

# Parish News

*Kington, Huntington & Titley*

February 2024



# **SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON**

From 1st January 2022

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	
								461	Sat/Hol	Sch	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	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

TIMETABLES FOR ALL SERVICES AVAILABLE ON MOST BUSES  
& OFFICE IN MILL STREET

Also available on [www.sargeantsbros.com](http://www.sargeantsbros.com)

# 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](http://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*

Ash Wednesday this year will fall on the 14th February which of course is also St Valentine's day! Ash Wednesday is traditionally the beginning of Lent and this has been marked over the years as a period of self-discipline, fasting and spiritual journeying. It is a period of penitence and self-examination and seeing ourselves from God's perspective. Even if we don't have a strong faith we have learnt through the work of Educational Neuroscientists that intentional self-reflection helps us to learn and enhances how we apply, transfer, retain and recall new ideas and information.



The bible recognises that as we go through life we will be tempted and tested and that our response to those times will help to shape the depth of our spiritual lives. I am often astounded by the way many Christians have been shaped by sermons and theology that promise good things but never talk about the cost of following Jesus. The writer and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer called this a theology of cheap grace.

“Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

Lent gives us an opportunity to realign our lives with God's values, it gives us a prolonged and focussed time to reflect and pray and to read the bible and deepen our faith. The 40-day period is time enough to build in new habits and actions into our lives, which will have a lasting effect.

With ongoing war in Ukraine, the conflict between Israel & Hamas and so much uncertainty in our world I am finding that there is a great deal of anxiety in society about the future and a sense of aimlessness and general anger and tiredness. Lent gives us as Christians an opportunity to give these feelings back to God and to ask him to heal and restore us. It is also, as Paul reminds us, a time to recognise that our human experiences are common and that whilst heightened by the personal challenges or world events, are not unique to us but the difference is that our faith will endure.

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to all. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

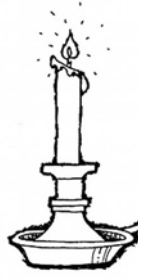
*1 Corinthians 10:13*

As Christians, whilst we can use this time for reflection, we also know how the story ends and we have an enduring hope within us because Jesus has conquered death and brought forgiveness to us. We are forever Easter people who live in the light of the resurrection and we can mark Lent because of his sacrifice for us. The rhythm of the spiritual and liturgical year is a helpful tool to remind us that there is a cost and a purpose to our faith, which is not about self-benefit and self-fulfilment but about generosity, servant heartedness and a simple humbler faith. As Christians, we have a message of hope for a better future and Lent gives us the perfect opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to share the good news.

*The Venerable Derek Chedzey  
Archdeacon of Hereford*

## Views in a Vacancy

### Let there be light!



*Portia*: That light we see is burning in my hall. How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world. *Nerissa*: When the moon shone we did not see the candle. *Portia*: So doth the greater glory dim the less..... (Merchant of Venice Act 5)

Twelve days of Christmas brought us to Epiphany, when we placed the wise men in the crib, and then on Feb 2nd, 40 days after Christmas, we come to Candlemas, the Purification of Mary, marking when Christ is presented in the Temple. This is when the elderly Simeon, taking the baby in his arms, proclaims him to be *a Light to lighten the Gentiles*, which includes you and me. And we can put the crib to bed for a bit. This year, winter has so far been, I think (and my solar panels would agree with me) an extra dark one, and we've all probably needed a bit of supplementary Vitamin D. And some folk have certainly gone to town with Christmas decorations to brighten up the place. Nowadays, of course, there's electricity; but many of us still hanker after candles, and we did light one on the Christmas tree in St Mary's at the Crib Service without setting everything on fire! And perhaps we like sometimes to have candles on our dining table; and certainly always in Church.

But however much we love them, their glory is but a suggestion of the greater glory of our Lord God, as *Portia* is suggesting. Nevertheless, when I light one for my Morning Prayer each day, it shines like a good deed in a naughty world, yes; but more than that, it is a sign, a symbol, and for me a very meaningful one. For as I stand it in my double glazed study window, the two reflections on the other side of the glass make up with it a Trinity of lights and I have Three in One.

So as I light the single one and see the two reflections appear, I use that little prayer which begins: *I will light a light in the name of the Maker who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for me; I will light a light in the name of the Son who saved the world and stretched out his hand for me; I will light a light in the name of the Spirit who encircles the world and blesses my soul with longing*. For indeed, God is the creator of light, perhaps the greatest mystery in the universe, and also of the air I have been ceaselessly breathing in for nigh on ninety years; and however many breaths is that? And this symbol, shining before me demonstrates so clearly the oneness of the three, *I am in the Father and the Father in me*, says Jesus, and so on, burning himself out and giving light for us, as a candle does:

So it's not surprising that I love Candlemas when, traditionally, and in some churches still, all the candles to be used at the altar for a year are blessed, that is, set aside for this holy purpose. In fact, in my former parish a certain lady each year would, in memory of her mother, give me £25 towards the cost.

Light, as I remarked above, is a great mystery. We do not see it, except metaphorically as when we exclaim, *Ah! now I see the light!* and also of course, when it is refracted into

colour, as in a rainbow. We see not light, but what light shows to us just as we see God only by what He does; that is except when, as Moses discovered (Ex 33.23) He is refracted into three, as by my candle on the window sill!

As Giles and I walked into Crooked Well meadow recently, there appeared, in a black northern sky, just such a rainbow, and I was reminded again of what John Bunyan wrote in a book of his on Prayer (Yes Pilgrim's Progress was not his only work). In a longish chapter he wrote about the rainbow which St John saw in a vision, which is round the Throne of God (Revelation 4.3) There's also a lovely couple of verses in the Apocrypha (Sirach 43.11,12) I must share them with you – *Look upon the rainbow and praise him that made it; very beautiful it is in the brightness thereof. It compasseth the heaven about with a glorious circle, and the hands of the most High have bended it.* This, my poem, was suggested by this and by what John Bunyan says:

### **The Rainbow**

Christ is God's bow, hung in the sky,  
on clouds of glory, heaven and earth connecting,  
bent by the hands of the Most High,  
from his just wrath mankind in love protecting,  
that we, who may not look upon God's face  
may yet draw near unto the throne of grace.

Christ is the prism, who refracts  
God's holy light in sevenfold perfection,  
the spectrum of whose mighty acts  
of righteousness, from death to resurrection,  
a spangling robe presents, that in God's sight,  
guiltless we may appear, all dressed in white.

