towards the end of the fourteenth century. It's about a pilgrimage from London to Canterbury taken by an assortment of fascinating, story-telling folk, journeying to the shrine of Thomas à Becket in the cathedral, who had been murdered there by four knights. Incidentally, I understand that it was one of those four who, as an act of penance, founded out little church of St Thomas at Huntington.

Canterbury became, and internationally still is, one of the main destinations for pilgrims, along with others you may have seen featured on television. But St David's was another; for pilgrim routes criss-crossed our country, and it was said that a couple of pilgrimages to St David's was worth as many brownie points as one to Rome.

And it's highly probable that one such route passed through Kington, crossing the Arrow and following up what is now Bridge Street, along Mill Street, across the School Field (an ancient footpath where we've planted four more oaks to back up the surviving three aged beauties). Then we pass Tattymoor Pool and travel on to Twts Castle, where there was probably a hermitage. This would also have welcomed other pilgrims, coming down from Hereford. Thence all the pilgrims, refreshed, would travel on to Haverfordwest (Hereford-in-the-west) and so to St David's. Dr Rerrie tells me there's a building down in Sunset which was once a hospice/chapel dedicated to St David, and the route may have used what is now Board School Lane.

But pilgrimages do not have to be so demanding as those. I think I wrote last year about my friend David, who did an Emmaus walk from his church to mine at Monkhaven, a lovely little church like Huntington, (built on a mediaeval pilgrim route) where I, at the time, was celebrating an Easter Eucharist. It was a walk of about 7 miles like the one of which we read in Luke 24. He arrived as we were sharing the peace and brandished a twig of blackthorn, thick with its white flowers. "On Friday," he said, "this was just thorns and tight buds. Now look at it!" I called this Sonnet the Crowning of Christ:

*Last Friday, when I passed along this way,  
the hedgerow blackthorn showed no sign of life.  
Yet, needle-sharp, the thorns upon each spray  
tore at my hand and tangled with the knife.*



*Careful, I cut to avoid each deadly spine  
and set to work to weave this coronet,  
coaxing the brittle twigs to intertwine  
into a band of sharpest thorns thickset.*

*Then, with gloved hands, I placed and pressed it down  
hard on his head, till there began to sprout  
red beads of blood, like buds upon his crown,  
which quickened all the hedgerow round about,*

*Whereby the blackthorn that before looked dead  
with blossom now so white, like snow, is spread.*

Of course, the most famous, virtual, pilgrimage is that described by John Bunyan, written in his prison cell. Rob MacCurrach and I had that in mind when we chose some years ago to lead a walk as part of a Walking Festival. We set off from St Mary's after the Sunday Eucharist and walked cross-country to the Celestial City of Huntington, peppering our journey with poems and other readings relevant to our progress, ending with Bunyan's Mr Valiant for Truth arriving when "All the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

That one was about life as a pilgrimage, and we repeated it virtually as a Churches Together service in St Bede's one day, describing all the stopping places and reading the relevant texts as we had on the actual walk.

One other pilgrimage I should perhaps mention, the destination being Kinnerton Church. A little group of us had got only as far as the little bridge at Knill when the heavens opened and the rain fell, cats and dogs! Only June and I continued, soaked to the skin, and the footpath at the end took us through the middle of a field of tall, soaking wet cereals. Arriving, June emptied a gallon or so of water out of her boots, and we said evensong in the church, steaming and smelling like a laundry. Happy Days

I see in the Church Times that the vacancy is advertised again. Better luck this time. Meanwhile, our continuing gratitude to Michael Kneen and all who have been working so hard to keep the ship afloat during this long interregnum; and our thanks and best wishes to Freda and Alison as they prepare to pass their busyness on to a successor.

Have a meaningful and joyous Easter.

*Denis.*

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## **In memory of Sarah**

Jayne is running in the London Marathon on the 21st April. Daughter Sarah and Jayne grew up together and remained close friends until Sarah passed away last June with M.E. (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis). People with M.E. experience debilitating, pain, fatigue and a range of other symptoms.



It was on the day of Sarah's funeral that Jayne heard she'd been accepted to run in aid of Action for M.E. who this U.K. charity give information, advice and support to sufferers.

If you wish to sponsor, please contact us on 231066.

*Marion and Stephen Gilling*

## **St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON**

As Easter fast approaches so we look forward to extra opportunities for worship and fellowship together.

### **Messy Church**

On March 30th, Holy Saturday, we hope that families will join us for Messy Church which will include making an Easter Garden, activities, music, the annual Egg Hunt and, of course, lunch together.

Wednesday, April 17th, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. is the date for the April Messy Church.



### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Tuesday, April 16th is the date for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting In the Parish Hall at 7pm. We look forward to your support for this.

### **Appeals for Help**

As mentioned in the March Parish News we have to find someone to edit the Parish News as Freda is retiring at the end of July. Also urgent is the need to find a new Treasurer, if you feel that you would like to know more about this then please speak to Nick Cooke or the Churchwardens. You do not have to be on the PCC to offer to take this on. We are also seeking someone to be our Electoral Roll Officer.

In the March issue of the Parish News we appealed for someone to take over the polishing of the brass in St. Mary's following Beryl Thompson's retirement.

Not only had Beryl cleaned the brass so efficiently she had also, for ten years, provided all the necessary materials for the job. This was a generous gesture which benefitted Church funds and we thank her for doing this.

We are fortunate that Julia Reid has offered not only to take over the polishing but also to follow in Beryl's footsteps by providing the necessary cleaning materials. Both have made generous gestures much appreciated by the Churchwardens and the P.C.C.

### **Choir Robes**

On Easter Day the choir members will be wearing their new robes, bought with funds raised at the Community Shop. Thanks must go to Debbie Horne and Pam Arnold for their work in negotiating the purchase of the robes.

### **Food Bank**

The organisers of the Food Bank are grateful for the support you are giving to this week by week.

### **Future Events**

We look forward to welcoming the Marches Makers to St. Mary's again for their exhibition on the first Bank Holiday Weekend in May.

A very forward date for your Diary is June 22nd St. Mary's Annual Fete, please keep this date free.

Rodney and I send you best wishes for a happy and peaceful Easter.

*Rodney Bowdler and Ann Edwards.*

**St. Mary's Parish Church is looking for a new treasurer!**

If you feel that you can help with this part of our church's work please have a chat with Nick Cooke 01544 230805, 07846 430111, st.marys.kington.treasurer@gmail.com  
This is a job that you can do from home.  
You don't need to be a churchgoer.

**A Letter of Thanks to St Mary's church, Kington**

Fran Watkins <watkinsfran2@gmail.com>

Mar 10, 2024,  
9:26 PM (22  
hours ago)

to claytonjohn46, office

Dear John, Ann and Rodney,

We'd like to offer our very grateful thanks to you all for hosting the Guild Competition Day yesterday. We believe the day was a great success and enjoyed by all those who attended, this was in great part due to your very generous hospitality and flexibility in accommodating a large number of people and activities.

This was the first Guild Competition Day to be held since before Covid, there had been a few years where we could not garner enough support from ringers to hold the event. We really wanted to offer ringers a happy, warm and entertaining afternoon, you helped us achieve just that.

Many people commented on the amazing refreshments that you served throughout the afternoon, there seemed to be an unending supply of foods, drinks and friendly smiles.

Please pass on our thanks to all the parishioners who helped to make the day such a success.

Fran, Nicky & Tim

Guild Striking Competition Committee



## Kington Parishes Service Schedule for this month

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCho108zE6VUpNGQAmmfA9OA>

### **Sunday, 31st March :** **EASTER DAY** (NB Clocks Change)

*Isaiah25:6-9, Psalm118 1-2,14-24, Acts10:34-43, John20:1-18*

8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Huntington
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kinnerton
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kington
10.15am (NB time):	Holy Eucharist:	Titley
6.00pm:	Holy Eucharist:	Old Radnor

### **Sunday 7th April:** **EASTER 2**

*Exodus14:10-end,15:20/21, Acts4:32-35, Psalm133, John20: 19-end*

8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Titley
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kington
11.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kinnerton
6.00pm:	Junior Praise:	Old Radnor

### **Sunday 14th April :** **EASTER 3**

*Zephaniah3:14-end, Acts3:12-19, Psalm4, Luke24: 36b-48*

8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Huntington
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kington
11.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Old Radnor
6.00pm:	Evening Prayer:	Kinnerton

### **Sunday 21st April:** **EASTER 4**

*1John3:16-end, Psalm23, Acts4:5-12, John10:11-18*

10.00am:	Morning Praise:	Kington
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:	Titley
6.00pm:	Evening Prayer:	Old Radnor

### **Sunday 28th April:** **EASTER 5**

*Genesis22:1-18, Psalm22:25-end, Acts8:26-end, John15:1-8*

10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kington
6.00pm:	Evening Prayer:	Kinnerton
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Huntington

All services at St Mary's are live streamed

## Kington Art and Craft Market.

**Saturday 20th April 9:30 a.m. – 3.30p.m.  
Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines.**

Yes. We are back! The first Kington Art and Craft Market of 2024 will be on Sat 20th April. 9.30am – 3.30pm in the Market Hall & Place de Marines.

We have a number of stalls offering a wide of different types of Art and Crafts many of your favourite stall will be here along with some new ones. Kington Art and Craft Market prides itself on the fact all items are Handcrafted locally by Artist or Crafters.

We look forward to seeing you.

Dates for 2024 Art and Craft markets are as follows:

May 18th June 15th July 20th August 17th September 21st October 19th

Dates of Christmas Markets to be confirmed..

*anna@akcrafts.co.uk 07977 978676*

## **Kington introduces Inaugural Marmalade Competition. Saturday 13th April to coincide with Marmalade week.**

Come and taste or even better enter YOUR delicious marmalade. Held at the Oxford Arms . Entry fee of £2.50 proceeds to MacMillan. Forms and info from Gareth at Bees Knees or Pam at The Grapevine  
Email [info@beesknees.co.uk](mailto:info@beesknees.co.uk) for forms.

A Chamber of Trade event together with Festive Food from the Borders.  
Come and help make this first Marmalade competition a success.



### **Reprinted from last month**

After nearly 20 years of editing the Parish News for Kington, Huntington and Titley, I feel that the time has come to pass the baton on to somebody else. I have very much enjoyed my time as editor, but I now feel that the time has come to retire in order to leave me more time for other things.

I will continue to edit the magazine until and including the August edition which will come out in late July. If anybody is interested in taking over, I would be happy to answer any questions, to work alongside a prospective new editor or to hand over the editorship as soon as the new editor would like me to.

I will also be giving up the printing of the magazine from the same date, but there are plenty of other printers to choose from.

If you would like to know more about what the job entails, please contact me (details on page 3) and I will be very happy to tell you all about it.

*Freda*

## **Kington Banking Hub**

We are interested in lobbying for a Bank Hub in Kington. With your action and support we believe we could be successful in getting one.

Incorporated into the Ridge Bank Art space at 1 High Street, the Bank Hub could be managed by Kington's current postmaster.

Bank Hubs are a modern version of the traditional high street bank and restore face-to-face banking for customers and small businesses. Bank Hubs are co-owned by the major high street banks through a not-for-profit company thus providing a shared space for the funding banks from which they can operate.



Bank Hubs are permanently staffed Monday to Friday to provide access to cash and other banking facilities plus, typically on a rota, employees from the major banks attend to meet with customers who wish to speak face-to-face with someone from their bank.

A bank hub restores some of the social value that comes from face-face customer service on complex and often stressful issues of financial management.

It is our belief that a Banking Hub in Kington would promote the town economically both for its businesses and residents and secure the town at the heart of the immediate economy.

Caroline Allen would continue to curate this space to bring contemporary artists and work reflecting the local area to visitors of the Hub. The desire to add a welcoming and engaging environment to the business functionality of a Banking Hub would further enhance the broadest possible engagement with the facility.

After following the internet link, ([visit.co.uk/consumers/request-access-to-cash](http://visit.co.uk/consumers/request-access-to-cash)) or if you do not have access to the internet, please also pop into the Post Office to sign a supporters list. We want to be able to provide information on the level of support we have in the community for the proposal.

*Tim & Caroline Allen  
Kington Post Office*

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## **KINGTON TOURIST GROUP**

We re-opened for the 2024 season on Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 10am. We have revised opening hours for 2024 due to lack of volunteers. We have two shifts a day 10am -1pm and 1pm to 4pm. So if anyone feels they can spare us a few hours a week/month we would be very pleased to see them. You can contact me on 01544 327207 if you are interested.

*Margaret Pengelly (secretary)*

## *Reader Writes*

Migration! It's a big issue, and in a fraught election year in both America and Europe, it may take centre stage and even drive the results to where liberal minded voters hope never to find themselves. Christians, especially, have to think through the principles before they can hope to withstand the strong currents both in their communities and nationally. Let's just remind ourselves of the historical backdrop.



In 2015 Angela Merkel led Germany's principled acceptance of a million Syrian refugees, and not without significant misgivings and opposition that has fuelled the rapid growth of far right Alternative fur Deutschland (AfD). But go back to 1945 and in the mess and suffering of the end of WW2, some 15 million ethnic Germans, long time settlers and residents, were driven out of what is now Poland and the Czech Republic.