Every blessing,

*Denis.*

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## **ST MARY'S CHURCH KINGTON WORKING PARTY**

**Thursday 1st February 1030 onwards.**

Following the recent high winds and storms, the churchyard has become littered with small branches and twigs. We invite you to come and help us with a PICK-A-STICK clear up work party. Please come suitably attired, with gloves and implements. Refreshments will be available. Fun will be had!



For further details/ to register an interest please contact Philip on 239357

## St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

### Christmas at St Mary's

Already Christmas seems a while ago and thanks were expressed in the January News to those who had decorated the Church so splendidly for the festive season. The support given to the Memory Tree was very special and the amount raised for the Hospice from the sale of stars was just over £300.



While we look forward to celebrating Candlemas and our thoughts turn to Lent, so too this year do we look ahead to the work due to begin on January 24th to restore the organ. Sunday services will of course continue but there is bound to be some disruption particularly in the north aisle area. We shall do our best to keep this to a minimum and ask for your support as work begins and progresses.

By the time you read this edition of the News a January Lego session will have taken place and we look forward to, welcoming families to Messy Church on February 14th.

We have just completed our fundraising in the Community Shop, and our thanks to all who brought items for sale, who signed up to do duty in the shop and who supported us by coming in to browse and purchase. Over £1100 was raised for general church funds.

We were sad to learn of the death of Melissa Baylis and send sympathy to her family.

In the death of Dorothy Pritchard St. Mary's has lost a long standing and generous friend. When an event was happening at St. Mary's, Dorothy would be on the phone to know in what way she could help. Our kind thoughts go to her sister Margaret, also a loyal member of our church.

We should like to thank Jean and Frank Williams, Eileen Thomas and Nick and Margaret Cooke for their care of the Garden of Remembrance. Your work there is appreciated by many.

As we have already announced, the vacancy for a Vicar for the Kington Benefice will begin again in March. Candidates will visit on April 24th with interviews on April 25th.

Our good wishes to you all for 2024.

*Rodney Bowdler and Ann Edwards.*

### **Timetable for the next recruitment campaign for a new vicar**

Adverts in Church Times: 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd March 2024 (until filled).

Diocesan Website

Closing date: Wed, 10th April 2024

Shortlisting date: 16th April 2024 tbc by Patrons

Orientation: Wed 24th April 2024

Interview: Thurs 25th April 2024

## Kington Parishes Service Schedule for this month

*Dependant on Government announcements,  
please see our website for up to date information.*

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

### **Sunday, 4th February:**

### **2nd Before Lent**

*Proverbs8 :1,22-31, Psalm 104: 26-end, Colossians1:15-20, John1:1-14*

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

### **Sunday, 11th February:**

### **Next Before Lent**

*2Kings2:1-12, Psalm50:1-6, Corinthians4: 3-6, Mark9: 2-9*

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

### **Wednesday 11th February:**

### **Ash Wednesday**

*Joel2:1-2,12-17, Psalm 51:1-18, 2Corinthians5:20b-6:10, John8:1-11*

11.00am -1:30pm Messy Church in Kington

6.00pm: Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes, Kington



### **Sunday, 18th February:**

### **Lent 1**

*Genesis9: 8-17, Psalm25:1-9, 1Peter3: 18-end, Mark1:9-15*

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

### **Sunday, 25th February:**

### **Lent 2**

*Genesis17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm22:23-end, Romans4:13-end, Mark8: 31-end*

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

All services at St Mary's are live streamed



## St Mary's Organ

### Update

Since the last update, things have moved on quickly. Last week the contracts were signed and things started to happen!

We took delivery of many wooden 'pipe chests' which will be used to store the smaller pipes as the organ is dismantled ready for cleaning. These take up an area in the North Aisle. The larger pipes will be stood upright in that area once work is underway.

We also received in to church a digital electronic organ on loan to us for the duration of the project. This has been placed in the chancel. It is quite a useful instrument, and we are grateful to Clevedon Organ Co Ltd for its loan.

Work started on Wednesday 24th of January, and is expected to last for many months. During this time we need to be flexible with arrangements for meetings and events and to appreciate some level of disruption. BUT it will all be worth it in the end!

My heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed towards the cost of this significant project. All those individuals who sponsored a trombone pipe, or who gave any amount towards the overall cost and also to the many grant making bodies who have so generously sponsored the work. Most recently Cadbury (£3,000) and Garfield Weston (£10,000). It is still not too late to make your own contribution, should you wish to. Please take a form from the display board or get in touch with me.

LET THE MERRY ORGAN PLAY!!

With thanks to you all,

*Philip Sell (Director of Music)*



## NEWS FROM KINGTON BELFRY

We are holding introduction and teaching sessions for bell ringing on Thursday afternoons in Kington Belfry, 3.00 to 4.30pm.

If interested please come along and meet us, no need to contact me first.

We have seven or eight learners at different stages attending at present. All different ages, male and female, all very welcome. They all find this a great social group.

Learners are local to Kington, also Almeley, Eardisley, Hay, Knighton and New Radnor.

We also from time to time have experienced ringers joining us to help.

Tim and myself have been very pleased with the response, after many years of failing to attract new ringers.

*John Clayton – Kington Tower Captain*

*07771 147329 01544 230839 claytonjohn46@hotmail.com*

*Tim Hollinghurst - Qualified Bell Ringing Teacher*

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## Farewell MG, Welcome Austin Ruby

I embarked on a new chapter of Austin Seven ownership on Saturday 9th September 2023, after a fifty-six-year gap!

The Austin Ruby was registered on 6th of September 1937. It has been cherished and looked after very well by two previous owners. With great joy and anticipation, I have reopened my Austin Seven log book, carrying on from Jane Mk III, reluctantly sold in August 1967.

### **Austin Ruby Reg No: EKL801**

\* Genera Condition – Bodywork: Sound, Interior: good

\* Requires: two front tyres, new hoses, spark plugs, coil, condenser and set of points



The vehicle had been standing for a few years.

Work carried out to date:

- \* New hoses fitted, new battery fitted, new coil, condenser and points fitted.
- \* Fuel tank drained and flushed twice – a horrible job, the smell was terrible.

The work was carried out with the help of a friend, and the engine burst into life on the 19th October. Smiles all round!

I contacted the Seven Workshop, and received excellent service and delivery of parts on the day following the order.