The AfD has recently got itself into the news for apparently serious secret planning for possible "remigration" of non-ethnic Germans. Their rhetoric and spite cover the full spectrum of intolerance, even hate, for migrants identified as foreigners. But what admiration so many of us felt for German opposition to the Right's dangerous and hateful philosophy; a hundred thousand people came out on the streets of Berlin, and a quarter of a million in Munich. A prominent placard read "AfD ist so 1933"; it's been often said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Now, alas, far closer to home. If you haven't seen Ken Loach's latest drama *The Old Oak* (pub) I recommend it. Set in the Brexit atmosphere of 2016 in the NE of England, two traumatised communities collide; Syrian refugees, almost entirely women and children escaping from the destruction of places like Aleppo, and the local underemployed remnants of what had been a coal mining community. We see plenty of ignorance and bigotry, then we see some heroic goodness. The conclusion suggests hope and redemption, notably centred around the publican's and the refugees' conviction that those who eat together stick together.

Not one of us can be smug about immigrants, especially living in a market town in the Welsh marches. No high tide of foreigners has yet reached us in our living experience, but consider the forecasts. The World Bank expects there to be 260 million climate refugees by 2030, and up to 1.2 billion by 2050. Right leaning politicians like to distinguish what they call economic migrants from "real" refugees, but climate breakdown is already grinding down the rural poor across central Asia and the African Sahel. And, painfully, we can't talk about migration without the word complicity, whether through mistaken wars in our name or our unrestrained carbon use.

There is much we can do to rein in that complicity, even when it appears to hold little hope. But, whether hair shirt climate activist or frequent flier, we can remind ourselves that we are, for the time being, exceptionally lucky, and we need to be principled and generous towards immigrants. Jesus put it simply and forthrightly; the most important commandment is to love the Lord your God with all you heart and all your soul and all your strength, and the second is "to love your neighbour as yourself". When Afghanis or Africans reach our community by whatever desperate route or for whatever desperate reason, they are our neighbours.

*Robert MacCurrach*

## ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS



### **Bunty:**

To celebrate the 24 years Bunty has lived in Huntington and to wish her well on her move this week to Beaminster, a small market town in Dorset, her good friend Dee (Dee's family and a few other neighbours) arranged a farewell afternoon tea in the village hall.

This was well attended by everyone who wanted to wish Bunty every happiness in her new home and I think she was quite overcome by all the well-wishers. Bunty has been a wonderful presence in Huntington, with her warm smile and even warmer generous personality. Over the years she has always actively participated in village events, even being one of the notorious "Vice Girls" at a fundraising event held many years ago (a video clip was shown on Saturday – much to everyone's amusement).

### **April Services:**

Sunday 14th April – 8:30 am – Holy Eucharist

Sunday 28th April – 6:00 pm – Evening Prayer

### **Geo-Cashing:**

Since Fiona introduced the Geocaching in 2017 the challenge has continued to be popular amongst tourists (both young and old) from all over the country and families in the locality of Huntington and surrounding area. The excitement of following a set trail, using GPS coordinates, across the countryside footpaths and eventually finding the "treasure" brings a great deal of pleasure. Not only is everyone enjoying the wonderful countryside and seeing the abundance of nature along the way, but they are engaging in a very healthy pursuit. Geocachers seem particularly thrilled by the location of the Huntington "treasure" (in the churchyard – but don't let on!) and have left some wonderful comments in the booklet which everyone signs when they find the Geocache. Participants also post reviews and one such comment recently posted states *"this is a real gem of a geocache in a place which I would never have found without caching. It's big, in excellent condition, and even contains a Letterboxing stamp. The composting loo was a bonus after a long day in the field too. Many thanks for the cache. Sam."* If you would like to know how to set up a Geocache in your churchyard, please call Fiona Shone on 01544 370391.

### **Village Hall Events:**

#### **Afternoon Tea - Sunday 7th April – 3:00pm:**

A wide range of delicious homemade sweet and savoury treats, tea, coffee, a raffle and a good chat! Tickets - £5 per person, which must be pre-booked in advance.

Please contact Pippa at [yewtreepottery@gmail.com](mailto:yewtreepottery@gmail.com) or 01544 370692 to book your tickets.

### **Huntington Flicks in the Sticks:**

Film: About Time - Thursday 18th April 2024 – 7:30pm - Tickets cost £5.00 per person.

At the age of 21, Tim Lake discovers he can travel in time. Tim's father tells his son that the men in his family have always had the ability to travel through time. Tim can't change history, but he can change what happens in his life.

Starring: Rachel McAdams, Domhnall Gleeson, Bill Nighy, Vanessa Kirby and Margot Robbi  
*Susan Maiden*

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## **A Meditation on the Lord's Prayer – Part II**

Following on from last month the prayer now turns to supplication in asking our Heavenly Father to give us those essential elements of daily life. I well remember a family of six living on the bread line telling me that in their moments of greatest need something always turned up strangely related to kind acts of sharing food with others.

We can also now relate this giving of daily bread in receiving the daily bread of heaven at the service of Holy Communion.

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Our forgiveness flows from the cross. At Easter tide the events of Good Friday through to Easter must be held together in complete unity as the true story of God's forgiveness unfolds and reaches out to us until the end of time.

On Good Friday Christ is nailed to the cross through his hands and feet. It is a brutal scene and full of physical and spiritual agony. Carrying the weight of the sins of the world at his death there was darkness over the land.

His close followers leave the scene in total loss and despair. All this dramatically changes on Easter Day. For this same Jesus is risen from the dead. The joy and glory of Easter springs from the agony of Good Friday and transforms it.

I believe in a special way we can link our own pain and suffering and that of the world with Jesus on the cross. Thus we see how costly forgiveness can be. It means restoring broken relationships to a better level. Our heavenly Father through Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit has shown us the true nature of forgiveness and we are bidden to follow suite with our neighbours, restoring broken relationships.

Lead us not into temptation – this clause can be translated "Do not put us to the ultimate test where no one can stand in the courts of heaven".

And deliver us from evil – We see and experience evil all around in conflicts in the middle east and in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Our news bulletins every day record murders, thefts, etc, etc. No one is spared the subtlety and cunning of the devil always waiting to win more followers. Stand firm in our faith of Christ crucified, risen, glorified.

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Easter

*Tony Jardine*



## **Titley Church News**

### **Readers**

Sunday 7th April, David.

Sunday 21st April. Elizabeth.

### **Lent Lunch.**

We held our Lent lunch on Saturday 16th March in the Village Hall. It was very well attended and special thanks go to everyone from outside the parish who came to support this event. There was lovely homemade soup on offer and everyone enjoyed just being together and chatting. Many thanks to Win and her team who made the soup and served it and everyone else who donated anything towards the day. The fantastic sum of £325 was raised for the excellent work of St Michael's Hospice.



### **Best Wishes.**

We extend our best wishes to Becky Cockin who sadly fell from her horse whilst riding it along the main road which happened just after our Sunday service. Becky was airlifted to the QE hospital at Birmingham and we send her best wishes for a speedy recovery. Thanks to everyone who stepped in at the time and put on an instant "traffic diversion" until the emergency services got to the scene.

### **The Great Titley Potato Challenge.**

Once again after a few years' rest we are holding the "Great Titley Potato Challenge". This is a very much sought after cup to win at our Village fete which is being held this year on Saturday 10th August.

It is very simple. Just ring Mel George on 07584420288. Mel will then give you a seed potato and a pot to grow it in. You then plant your potato and feed it with whatever you think will be the best to achieve the heaviest crop. On fete day each bucket is emptied and the winner is the one with the heaviest yield. The winner is then presented with The "Craig Mayo" memorial cup which looks great on any mantle piece.

So have a go and ring Mel. It is just £3 to enter.

### **Annual General Meetings.**

\* The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall takes place on Wednesday 10th April in the hall at 7.30pm

\* The Annual General Meeting for the Church takes place in the church on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30pm

Please make an effort to attend these meetings to hear about how the church and hall are run and have your say.

*Dick*

## **Hergest Croft Gardens Spring Plant Fair**

**Monday 6th May 10am - 5pm**

Over 50 exhibitors with a wide range of rare and unusual trees, shrubs and plants.

Artisan foods, crafts and much, much more.

[www.hergest.co.uk](http://www.hergest.co.uk)

## Not a Proper Gardener (Part 41)

Last February we experienced a drought. This February was the wettest on record; and the warmest. The Met Office has reported that over the last 50-60 years the climate has warmed by 1 degree. Not good news for our fruit trees, for, like blackcurrants they also need a cold winter



sleep if they are to have plenty of blossom and a good crop. And the recent frosts have come possibly too late, just as some fruit trees, our damson for example, were tricked into opening their first flowers. Well, you can't win 'em all, and where there's life there's hope.

Certainly the colder weather during these early days of March has deterred us from going ahead with any early sowing, save for the broad beans and a few seeds under glass; but it has given us a bit more time to deal with the compost and the spreading thereof, and it won't hurt us to exercise a little patience and enjoy the good signs of spring in the exuberance of primroses, daffodils, crocus and other spring bulbs. And Emma has seen and fed one hedgehog in the garden, a bit bleary eyed after its winter sleep. And the birds are busily gathering material for building their nests.

On the news we have just heard from the Wildlife Trusts and the RHS that we should love and be kind to our slugs and snails because they do so much good work cleaning up and improving the soil. Well! I'm kind to the slugs by offering them an enjoyable way to commit suicide – drowning themselves in homebrew; and Emma is kind to the snails by throwing them into next-door's garden (joke). Anyway that wouldn't work because some research done a few years ago (dabbing paint onto their shells) has revealed that they have a homing instinct. You'll have to think again, Emma! More hedgehogs may be the answer. A second one has just turned up, so you'll just have to give it a good talking to and not spoil it with too many calci worms.

It's suddenly very warm and the broad beans we sowed are popping up, as are some of the seeds we sowed in plugs. Rhubarb's growing – we stew and freeze lots to enjoy in crumbles; and the weeds are doing well. That's why I'm getting the garden hoes sharpened. We've still some nice kale and some herbs, including land cress, the first seeds I ever planted when we moved in in Autumn '99. That has self-seeded every year – it pays not to weed too efficiently.

Giles and I took our coffee up to the kitchen garden on Wednesday and sat on a new seat just made and placed in our favourite place by one of the gardeners. That garden slopes south towards the sun (when it deigns to shine) which is an advantage. It was drizzling, but Chrissie was working away, and we sat there all the same. We were amazed by the beautiful display of spring flowers in the herbaceous borders. The grass had recently been lightly trimmed, which reminded me I had better check over our mowers. That garden is so wonderfully managed by two or three proper gardeners and we took several photos for Giles' diary.

Happy gardening,

*Denis.*



## **A to Z of God F is for Failure.**

The human history of failure is gloriously long and sinuous, a double helix river out of Eden where the infernal serpent himself first caused man to doubt God's goodness. Failure is personal and repetitive, but the fall, as theologians call it, is seismic and universal in its effect on human kind. Appointed to paradise in a special relationship with our Creator, our ancestor was first tempted to doubt God's promises, and then disobey God's law, finally taking pride in his own self-sufficiency. In short, we made ourselves gods in defiance and opposition to the one true God. Blame the serpent, blame each other, or blame the 'fat relentless ego', but basically we let God down. And the consequences, like the exploding universe, go on and on. Putting it another way, man's fall has made a separation between us and a holy God who sent us out of paradise.

Yet despite ignominy and shame as Adam and Eve picked their way across those stony slopes east of Eden, God provided them with garments of skins to protect them. As perennial as the cuckoo and the blooming of thistles, God is merciful. Our flawless spiritual DNA was corrupted, yet God ceaselessly loves us and seeks to restore us to himself. Turn back to him and he is ready to pick us up and make us new people. That ancient serpent the devil still hisses doubts about God's promises, but God stands ever ready with outstretched arms.

If this is all true then as Bob Dylan put it, there is no success like failure. Out of failure, successfully negotiated, comes the bedrock of humility and wisdom. Did Augustine say 'I err therefore I am'? Perhaps he saw the acceptance of weakness as the opportunity for God to make us more fully human. Walking with God is certainly risky, and to be consistently successful surely means you lack the imagination to fail. Will Self said 'Far from failure being no success at all, it is perhaps the only success there is'.