Our next job will be changing the engine, gearbox and back axle oils before, hopefully, embarking on a maiden journey and more adventures in Ruby.

*Tony Jardine*

## Year of Faith 2024

*Dear Friends*

After 20 years' ministry in the Diocese of Southwark, Nicy and I moved here to Kington last September where we have felt such a warm welcome, both in the town and in the church. I was delighted to discover that the Diocese of Hereford, under the guidance of Bishop Richard, has a vision for the growth of the church through prayer and faith. I have joined a handful of people from St Mary's in attending two excellent day conferences organised by the diocese: one in Churchstoke, and one in Church Stretton. Both events were really encouraging to us, and we came away feeling refreshed and renewed.

As I expressed my enthusiasm for these events to our Rural Dean, Mike Kneen, he has asked me to be an informal 'communication link' between the Diocese and the Parishes, and so I would like to commend two more events designed to help us, as God's people, be more confident in God's word, and in faith, so that we can share the Good News with others and see the church grow.

This year, 2024, is designated by Bishop Richard as a Year of Faith. Here are two teaching events being led by the Bishop which I plan to attend. You can find more details on the diocesan website Year of Faith page: <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/our-faith/year-of-faith-2024/> If you register, let me know and we can arrange transport together. I will probably attend the events on February 10th and July 13th.

*Paul Roberts Rev.Paul.C.Roberts@gmail.com*

### **Bishop's Teaching Event - Growing confidence in the word of God**

Bishop Richard will share valuable insights on growing confidence in the word of God. This event is designed to help you deepen your understanding and strengthen your faith. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and connect with others as part of our Year of Faith. Whether you're a seasoned saint or just starting your spiritual journey, this event is open to all. Come and be inspired!

- St Laurence, Ludlow, Sat 10th February 9.30 am – 1.00 pm
- St Paul's, Tupsley, Sat 23rd March

### **Bishop's Teaching Event - Growing Confidence in our Christian faith**

Join us for an exciting in-person teaching event. This event is all about strengthening our Christian faith and building confidence. Whether you're new to the faith or have been a believer for years, this event is for you!

Bishop Richard will lead the teaching sessions, sharing valuable insights and practical tips to help us grow in our Christian faith. You'll be able to engage in meaningful discussions, ask questions, and connect with fellow Christians.

At this event, we'll explore various aspects of our Christian faith, including understanding the Bible, deepening our prayer life, and overcoming doubts. Together, we'll learn how to live out our faith and share it with others confidently.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to strengthen your Christian journey. Join us for an uplifting and enriching experience.

- St Mary's, Ross-on-Wye, Sat 11th May, 9.30 am – 1.00 pm
- St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury, Sat 13th July
- Bridgnorth Deanery (venue TBC), Sat 5th October

## Wordsearch for February

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West.

Forty	Light
Days	World
Baby	Candlemas
Boy	Simeon
Public	Nunc
Appearance	Dimittis
Mary	Office
Jewish	Evening
Mothers	Prayer
Temple	West
Jesus	
Purified	
Present	
Lord	
Festival	
Presentation	



## Plough Sunday at St Mary's

On Sunday 14 January, Rural Dean Mike Kneen gave thanks for all the work done by our farmers at a special service to mark Plough Sunday. The tractor, plough, farmer and congregation were all blessed with holy water as they gathered together at the south end of the church.





## KICK - Transforming Lives

I have been asked to include this poster in the Parish News, but have not been given any details, so I have extracted some information from the website which explains what it is all about.

I believe that Kington Primary School are involved with the project locally, and there is talk of a Summer School. If you are interested in volunteering, then please contact the Benefice Administrator, Philip Sell at the Parish Office email: [office@kingtonparishes.org.uk](mailto:office@kingtonparishes.org.uk) and he will be able to explain more about the local involvement in Kington.

You might also like to visit the KiCK website [www.kick.org.uk](http://www.kick.org.uk) to learn more.

*Freda*

### OUR ETHOS AND VALUES

We transform young people's lives, with God's love, through sport and support. We do this through values-driven physical education, street dance, mentoring, chaplaincy in schools and community KICK Academies.

KICK is proud of its Christian identity and is equally proud that its services are delivered unconditionally to those of all faiths and none.

### OUR VALUES

Our values are key to the way each staff member and volunteer works and are at the core of who we are as a team. We aim to transform the workings in people's lives by staying true to these values:

- \* Aspirational on behalf of our young people, being ambitious for their progress and in our desire to reach more young people
- \* Compassionate towards our young people, showing humbleness, being inclusive and making our approach flexible to suit their needs
- \* Excellent in our performance, innovating with continuous improvement in order to see best outcomes for our young people
- \* Intentional in our interactions with young people, schools, churches, partners, funders and one another to look to build a family together at KICK
- \* Integral in our decision making, in our relationships with each other and in our partnerships

*Extract from KICK's website*

## *Reader Writes*

In the Hell of Gaza I haven't heard much mention of Palestinian churches, but Christians form some 2% of the Palestinian population. There are prominent churches in Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank, and in Gaza where there are about 1000 Christians. They need our prayers both for them and for the inevitable work they will be doing to relieve the overwhelming suffering. Palestinian Christians are sometimes called the 'living stones' of Christianity, since their churches trace their history right back to the beginning. Their leaders are pleading to the world for support and to help bring this cruelty to an end.

At the time of writing in mid January, there were still believed to be 140 hostages held by Hamas; and the Israeli nation remains traumatized by the 1200 people killed in the October terror attack. Meanwhile the Israeli Defence Force has killed, so far, more than 23,000 Palestinians in their Gaza campaign, of which 40% were children, with thousands more missing under the rubble. This is considered to be collateral damage by the Israeli cabinet in the military destruction of Hamas. Meanwhile, almost universally, nations of the world, UN agencies and NGOs condemn the savagery and cruelty to civilians. Charges of genocide have been brought against Israel in The Hague.

Where should Christians stand in this moral quagmire? Most of us have a strong conviction that what is being done to Palestinians in the Gaza strip is indefensible. The House of Bishops in December judged that Israel's campaign could not be morally justified; the loss of civilian life was unacceptable. Many commentators see the war as one of collective punishment; even Netanyahu and his right wing allies have not explained how the civil population in Gaza could have restrained Hamas.