*Robert MacCurrach*

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## **Kington Banking Hub**

I am sure we all greeted with enthusiasm the news that the Postmaster is trying to get a Hub Bank established in Kington. Forms asking for signatures to support this are in various places in Kington including in St Mary's Church. Signatures are badly needed. Please support the effort being made to reintroduce a way of banking into Kington

*A supporter of the scheme.*

### **SPRING GREENS ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR 2024**

**Sunday 28th April 10am -5pm**

**Car Park £5**

Family (& Dog!) Friendly Gathering in the beautiful, peaceful garden & grounds of Court of Noke, Nr Pembridge HR6 9HW  
by kind permission of Edward & Emma Bulmer

Exhibiting Inspiring & Achievable Solutions to the Climate Emergency & Nature Crisis'  
Excellent Local Food, Drink & Entertainment  
Sustainable Arts & Crafts Stalls & Activities  
Series of Positive Talks in the Factory of Light Book Eventbrite Walks,  
Talks & Workshops

Visit: [www.springgreensfair.co.uk](http://www.springgreensfair.co.uk) Get Involved - email: [info@springgreens.org.uk](mailto:info@springgreens.org.uk)

## From a Kington Kitchen - Easter Biscuits

Easter Biscuits are not just for Easter Day, this recipe can be used to make traditional fruit biscuits, or to make iced biscuits in any seasonal or favourite shapes. (Makes about 30 biscuits)



### Ingredients

#### For the dough

- 200g/7oz softened butter
- 150g/5½oz caster sugar
- 2 large free-range egg yolks
- 400g/14oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 1 level tsp ground mixed spice
- 1 level tsp ground cinnamon
- 2–4 tbs milk

#### For the traditional currant biscuits

- 100g/3½oz currants
- caster sugar, for sprinkling

#### For the iced biscuits

- 1–2 tsp lemon juice
- 250g/9oz icing sugar
- food colourings

### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Lightly grease two baking trays lined with baking paper.
2. Measure the butter and sugar into a bowl and beat together until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolk. Sieve in the flour and spices and add enough milk to make a fairly soft dough. Bring together, using your hands, to make a soft dough.
3. Halve the mixture and set half to one side.
4. For the traditional currant biscuits, add the currants to half of the mixture and knead lightly on a lightly floured work surface. Roll out to a thickness of about 5mm/¼in. Cut into rounds using a circular cutter. Place on the prepared baking trays. Sprinkle with caster sugar.
5. Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes, or until pale golden brown. Keep a careful eye on the biscuits – it doesn't matter if you open the oven door to check. Sprinkle with more caster sugar and lift onto a wire rack to cool. Store in an airtight container.
6. For the iced biscuits, knead the remaining half of the biscuit dough lightly on a lightly floured work surface. Roll out to a thickness of 5mm/¼in. Cut out Easter biscuits using an assortment of shaped cutters, such as bunnies, Easter eggs, chicks or spring flowers.
7. Lightly grease two baking trays lined with baking paper.
8. Place the biscuit shapes on the prepared baking trays and bake in the preheated oven for 10–15 minutes. Remove from the oven and lift onto a wire rack to cool.
9. To make the icing, pass one teaspoon of lemon juice through a fine sieve, to remove any pips or bits. Mix the icing sugar with the lemon juice and then add about two tablespoons of cold water, adding it little by little until you have a relatively stiff but smooth icing. Add a splash more sieved lemon juice if necessary.
10. Divide the icing into separate bowls and mix in food colourings of your choice into the separate bowls of icing, until you achieve the desired shade.
11. Spoon a little icing into a piping bag and pipe your decorations onto the biscuits. For a smooth finish, you can pipe the outline of your design in the firmer icing, then slacken it down a bit by mixing in a little more water, giving the icing more of a runny consistency, and use this to fill in the designs.

# KINGTON SPRING WALKING FESTIVAL 2024

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

Join us for a weekend celebration of walking in and around Kington. We are offering another great opportunity to explore the beautiful countryside around Kington and into the wilds of Wales. All of our walks are led by volunteers with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

For further information and booking check out our website or follow us on Facebook.



[www.kingtonwalks.org](http://www.kingtonwalks.org)  
[www.facebook.com/kingtonwalks](https://www.facebook.com/kingtonwalks)  
[info@kingtonwalks.org](mailto:info@kingtonwalks.org)  
07708 668316



## KINGTON WALKS



## News from Theodora Part 2

### Chapter 4: Northward Bound and Carpeted

We have conceived a wish to visit the Middlewich Canal and Folk Festival though I confess that I am the one with the yen for folk. Margaret is tempted by the presence of many historic narrow boats so she is more than happy to float along in that direction.

The big change in our circumstances took place in Market Harborough, though. Now Market Harborough is a delightful town which I first visited by boat in 1978. Even before I had taken up with Margaret and before a good number of the recipients of this were born. That does not imply that I am feeling old. Who could feel old when the summer is icumen in and the trees are sweetly blooming (I wonder if quoting from two songs in the same sentence is like mixing Greek and Latin in a word. Not to be done?) When I was first in the basin at Market Harborough it looked somewhat derelict and it was very much an adventure to be there. I was on a 70' ex working boat hired from Willow Wren in Rugby for the Southampton University Guild of Change Ringers' annual water borne ringing tour. I still remember leaving the arm at Rugby and asking Steve Coleman, the leader of the expedition, I think, if we would pass through any locks! Such was my ignorance.

The canal basin at Market Harborough has gone up in the world since then, Canals are no longer to be hidden away. A garden near to a canal used to have peep proof fencing so that you could pretend that the canal wasn't there. Now the view is worth a shed load of money in the housing market. The canal basin is known as Union Wharf and is now surrounded by modern flats. You can see some of the old canal buildings, now converted and there is not of the old feeling of decayed industry that I vaguely remember.

I was left alone in Harborough for some days while Margaret took a few days out to visit her mum in Benenden. She sped down there at absurd speeds on trains that were travelling much faster than God seems to have had in mind when Adam delved and Eve span. I imagine that she reached speeds of over one hundred miles an hour, more, I am sure, than is good for the human body. Canal speeds are what the human body likes best. Four miles in the hour or less and that without any locks to slow you down.

While left alone I had much fun playing on the boat. I sealed up some slightly leaky windows and removed just less than a quarter of a ton of batteries from the engine hole and expensively replaced them with new ones. I had a jolly morning chatting to Tom the carpet



fitter and his mate Tim. Tom was a Scout with son William and daughter Kate so we exchanged some news. They were cheerful and efficient and not at all phased by the smallness of the space into which they needed to fit the carpet and the vinyl. The sun shone which made it seem all rather idyllic. I think that they were sorry that they had to return to the unreal world of rushing

about and large rooms. And so Theodora took another step away from the trauma of the partial sinking. She looks so much better with proper floor covering.

Another treat was that Rowena, our vicar in Sproxtton and High Framland, came to see me. She worked in Harborough and took me out for a beer and a bag of crisps. Both of these were good but the real treat was hearing about old friends in the villages and how the Church is growing. The last treat of the stay in Union Wharf was meeting Margaret from the train.

Then, on Sunday 1st June 2014 we attended a cheery service in the parish church, had lunch and floated off in the direction of Foxton and places south (on our way to places north). We went that way because we like narrow canals. One day I will sort out a map to show our progress but to get the gist of where we have been I will describe the route so far:

Grand Union (Leicester Arm) to Norton Junction.

- \* Turn right on to the Grand Union Birmingham Main Line to Braunston.

This goes in a westerly direction.