A tragic and baffling factor in the war is the absence of a rational strategy. The declared military objective is to destroy Hamas, uprooting it from its tunnels, no matter how many tens of thousands of civilians die in this absolutist aim. Yet the price of this is the condemnation of the world, and at home, the sowing of the seeds of violence and revenge in the next several generations of Palestinians. Netanyahu is not popular in Israel, and opposition to this dangerous ideological course may bring the house down on their collective (our collective?) heads. Clearly there has to be a strategy that both protects the state of Israel and provides Palestinians with rights and freedoms in their own state.

How on earth is that to be achieved, especially considering the damage, loss on both sides, and the understandable hatred created by the present tragic war? Here, those who believe in the power of prayer and dare to keep hope alive, must pray for peace with justice. We pray for Christian leaders to speak out consistently for justice. We pray for the church in the Holy Land, for wisdom and courage. We pray for world leaders and for the many international bodies working to bring relief to Palestinians in Gaza. And we pray for journalists, many of them apparently victims of targeted attacks. Lord God, forgive us for our complicity; help us to follow your words spoken through the prophet Micah: "What does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

*Robert MacCurrach*

## ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS



### **Curry Night:**

Curry night will be held on Saturday 24th February at 7pm. Come and enjoy a wide variety of curries with all the accompaniments. Please book in advance with Pippa Lloyd – pippalloyd@btinternet.com or Tel. No: 01544 370693. Tickets cost £10.00 per person.

### **Organ:**

The organ seems to be having a few difficulties with climate change! With the unprecedented amount of rain throughout late summer / autumn / early winter, the atmosphere in church is damper than usual, causing some of the key on the organ to become rather sticky. Some keys don't work at all and others when pressed won't stop. Peter Hughes (organ expert) who restored our organ a few years ago and is familiar with the Church suggested that one of the side panels is removed and a heater / dehumidifier is used to dry it out a little. When stabilized, and as a permanent solution, it is planned to install a 'Damp Chaser', which is a very low wattage heater, frequently used in churches and for village hall pianos. This gently distributes heat where needed to ward off background dampness. In the meantime, Fiona is playing our electric piano, so hymns are still accompanied.

### **Thanks:**

The New Year is a time where we not only look forward to the year ahead, but also look back over the year just gone. Despite dwindling numbers currently attending church, for numerous reasons, since Rev. Ben left the parish, there are still many who support the church in other ways. Appreciation and thanks are extended to those who give so generously to the Parish Giving Scheme, even though some do not attend Church, but value the Church's importance to the village. Such generosity means the Church's bank balance remains in the "black". Thanks also go to a small group of ladies who continue to keep the Church clean and tidy and thanks also to those who ensure there are always flowers in church and to the ladies who provide delicious jam and chutney for sale in church.

Of course, special thanks go to our dedicated Churchwardens – Fiona Shone and Peter Kelly. In addition to preparing for Sunday services, Peter constantly ensures the fabric of the building is maintained and Fiona ensures the churchyard and loo are well maintained. Fiona opens and closes the church daily, and is constantly seeking ways to improve facilities in church and raise much needed funds. Fiona ensures the produce stand is always well stocked, together with the place mats and I-Spy quiz sheets for children, all bringing in additional income. Will Shone, as Treasurer, deals with all financial matters and ensures the books are efficiently maintained.

Services have continued to be held twice each month in Huntington thanks to The Rev. Prebendary Michael Kneen (Rural Dean), Rev. Tony Jardine and Rob MacCurrach (Reader). This is putting additional work on them all and their willingness to keep services running as normal is very much appreciated.

### **Reminder: 2024 Parish News Annual Subscription Renewal:**

The annual subscription of £8.00 is now due for the 2024 Parish News magazine. Would

you please put cash in a sealed envelope, with your name on the outside, and drop it in to Peter Kelly at Greenfield Farm, Huntington, as soon as you can. Alternatively, if you would prefer to pay by BACS transfer, please e-mail Peter, who will forward Bank details to you. If you have any queries regarding the Parish News for Huntington please contact Peter Kelly – Tel.No: 01544 370266 or e-mail: peterbkelly642@hotmail.com

*Susan Maiden  
On behalf of Huntington PCC*



### **Do you have spare time to volunteer as a driver?**

Community Wheels is the provider of Community Transport across north and central Herefordshire. We provide door-to-door travel for people of all ages who do not have access to a car and are unable to use public transport due to mobility difficulties or its unavailability.

The need of the service is increasing, to the point, that we haven't enough drivers to help our customers. Therefore, we are looking for volunteer drivers in your area. If you are over 21, have a car and some spare time, we'd love to hear from you. A few hours a week could make a huge difference to someone without transport. Our drivers volunteer their time and receive payment for the miles they drive.

Help others – Learn new skills – Meet new people –  
Have fun!

**Please contact Linda for an informal chat on 01568  
737940 or email: [linda.jones@hvoss.org.uk](mailto:linda.jones@hvoss.org.uk)**



## **Titley Church News**

### **Readers for February.**

Sunday 4th 8.30am.

Sunday 18th 10am

David.

Elizabeth.



### **Flowers**

Win.

### **Best Wishes.**

We send our best wishes to Ruth Jones who plays the organ on the 3rd Sunday Service. Ruth suffered a fall which resulted in her breaking her arm. All of us from Titley wish her a speedy recovery and hopefully she will be back playing soon.

### **Lent Lunch.**

Our lent lunch this year will be held on Saturday 16th March between 12noon and 2pm. It has been requested that all proceeds be for the excellent work of St Michael's Hospice.

### **Magazine Subscription.**

For those who have not paid for this year's magazine please let Pam have your £8. If this is not convenient please pop it into an envelope and leave it in my letter box. Thank you.

### **Parish Giving.**

I have written about this in the past. We are only a small congregation at Titley on normal Sunday Services but I appreciate that everyone comes to Easter, Harvest and Christmas services. To keep our church open for business takes a lot of money. Please consider giving to the church on a regular basis through the Parish Giving Scheme. It is very simple and can be completely anonymous. Giving is on a monthly basis and a small donation by several people adds up to a healthy amount. If you feel you could support this please ask me for a simple application form.