- \* Turn sort of right at Braunston Junction on to the North Oxford Canal as far as Hawkesbury Junction.

- \* Turn right again on the Coventry Canal to pass through Nuneaton

We stopped close to Polesworth last night and have remained here all day (Saturday 7th June) because the weather forecast said that the weather was going to be horrid and we had jobs to do. We have done the jobs that we intended and Theodora looks very much more homely for our hard work. We are now fully curtained and the lace doilies that Margaret crocheted are properly fitted in the port holes. Life is pretty good, sitting looking up at the sunlit hedge by the towpath and listening to the quarter chimes of Polesworth Abbey. A short episode this month but adding the next chapter would have made it much too long. More next month. Will we reach Middlewich in time?

*Nick*

### Easy Sudoku

	5	7		8	9	2	1	
3			7			9		6
	4	9	2					
	6		1				3	
	1						8	
	9				3		5	
					1	8	2	
9		1			4			5
	3	4	5	6		7	9	

### Intermediate Sudoku

				5	7			3
3			2					
	8	5						
1				6	2	3		7
		3				5		
6		7	5	3				4
						7	4	
					8			3
	4		6	1				

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# Open Arms Kington

In March the Oxford Courtyard and Barn hosted a fundraiser for the RNLI with a rousing performance from Presteigne based Shanty Band "The Pressgangers"

## What's happening at the Oxford Arms this April

April 6 will mark the first anniversary of The Oxford Arms

being brought under community ownership through a grant from the government's levelling up fund. The grant was secured by Open Arms Kington a community interest company (CIC) established in 2021 and entirely run by volunteers. Its primary aims are conserving and developing the Oxford into a community hub that is sustained by its continuing trade as a popular local pub and B&B.



Open Arms Kington are busy fundraising to cover the cost of the renovation works required to enable the building to reopen to the public. In the meantime, the growing volunteer team has run a pop-up bar and cafe in the Oxford's convivial courtyard and barn. The programme of opening and diverse range of free events will continue throughout the spring and summer.

Highlights at the the Oxford Barn during April include on the 7th ,12- 4 pm, acclaimed eclectic musical duo from London, Diego Brown and The Good Fairy, who some of you will have heard when they played as part of the Kington Folk Club Summer Social session. More Indie than folk, their repertoire invites audience participation and will appeal to every age. Origin Pizza will be in the yard throughout the day, with the bar and café also open.

On April 13th the Oxford Barn is delighted to provide the venue for the inaugural Marches Marmalade Competition. Please see Pam at the Grapevine or Gareth at Bees Knees Cookshop for entry forms and more details. See also the poster on page 17.

The fun continues on Sunday 21st of April when we are delighted to host the monthly Sunday Session - a relaxed afternoon music session, organised by Kington Folk Club. We welcome back Pentre Farm, who promise to bring their Spring newborns - a very special treat for all.

Open Arms Kington welcomes new volunteers and ideas as to how this venue for Kington can be enjoyed by all age groups.

If you'd like to be added to the mailing list or have an idea for fundraising or an event, please get in touch through [info@openarmskington.co.uk](mailto:info@openarmskington.co.uk) or drop a note through the letterbox of The Oxford Arms, Duke St, Kington, HR5 3DR. The community team would love to hear from you.

*Hattie Budd*

## **Green Pastures: investing to changes lives**

Last month during Morning Praise at St Mary's we had a very inspiring talk from Matthew Hawthorne, a Kington resident who works for the Christian charity Green Pastures. Their motto is 'A Future without Homelessness', and their mission is to help transform people's lives by buying properties using money invested by people like you and me to provide safe homes for people who have fallen on hard times and find themselves homeless. Not only does Green Pastures provide homes, but it also helps train people to become financially self-sufficient through the work of Mattersey Hall Training Centre.

The reasons people become homeless could be because of the loss of a job, the inability to keep up with rent or mortgage payments, or the breakdown in a relationship. Often these changed circumstances drive people into alcohol or drug abuse and a vicious circle of depression and hopelessness. But Green Pastures is able to share the good news of Jesus with people who have reached the lowest point in their lives bringing transformation and hope.

The Green Pastures model is to invite people with savings that they are not going to use for a few years to invest in loan stock which is then used to buy property. As an investor you can earn up to 5% interest and know that you are helping to transform someone's life. Take a moment to think how much you appreciate your own home – the home where you grew up, or the home where you live now – and then think how it would feel to have that taken away. Green Pastures is doing something to bring help and hope and we can be part of that work.

Nicy and I have decided to invest in the work of Green Pastures. Perhaps you could do the same. You can find out more on their website: [www.greenpastures.co.uk](http://www.greenpastures.co.uk)

*Paul Roberts*

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## **Lady Hawkins' School Writing Competition**

Reverend Denis Parry's latest organised competition for Lady Hawkins' School pupils has proved to be a truly momentous initiative. The title of the exercise – Mother Earth is seriously ill – inspired 145 pupils, spread throughout all age groups, to write about this living topic.

The exercise resulted in an incredible level of research undertaken by the pupils, a seemingly unending expression of a wide range of personal concerns, and a real depth evident in their understanding of the effects of climate change. The more pieces of writing I had the privilege of reading, the greater my amazement at the degree of empathy the pupils showed in their approach to this subject: thirteen year-old Erin Goodwin's final plea in her four page article will stay with me for some time – "There is no planet B". Surely this says it all. What an inspirational exercise: congratulations yet again Denis.



*Allan Lloyd*

*(Erin's outstanding entry is on the following pages - more entries will follow in the next three months. Ed.)*

## The Climate Crisis

Mother Earth is seriously ill, struggling with its head just above the water thanks to the pressure we are putting on it as humans. The climate crisis is currently one of the biggest threats faced by humanity and most of its species leading to floods, droughts, heatwaves and storms; it is ruining food systems and habitats and making the survival of any species a challenge.



So what is really happening?

As humans, we produce immense amounts of greenhouse gases on a day to day basis, through machinery and factories and how we fuel our vehicles. By doing this, we burn fossil fuels such as coal and oil which then release deadly gases like carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. These harmful gases create a blanket over our Earth, trapping the heat radiated by the sun inside the atmosphere, effectively suffocating our planet and heating it up. China omits a huge 60% of the fossil fuels produced by humans, however it is the more undeveloped countries that only contribute 1% of greenhouse gases that have to suffer the effects worse than anywhere.

So why does it matter if our planet warms up a bit?

Even the slightest temperature rises drive sea levels to increase rapidly. Rising sea levels are caused by these two main processes.

Ice melt – when the temperature increase causes large glaciers and ice sheets to melt, adding fresh water into the ocean.