*Dick*

To cheer a gloomy February afternoon:

### **A CONCERT OF MUSIC BY WILLIAM BYRD**

with

**MEZZO-SOPRANO HELEN CHARLSTON**

and

**THE CHELYS CONSORT OF VIOLS**

**3.30 p.m. Friday, 2nd February  
in St Andrew's Church, Presteigne**

Tickets (including a drink): £22 each / free for U18

Tickets for the concert are available  
by emailing [info@EarlyMusicIntheMarches.com](mailto:info@EarlyMusicIntheMarches.com) or  
by telephoning or texting Annie Nethercott on 07989 091949

## **A to Z of God D is for Doubt.**

Faith that is all certainty would look a little implausible, or at best rather unforgiving. I hate arguing with people about unicorns, because whenever I express friendly scepticism about the milky muzzled unicorn with blazing eyes, they just ask how I can possibly know what exists in the farthest corners of the flat earth. Unbending certainty can be rather unschoolable and impermeable; and that's a shame because there is so much to learn, especially about God.

The idea of a constructive tension between conviction and doubt seems a much more dynamic and fruitful arrangement for one's ideas. Trying to see it from God's point of view, conviction lubricated with doubt and willingness to be surprised, seems more promising for progress, upwards or downwards. Clearly disbelief is a mistake in front of God; when the children of Israel were wandering and grumbling in the desert their disbelief was actually a lack of trust, or clear disobedience. Not surprisingly, after all God had done for them getting them out of Egypt, God was not pleased. But doubt as an ingredient of faith, keeping it taunt like a violin string, allows new and growing harmonies to come alive and make us dance.

There is a story in the Gospel of Mark that speaks to us about that tension. A distraught father with a son severely afflicted by a demon comes to Jesus for help. He adds "if you can" to his petition, and Jesus replies "Everything is possible for him who believes". Then the boy's father cries out in anguish "I do believe; help thou me mine unbelief!". And so it ended happily; in his right mind the son was returned to his father. Disbelief is a decision, and before the God of all creation it's a disastrous one. However, doubt means you are willing to stretch the faith you have, no matter where you start from. I'm sure the Pope is well acquainted with doubt, but then he is a very godly man.

*Robert MacCurrach*

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## **Not a Proper Gardener (Part 39)**

As I write, the forecast is for a colder, drier few days; and how welcome that sounds, especially if we get a bit of sunshine. We've had more than enough rain and flooding for a while. Giles, Emma and I visited the Hergest Kitchen Garden early in January – perhaps a rather

foolhardy outing as it was pouring with rain and we ended up by taking our coffee back home. Even that garden was looking a bit bedraggled and the usually splendid vegetables were suffering. We spoke to one of the gardeners who told us that he has been keeping a rainfall record for some 40 years and it's pretty revealing. This December's total was some 9 inches! But I reminded him that we had had no rain during February Fill-dyke last; perhaps a new pattern emerging? I tentatively suggested (without consulting the editor, tut tut!) that he ought to publish his findings in the Parish News!

Our garden, likewise, is too wet. We are glad we have a little greenhouse which, even though it's unheated, provides protection from the weather and the pigeons. Emma's salads provide a variety of flavours and my turnips have plenty of leafage which can be



eaten raw or cooked and are inter-planted by broad beans now a couple of inches high. I'm hoping that we shall be able to pull a few roots to cook with our haggis on Burns' Night. In spite of the warm weather, our outdoor veg are a bit of a disaster, probably because it's been so dark. They need light. But we've still some leeks and kale. Incidentally, a couple of leeks that went to flower provided a surprisingly fascinating table decoration that lasted several weeks. Cauliflowers I should not have planted. I've never succeeded with them. It seems to me that for some reason they are better grown in a field; but the excessive rainfall didn't help.

Again this year we shall go a-wassailing in our 'orchard', as near to 17th Jan (old Twelfth Night) as weather permits. This pagan festival was common in our county's orchards. Crowds would gather among the trees making lots of noise to frighten away evil spirits, even firing guns up into the trees. They would drink hot spiced cider from wassail cups (too much of course!) and give a drop to the oldest trees. As with most ancient pagan feasts, missionaries Christened this one, and ours is quite simple: We enjoy our hot wassail drink as we visit each of our 24 trees, (12 apple and 12 other fruits), sing a verse of my wassail song and give each tree a couple of handfuls of sulphate of potash. Then we say a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving and move on to the next. We love to do this wassail and we truly believe that the trees appreciate it. They are alive after all, and botanists are constantly discovering more about their sensitivities.

Emma continues to care for the birds and was pleased to see a nuthatch one day recently. The robin, of course is a reliable and constant friend:

The Robin in the holly tree, looked to be posing for a Christmas card  
as with full-throated, dusk defying song, flooding the yard,  
he carolled forth his blessing joyfully

But now I'm told I've got it wrong: This is no welcome for the Prince of Peace!  
He's merely standing guard, and marking out his territory:  
"Claws off!" he sings, "Do you not hear? I've taken up the lease  
on Mr Parry's garden for the year: this is my patch!"

If we could only match his skill in singing thus! We'd need no military police,  
no walls, no landmines, no barbed wire  
to settle boundary disputes, no army - just a choir!

Enjoy Candlemas,

*Denis.*



## Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley and Michaelchurch Village Hall

**Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7pm: Oppenheimer (12), £5**

Oppenheimer chronicles the life of J Robert Oppenheimer, the American theoretical physicist who was pivotal in developing the first nuclear weapons as part of the Manhattan Project, thereby ushering in the Atomic Age.

The film is 3 hours long, so note the earlier start time of 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm). There will be a short interval.

Advance booking only - please book and pay for your tickets online at [pay-brilley.co.uk](http://pay-brilley.co.uk)

Please note that if you do not get an almost immediate email confirmation, then your payment has not gone through and you will need to try again!

Doors open at 7pm - don't forget to bring your own refreshments!

Brilley and Michaelchurch Village Hall, doors open 7pm

### Easy Sudoku

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

### Intermediate Sudoku

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

### From a Kington Kitchen Fish Mould

A suitable dish for LentF

Ingredients:

½ lb cooked fish of your choice

2oz cooked rice

1 tbsp butter

2 eggs

1 tsp lemon juice

Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Mix fish, rice, lemon juice and seasoning. Add egg yolks and enough milk to make mixture as thick as cream. Beat egg whites till very stiff and fold into mixture until well blended.

Pour into a buttered bowl. Cover and stand in boiling water. Cook gently for 1 ½ -2 hours.