In 10 years, 1 million miles of sea ice coverage has been lost. This also effects heating up the planet, as ice plays a major part in reflecting sunlight back into space. With less ice to reflect, more heat will be trapped in our atmosphere.

Thermal expansion – when the ocean gets warmer, the particles expand and causes sea levels to rise.

Sea levels rising have devastating effects such as habitat loss, which leads to a decline in species.

As well as causing higher sea levels, the rising temperature of our atmosphere is making other drastic changes. Severe species loss, damaging droughts and coral bleaching are just a few examples of this. If our atmosphere continues to warm by just 2 degrees 99% of the Earth's coral will die. Not to mention the millions and millions of marine species this would devastate.

Our planet is suffering,

Our planet is struggling,

Our planet is dying.



And what are we doing about it?

Since 1995, 197 countries across the world have signed up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Their job is to prevent the climate crisis getting any worse, and they meet every year to discuss solutions. Their meeting is called COP (Conference Of Parties). Each year they set themselves Sustainable Development Goals, and these are things such as climate action, life below water, life on land and other things such as no poverty.

Our governments are also searching for new opportunities to use renewable, low carbon energy alternatives to what we use at the moment. Energy such as solar, wind and hydro power are being introduced on a wider scale, in order to cut down on harmful sources of energy such as burning fossil fuels.

In Herefordshire, our council is aiming to majorly reduce emissions across the county, and aspires to carbon neutral by 2030-2031.

Towns across Herefordshire such as Kington are also making a difference, introducing things like litter picking parties and installing many solar panels.

But most importantly, what can WE do to positively impact our environment and slow down the harsh effects of climate change?

1. Plastic reduction – plastic is huge and we use it in so many ways every day because it is cheap and effective. But it also has a severely negative effect on our environment and its wildlife. It may not be easy, but we can do small things to reduce the amount of plastic we consume in our households such as opting for biodegradable packaging so that we don't increase our landfill. We can also do things such as using metal re-useable water bottles instead of plastic, and always making sure to recycle if possible.



2. Energy consumption reduction – energy usage requires a lot of fossil fuels, which – as we have already covered – are very bad for our planet. We can do simple things every day like making sure to turn off our light switches. The main energy problem, however, is transport. Cars, which we are all guilty of overusing, are an extreme risk for the health of our Earth. Simple things such as taking a bus or car sharing, reduces the amount of fossil fuels burnt and have a positive impact on the environment

Overall, our climate is in crisis, our planet is in jeopardy, and we need to take action fast. Every little thing we can do is better than nothing, before it's too late.

There is no planet B

*Erin Goodwin Year 9*

## Marches Makers Festival 2024 4th - 5th and 6th of May



Exhibitions, open studios, music, drama,  
hands-on activities,  
demonstrations and more in venues throughout  
Kington over the Bank Holiday Weekend.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our fifth Marches Makers Festival. Since it's beginnings in 2018 this event has held at its core the championing of the wealth of creative talent in this corner of the Welsh Marches. Over the years the festival has grown into an event which honours the act of making in a widersense. Not only in terms of art and craft, but also the making of music, the crafting of words, the creation of drama.

This year we invite you to see exhibitions of excellence, to visit artists in their studios, to take in a theatrical production, and to hear folk music.

'Storytelling' is the theme that links the community offerings this year. You can hear readings by local authors, learn about the exciting realm of Book Art, sign up for book making workshops, and come to the Market Hall for a whole range of demonstrations and hands-on activities.

We all have stories to tell, and art is a powerful instrument through which we can do so. We invite you to come, see what we havemade, and do some making of your own.

[www.marchesmakers.co.uk](http://www.marchesmakers.co.uk)



marchesmakers

### Brilley Flicks in the Sticks

#### Thursday 4th April at 7.30: The Great Escaper £5

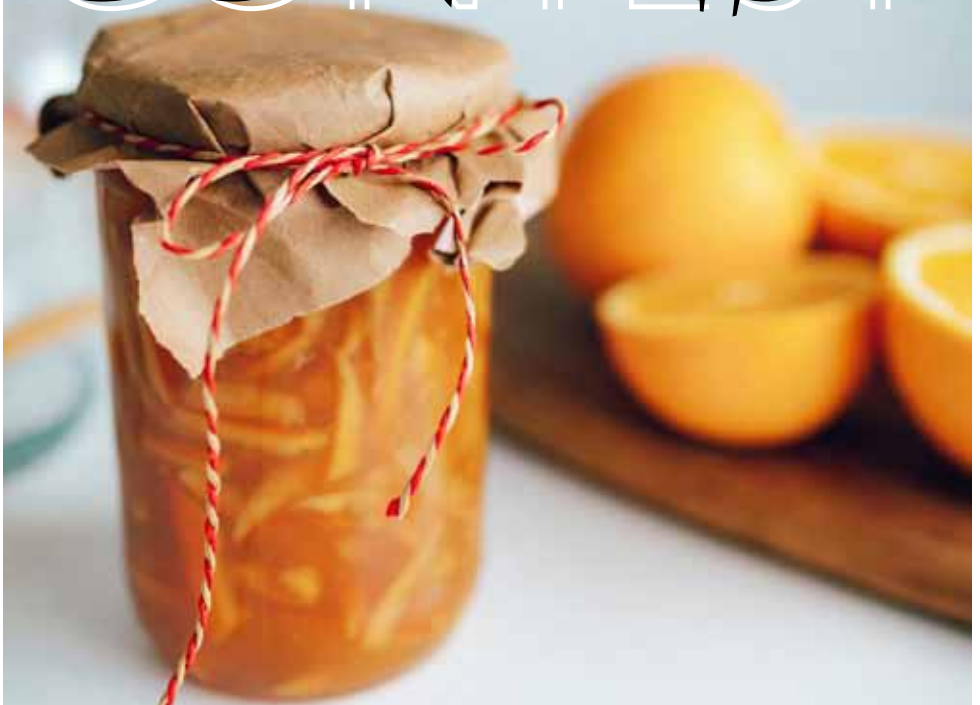
Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson star in an inspirational retelling of a D-Day veteran's great escape. In the summer of 2014 – the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings – Bernie Jordan (Caine) made headlines after staging a 'great escape' from his care home to join fellow war veterans on the beach in Normandy and commemorate their fallen comrades. Oliver Parker's warm, bittersweet film celebrates an adventure that captured the imagination of the world and the culmination of Bernie's 60-year marriage to Rene (Jackson), while exploring the lasting trauma of war.



Advance booking only - please book and pay for your tickets online at [pay-brilley.co.uk](http://pay-brilley.co.uk)  
Brilley and Michaelchurch Village Hall, doors open at 7pm  
- don't forget to bring your own refreshments!