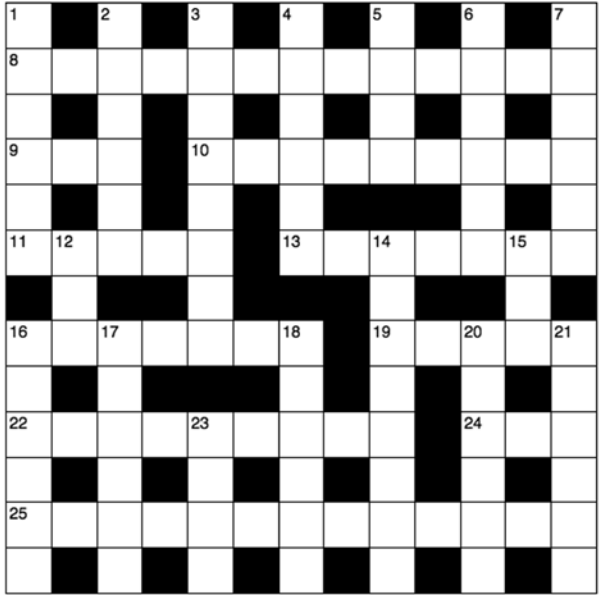
Turn out and pour parsley of other suitable white sauce over it

Serve hot with vegetables or cold with a salad.

## February Crossword

### Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)  
 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)  
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)  
 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)  
 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)  
 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)  
 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)  
 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)  
 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25  
 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)



### Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)  
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)  
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)  
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)  
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)      6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)  
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)      12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)  
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)  
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)  
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)  
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)  
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)  
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)  
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)  
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

**Answers to January Crossword** ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG. DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.



With January and February often challenging months in terms of staying warm and staving off the winter blues, the opening schedule at the Oxford Arms has changed to make the most of daylight hours. The courtyard café and bar are now open each Sunday from 12 – 4pm, offering soup, hot food, cakes, hot drinks and bar beverages. The barn is heated (thanks to sponsorship from Timbers Ltd) and provides a warm, softly lit space to relax and share the company of others. Board games, books, Lego and art materials are available for anyone to use. There is a wheelchair accessible WC and Unisex baby-changing space onsite and the courtyard is a great place to soak up any available winter sun. All are welcome and there's no purchase necessary to come and socialise.

In addition to Sunday opening there will be music and arts events happening over the coming weeks. Keep an eye out for notices about these and please get in touch if there's something you'd like to see happening at the Courtyard Cafe and Bar.

In February Open Arms Kington launches its 100 Club. Membership is £10 a month and is a great way to support the project and have the chance to win a monthly prize of £200. The first draw will take place at the end of February and to celebrate the prize money will be doubled to £400. Anyone over 16 can become a member and directly support the creation of Kington's community hub and pub as well as having the chance to win the monthly draw of £200!

January and February are also when Open Arms Kington will be applying to funders such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund in a bid to secure the money needed to bring the main building up to fire and electrical safety regulation standards. If successful the funding will also be a major step towards building a fully accessible toilet- a vital addition to improve the future inclusiveness of the community hub and pub.

If you'd like to join the 100 Club, 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. We'd love to hear from you.

	<b>Community Shop Dates</b> 31 January - 6 February	Friends of Gladestry School
	7 February - 13 February	Llangunllo WI
	14 February - 20 February	St Bede's Church, Kington
	21 February - 27 February	Wales & Border Counties Racing Association
	28 February - 5 March	Kington Baptist Church



**Help Support Your Community Shop**  
*Or else we will have to put the rent up!*

Our projected accounts for 2023 reveal that the rent groups pay for their week will not cover the massively increased electricity bills! This is a global issue and we hope that energy prices will come back down (and pigs will fly) but this year we are looking at a short-fall of over £2,000!

The committee have decided to work together to fundraise in the vacant week in the shop from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Let's see what we can do together to avoid increasing the rent we charge groups.

Donations of saleable goods; special items for a Super-Raffle and any help on the week's Rota will be very welcome.

Contact us by email:  
[kingtoncommunityshop@oulook.com](mailto:kingtoncommunityshop@oulook.com)  
 Or telephone Rita Langford: 01544 230562



The Community Shop Committee wishes to thank the good people of Kington (& District) for their generous and almost overwhelming support for this month's fundraising effort. We received more donated goods than we could possibly have anticipated and plenty of help to staff the shop from many appreciative organisations, customers and friends. The aim is to fundraise to cover the shortfall of just over £2,000 income due to the vastly increased cost of electricity last year; without having to put up the rent! We would otherwise have to increase the rent by over £40 to each organisation (current charge is £130) fingers crossed.

**2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Friday 1st March from 6:30pm**  
**in the Burton Hotel meeting room**

All are welcome to join us to hear how this week of fundraising went, to ask questions and helpful suggestions.

*Richie*

**Events at Kington Library**

During the February half term holiday Herefordshire Wild life Trust's Wildplay team are holding 2 drop-in sessions at Kington Library.

**February Tuesday 13th 11am - 1pm and 2-4pm.**

Free, no need to book.

It is part of a project between Natural England, Herefordshire wild life Trust and Herefordshire Library Service. The sessions are funded by Natural England.

**Saturday 10th February 7.30pm. Music in New Radnor.**  
**'Music for Two Saxophones and Piano'.**



The Kassia Trio is a versatile modern re-invention of the piano trio, offering a varied and entertaining programme. The evening will explore a range of repertoire with a mix of arrangements, original compositions and well-known lighter classics. The trio's aim is to keep music accessible, as well as promoting the saxophone as a classical instrument.

New Radnor Community Hall, Hall Lane, New Radnor, Powys, LD8 2SW.  
 Pre-booking preferred. Tickets £15 / £3 from 01544 350746 or 07493 940683  
 Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start.

## News from Theodora Part 2

### Chapter 2 Proper Boating (5th May 2014)

Up until this very evening, 5th May, the weather has been as nearly ideal for boating as it could have been. Nearly continuous sunshine, little wind and moderately warm. This evening, as we sit in the cosy warmth of the boat, it has started raining. Mildly inconvenient because I have not yet measured the level of the fuel in the tank. This would involve being outside in the rain on the stern deck and dipping the dipstick into the tank. I will have to do that tomorrow morning before we set off.

So far this trip we have been travelling as speedily as necessary for us to arrive at Worcester on the 8th May. We are heading in that direction because it is closest to Stroud where we will be attending the ruby wedding celebrations of Anne and Steve whom we have known for more years than delicacy dictates I should mention. While we are there we will venture into uncharted waters and hire a car so that we can visit what we trust will by then be our new home in Kington. We need to assess boring things pursuant to renting it out while we are swanning about on Theodora. It is only after that has been sorted out that we will feel that we are genuinely footloose.