FESTIVE  
FOODS  
FROM THE  
BORDERS

# marmalade CONTEST



**Get your jam on** and take part in our inaugural Marmalade Contest. If your marmalade's the best in show, you could get free entry into the Dalemian World Marmalade Awards!

**Pick up an entry form today** from Bee's Knees Cookshop, Church Street, the Grapevine in the High Street, or the Oxford Arms in Duke Street.



**ENTRIES MUST BE IN FOR JUDGING BEFORE MARCH 30TH 2024**

## The Kington Union Workhouse

An advert placed in the Hereford Journal for the in 1837 for a position at Kington Workhouse reads as follows: - *“Wanted a person duly qualified for government of a workhouse, who will enter into articles for the maintenance of the poor for one year or more”.*

Parry stated “that the Wesleyan Benevolent Society of 1816-21 relieved 600 people, and discovered many cases of extreme distress, large families being entirely destitute of any sort of bedding, etc.” A similar Society started by the Baptists in 1822 reported that the “scenes of poverty and wretchedness witnessed excited the astonishment of the visitors and called forth the tenderest sympathies of nature.” In January 1840 when coal was about 2s per cwt., £30 subscribed by the local gentry and tradesman to provide poor families with coal only sufficed to give each family One cwt.

Under the direction of the Poor-Law Commissioners, 19 Guardians made up of gentlemen elected from the parishes and townships in the Union oversaw the erection of The Union Workhouse. Designed by Benjamin Wislade, the workhouse was built in 1837 on land purchased by the Guardians at a cost of £2000 with room for almost two hundred paupers, besides officers of the establishment. Behind the building was a hospital for the sick and a strong room for the lunatics and the “disobedient and a refectory”. Mr W. Trung was the Master with a surgeon attending every day. in 1849 there were about 102 paupers in the house. An Inspector noted that the children’s room was not suitable, as the windows were too high up, not allowing them to see the outside world A church service was held in the dining room every Sunday afternoon, with the vicar receiving a salary of £20 a year.

Practical help was also given by some of the neighbouring landowners, notably Lady Coffin-Greenly of Titley Court, who established a Penny Club and gave liberally in other ways. She was the one who successfully inoculated 53 children at Titley against smallpox in 1801. The poor law Guardians (who were abolished in 1930) were first established in 1836. Minutes of the March 1921 Board meeting state “if there is any case of improperly receiving of relief to inform the Relieving Officer. Relatives able to maintain or assist in the maintenance OF any pauper may be given to the Relieving Officer. Each village/area had their own paid overseers. The County Council gave a grant of £845 per annum to wards the cost of the officers. A grant was given for part of the cost to house “Lunatics”.

Local shops and trades submitted tenders to supply materials and food, or any items required to run the Workhouse.

So, what was it really like to live in the Workhouse? Men in one section and women in another. A couple after a lifetime of marriage split up. Children put into the nursery – so much heartache, but people just had no choice but to get on with life. Try visiting your relations in another part of the building meant a punishment. People were assessed as to their physical and also mental capabilities, but if one tried to fool the Master, he would punish the person and their name would be entered into a punishment book.

The Master had the power to place an inmate before the local Magistrate, especially if they left the House with permission or stole some clothing.

Paupers had the job of breaking rocks into stones for four hours daily. This was used mostly for the roads. Kington found it was too costly bringing stone to Kington Workhouse, but previously 800 tons of stone was broken in 12 months. The poor were also farmed out for profit. Casual workers worked in the garden, scrubbed the Tramps wards, sawed up wood and decorating. No swearing or abusive language was tolerated as was willful wastage of

food whether it was edible or not. One punishment was the removal of food, but this did not apply to children. The diet consisted of mainly bread, gruel, soup, potatoes, twice a week meat was on the menu, as was rice or suet pudding.

Bones, rags, and wastepaper were sold or recycled. No doubt the money went into Workhouse funds.

A bath was given only if the people were very dirty, as the water had to be lugged up from the town, as there was a shortage of water.

There was the expenditure on vaccinations, and for the cost of the boarded-out children with an Inspector's wages of £3.5s .0d.

The children had a Schoolmistress teaching them reading writing, plain needlework, knitting and spinning, but she had to belong to The Church of England.

In 1886 it was reported that the Rev. G.H. Maddison requested the inmates be given a treat. This was a pretty decorated Christmas tree and a substantial tea spread, almost a Christmas party without the fun and games, but they did receive presents, provided by a collection from the community.

On New Years Day 1908, in the decorated dining room, the inmates enjoyed another treat, of an afternoon of entertainment followed by cakes and buns, with crackers for the women and children and the men receiving tobacco. By the kindness of Mr & Mrs. Greenly of Titley,

When the 1948 Welfare Act came into being, the building was overseen by the Hereford Council mostly for elderly people and taking on the original residents, some admitted years before because that were pregnant and never ever were released into the community. True to say they had become institutionalized and would never have been able to cope in the wide world of the community. The building was demolished in 1952.

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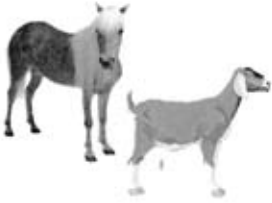
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## Forthcoming Events

Sat 30 March	11.30 - 2pm	Messy Church Activity Day <b>British Summer Time Begins</b>
Thu 4 April	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley Village Hall
Sun 7 April	3pm	Afternoon Tea at Huntington village hall Folk music at the Oxford Arms
Wed 10 April	7.30pm	Titley village hall AGM at the hall
Sat 13 April	7.30pm	Marmalade Competition at the Oxford Arms Music in New Radnor
Mon 15 April		Cut-off date for the May Parish News
Tues 16 April	7pm	St Mary's APCM at the Parish House
Wed 17 April	3.30 - 5.30pm	Messy Church at St Mary's church
Thurs 18 April	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks at Huntington village hall
Fri 19 -Sun 21 April		Kington Walking Festival
Sat 20 April	9.30 - 3.30pm	Art & Craft Market at the Market hall, Kington
Sun 21 April		Jayne running in the London Marathon
Sun 28 April	10 - 5pm	Spring Green Fair at Court of Noke
Thurs 30 April	7.30pm	Titley church APCM at the church
Sat 4 - Mon 6 May		Marches Makers Festival at the Market Hall
Mon 6 May	10 - 5pm	Spring Plant Fair at Hergest Croft Gardens



### **MATERIAL FOR THE MAY 2024 PARISH NEWS**

by

**15th April please**

to

The Parish News Editor

Arrow Weir House, Kingswood Road, Kington HR5 3HD

or email: [freda@sparkiesofkington.com](mailto:freda@sparkiesofkington.com)

**Note: The cut-off date is always the 15th of the previous month**

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