Tomorrow we have a treat in store. We are moored on the long pound just below Tardebigge top lock so we will have another 30 locks to do tomorrow. It could be raining, but so far this trip we have not worked a single lock in the rain so we might keep up the record.

So where have we been in the past few days? Down the Soar, up the Trent and then the Trent and Mersey Canal, sharp left at Fradley Junction on to the orphaned section of the Coventry Canal, right at Fazeley Junction on to the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, bear right at Salford Junction and up Farmer's Bridge locks to Cambrian Basin and Gas Street Basin (in the middle of Birmingham) then down the Worcester and Birmingham to where we are now. And that comes to 83 miles and 67 locks. If it seems a lot remember that we have a schedule to keep. We will do the relaxing bit later. For the moment we are having fun "getting ahead" which is boatman speak for keeping going to beat the next boat to pick up a profitable cargo. I will let you into a little secret, though. I have not just been enjoying boating. I have been having much fun with the technicals. For those who find technicals boring, and many do, skip to the end of the italicised bit.

*Theodora has what is now, and has been for the past twenty years, an unusual cooling system. Modern boats cool the engine by having a large area but rather thin tank on the inside*

*of the boat. Waste heat from the engine is carried in pipes by the hot cooling water, to this tank, called a skin tank, and then conducts out through the metal of the hull to the water in which the boat is floating. This is a simple and effective way of getting rid of the waste heat.*





*Theodora is different. She has what is known as “raw water” cooling. Water is drawn in through holes in the hull into a box called a “mud box”. The water slows down and most of the silt settles out into the bottom of the mud box. The water is sucked up out of the mud box through a 1” diameter pipe, through a valve called a “sea cock” and thence through a smallish cylindrical jobbie which has a set of thin tubes in it through which the water passes. The thin tubes are surrounded by warm oil from the gear box which is cooled by the cold water in the thin tubes. Oil cooling, see? After that the water passes through the raw water cooling pump which is driven round and round and round by a pulley from the engine. This here pump has an impeller with lots of (a dozen perhaps) flexible vanes which push the water along. This impeller can wear out so a sensible boater carries a spare. The pump delivers the very slightly warmed water to a heat exchanger in a rectangular box above the engine. Heat from the water which circulates around the cylinder block passes through the brass heat interchanger element and warms the raw water some more. After that the slightly warmer water is dropped into the exhaust pipe through a Y shaped aluminium casting and cools the hot exhaust gas. The mixture of water and exhaust passed through a big (3” diameter) rubber hose, though a plastic box called a “water silencer” and then on through a hole in the side of the boat where it emerges with a rather endearing gurgly splashy sort of noise and, if you are close to the towpath makes puddles on it and if there is someone standing on the lock side close to the edge they can get wet shoes, socks and trouser bottoms. It’s all very entertaining.*

*After all that warming how hot does the raw water get? When Theodora’s system is working properly it ends up rather less than blood heat with the exhaust gases much the same temperature. It’s all very effective!*

*All very effective, that is, until something goes wrong. A few days ago, instead of lots of slightly warm water and clear exhaust from the pipe there was a cloud of steam and hot water but much less water. I have had a couple of new impellers available as spares for some time so now, I thought, was the time to fit one. An hour or so sitting in the engine hole in Gas Street Basin saw the new impeller fitted and working no better than the old one. I did a few experiments trying to establish what was going on but the only success was that I learned lots about the system and how it is constructed. We had a schedule to keep and Theodora is fitted with an auxiliary cooling system known as central heating. So we motored on the next morning in a cloud of steam. Excess engine heat was dumped into the cabin which became uncomfortably hot but the engine didn’t overheat.*

*Eventually we reached Alvechurch where there is a boat yard. I had a long discussion with the gallant lads who maintain the hire boats. They convinced me that it was unlikely that the pump was at fault and that I should look harder for a blockage. A couple of hours stripping down the system to its component parts revealed a little group of snail shells that had lodged in the tubes of the oil cooler.*

*All is now well and we are ready for a fast river passage whenever opportunity affords. Did I enjoy myself? Enormously, but my joints got a bit stiff sitting cramped up on top of the battery bank.*

*Was that interesting? Have you avoided boredom by skipping to the end of the italics? This evening is 6th May and we have worked forty two locks, thirty Tardebigge locks and the ones between there and Hanbury Junction. We are tired. No energy for more this evening. More next month...*

*Nick*

**Kington & District Operatic Society**

*presents...*

# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

**Lady Hawkins' Community Leisure Centre**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm & 7:30pm - February 2024

**Adults £10 - Under 18 £5**

Tickets available from...

The Burton Hotel in Kington

or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/kados](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kados)

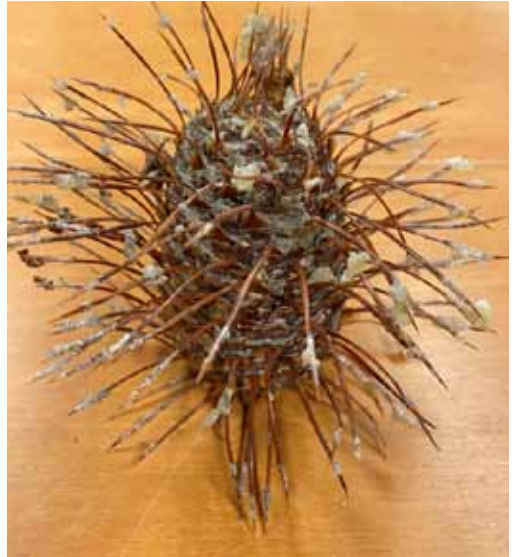
[kingtonoperatic.co.uk](http://kingtonoperatic.co.uk) - [facebook.com/kingtonoperatic](https://facebook.com/kingtonoperatic)



## News from Hergest Croft Gardens

One of the worlds rarest and most endangered species of Fir Tree has “coned” for the first time in decades at Hergest Croft Gardens in Kington. The last recorded time that an older specimen of this tree produced a cone was in the early 60’s.

The “Abies Bracteata” or Santa Lucia/Bristlecone Fir is a native of Monterey, California where its natural habitat is less than a 30 square km area and is regarded as an endangered species. Whilst there are several other trees of this species growing in selected gardens in the UK, a “coning” is a very rare experience.



The exciting discovery was made just before Christmas when the huge tree was undergoing routine maintenance by Herefordshire based Tree Surgeons, Abortech. “We are absolutely thrilled and very excited about this event” said Austyn Hallworth, Head of Marketing & PR for Hergest Croft Gardens.

*“This discovery is so horticulturally important and crucial for its survival outside of North America, that we have sent seeds to specific centres throughout the UK and Europe in an effort to propagate and cultivate for the future”* he said

Hergest Croft Gardens is a 70 acre estate of horticultural importance within the UK and is host to over 130 “Champion Trees”, 5,000 rare trees, plants and shrubs together with the National collections of Maples, Birches and Zelkovas. *Austyn Hallworth*

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## Lent Groups

In the past, Churches Together in Kington have organised the programme of Lent Courses, and details of where and when have been published in the Parish News. This year, however, it was decided at a recent CTiK meeting that each church will organise their own set of meetings.

Details will be given on the pew sheets once meetings have been organised.



# KCS

conductor Robert Evans



## Durufié **REQUIEM**

Ubi Caritas

Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré)

3pm

# Saturday

## 16 March

### St. Andrew's Presteigne

Tickets £12 (<18s free)

[trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com)

and

The Salty Dog in Presteigne, Tower House  
Gallery in Knighton, Border Bean in Kington

[www.kingtonchoral.org.uk](http://www.kingtonchoral.org.uk)



**Odd Fellows Friendly Society**

On Kington Chat a while ago, an interest was shown in the Old Fellows Society, research has found the following interesting information.

The origin of Odd Fellows is of great antiquity. It was established by the roman soldiers in camp in the reign of Nero in 55 AD. At that time, they were known as Fellow-Citizens, with ideas formed knowing each other’s daily needs, in the year 79AD, Titus Ceasar named them The Odd fellows.

By the fifth century the order had spread to other countries, including Spain. By The 6th century Lodges had spread into Portugal. by the 12th century, A French man named De-Ville along with five French knights, formed a lodge starting the society in France.

In the 18th century, in London, a party of fellows formed themselves into a society, starting “a Loyal Grand Lodge of Honour”, whose object was to relieve the sick members and those in distress or others in search of employment. Members were entitled to funeral donations. It was decreed at one time that all lodges could not meet in licensed premises. In Manchester’s Unity Lodge a Charter was drawn up stating aims were “Friendship, Love and Truth” including “Mutual aid social and practical support in their communities, by working together to make a difference.”

We must remember there was very little in the way of medical and practical help for the poor and life was a hard struggle for a lot of people.

In Kington, The Odd Fellows Society opened a lodge in 1822 at the White Lion, but members’ wives suspected “dark goings-on” rose up in revolt and the Lodge had to be closed. Another Lodge was started at the Lamb Inn in 1840. 1844 saw a new lodge open at the Talbot hotel, landlord William Pitt, when 36 members were enrolled. After a church service 27 people sat down to have an excellent dinner.

From the late 1880’s The Odd Fellows Society anniversary became a public holiday and acquired all the trappings of a fair. They were most often observed on Whit Monday and said to have, taken the place of the old Whit Monday Fair.

They became one of the most flourishing institutions in town and so remained until about 1910. For many years the Castle Hotel was its headquarters.

To celebrate the fourth anniversary dinner, a marquee was erected on the Oxford Arms plock (this being a small field belonging to the Oxford Arms, where in the past, the Drover’s animals stayed overnight). For entertainment a song celebrating the anniversary was written by Mr Stephen Pugh and sung by Mr George Short.

Today the Society still exists in 26 countries, members consisting of both men and women bringing mutual aid and practical support in their communities. Their aim: by working together to make a difference to people’s lives in their community.

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*Wendy Jones*

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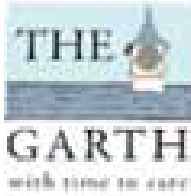
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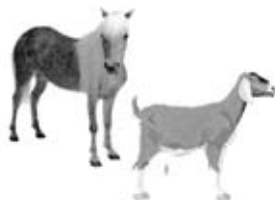
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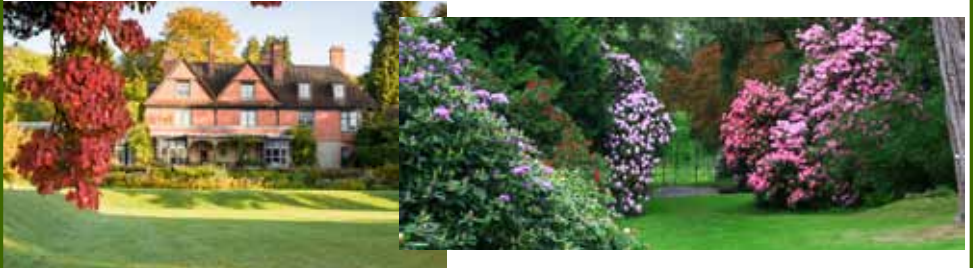
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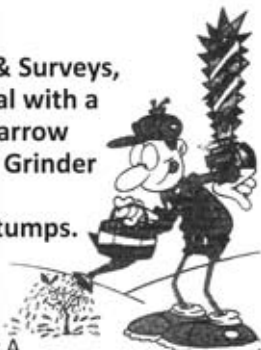
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\* Large Car Park   \* Disabled Access

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or email [info@titleyvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@titleyvillagehall.co.uk)

## Forthcoming Events

Thurs 1 February	10.30am 7pm	Pick-a-Stick at St Mary's churchyard Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley village hall Flicks in the Sticks at Huntington village hall
Fri 2 February	3.30pm	Concert at St Adrew's church, Presteigne
Sat 10 February	9.30 - 1m 7.30pm	Bishop's Teaching event at Ludlow Music in New Radnor
Tues 13 February	11am - 1pm 2pm - 4pm	Half term event at Kington Library Half term event at Kington Library
Thurs 15 February		Cut-off date for the March Parish News
Thurs 15 February	7.30pm	KADOS pantomime at Lady Hawkins Leisure Centre
Fri 16 February	7.30pm	KADOS pantomime at Lady Hawkins Leisure Centre
Sat 17 February	2.30pm 7.30pm	KADOS pantomime at Lady Hawkins Leisure Centre KADOS pantomime at Lady Hawkins Leisure Centre
Sat 24 February	7pm	Curry Night at Huntingtonvillage hall
Fri 1 March	6.30pm	Community Shop AGM at the Burton Hotel
Sat 16 March	12 - 2pm 3pm	Lent Lunch at Titley village hall KCS Concert at St Andrew's church, Preseigne



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

by

**15th February 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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