

Parish News

Kington, Huntington & Titley

May 2021



SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

FROM 3rd September 2020

email: mike@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	Sat/Hol	Sch	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	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

TOWN SERVICE

Tue & Fri Arrives Serves all areas of Kington
DOCTOR'S SURGERY 10.02 & 11.20

ARROW VIEW

Tue & Fri Departs Kington Museum 9.20 11.15
Departs Arrow View 9.30 RQ

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

Also available on 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

CLERGY

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Parish Office email: office@kingtonparishes.org.uk

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Greenfield Farm, Huntington, Kington HR5 3PZ

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Weythel Farm, Old Radnor, Presteigne LD8 2RR
Mrs Rosemary Watkins 01544 230174
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St. Mary's, Kington PCC is a registered charity and its number is 1185453

Letter from the Cathedral

Pentecost or more traditionally Whitsun is I think the Cinderella of Christian festivals, it has never really had the impact of Christmas and Easter. It doesn't have the same traditions or social events around it which make it stand out in the wider culture either. I think increasingly the church doesn't really know how to mark the occasion and even the recent 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer campaign which has actually taken off across the churches in recent years doesn't really make much of Pentecost itself. Yet Pentecost is perhaps one of the most exciting of the church festivals for it marks the moment when God started the church! It is in effect the Church's birthday, the day that God sent the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower ordinary Christians to do extraordinary things for Him.

The Holy Spirit is given freely to all of us as a free gift from God. Jesus promised his disciples that we would receive this gift so that we might know his presence with us as we live out our faith on a daily basis.

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforter to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you..."
John 14:15-16

The problem is when most of us think of comfort we think of the luxuries of life, or being wrapped up in a warm blanket or duvet. We also think of comfort as something that consoles us when we are upset or in need. Whilst all these things are true the word used in the New Testament has a completely different meaning to those we might expect. The word comfort is the same word that we find in relation to prodding, strengthening or stirring into action. The Bayeux Tapestry has a wonderful panel of Bishop Odo, forcing his men into battle, at the end of his battle club, with the abbreviated Latin words: which when translated means: "Here, Bishop Odo, comforts his troops." As individuals we might not find such 'comfort' comforting but the Holy Spirit is given to equip and spur us into action! In fact, the word comfort has traditionally also meant to give or add strength to someone or to encourage, urge or exhort. When we see the coming of the Holy Spirit in that way it makes much more sense of both Jesus words and what we see in the book of Acts as the early church begins to emerge.

The Holy Spirit also empowers us to be the people God created and knows us to be, in that sense the Holy Spirit fills us with God's wisdom and power for the tasks which he has called us to. On the day of Pentecost it is the Holy Spirit that takes the group of timid and bewildered disciples and equips them to declare the gospel message. Jesus before his Ascension had promised them that they would receive the Holy Spirit to equip them as His witnesses throughout the world.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

This power that comes with the Holy Spirit is very real and is available to us just as it was to the first disciples. It is power to live our lives as God intended, power to encourage us and to strength us for acts of service. It is not to make us feel better, or for our own benefit but it is the power to build one another up and to inspire the Church. So as Pentecost approaches perhaps we need to re-evaluate this slightly misunderstood Christian Festival and celebrate the birthday of the church with a bit more style and flair! Our prayer certainly needs to be 'Come Holy Spirit!' May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. Amen.



View from the Vicarage

Stand Up! Stand Up!

Dear Friends

As I write this, the Royal Family, the Country and the Commonwealth are all in mourning following the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. For many of us, I'm sure, his death means that an integral part of the background to our lives has suddenly disappeared. Whether you are someone who remembers the handsome young man who married the then Princess Elizabeth in 1947 or one of the younger generations who grew up hearing about the Queen and Prince Philip, his death at almost 100 years old marks the beginning of a profound shift in the leadership of our country and the Commonwealth. Reading through some of the more well-known of his remarks I chanced upon the following: "At School I was not the least aware that I was different from any of the others. It's true I had this title of Prince but it's surprising how you can live it down."

It is I think comparatively easy to imagine how somebody who lived his entire life in the public eye and most of it in the glare of publicity would want to become anonymous as often as possible and especially at school. It seems to me, however, that those words the Duke of Edinburgh used of himself, are or can be equally reminiscent of us at various moments in our lives. How many times have you yourself wanted to be anonymous? To blend in with the others? A way of escaping from unwanted attentions either from unpleasant schoolfellows or indeed even during adult life when you pray and hope that whoever it is or whoever they are simply won't notice you or forget that you're there? Following the tragic death of Sarah Everard, there was a staggering number of women who admitted that like her, there were occasions when they too had wished the same that whoever it was who'd seen them and followed them or made unwelcome advances simply hadn't.

I'm sure you've noticed how much easier it is to seem anonymous when you're wearing the face masks which have become such a part of our lives over these past months. The purpose of the face mask is indeed safety but it's to protect everybody else from us rather than the other way around. It's a layer of protection against a disease that we ourselves may be carrying however inadvertently.

Anonymity likewise offers protection but of ourselves from the actions of others but anonymity is not always possible as Prince Philip knew only too well. I've just finished reading the most fascinating book called "Jeshua." It's a retelling of the life of Christ written in the form of a historical novel. The origins of the book were a conversation between the author Moelwyn Merchant and some Jewish friends who asked incredulously: "Tell me; if you and I returned to Nazareth over nineteen hundred years ago and stood on the village square, would you take me by the arm and, pointing say to me: 'You see that young man over there- he's God you know.' Is that what you're seriously saying?"

The answer to that question as astounding as it may seem is an unequivocal yes because that is what, as Christians, we do believe that man all those years ago was indeed God in human form. Sometimes, he too sought anonymity or at least rest away from the crowds who followed him and from his friends as well. The reason why he died is because unlike the late Duke of Edinburgh, the leaders of his nation and religion could not acknowledge who he truly was.

There are moments in our lives when in common with Christ and Prince Philip we desire anonymity or at least an opportunity to escape for rest and recuperation, sometimes these

occasions are not merely desirable they are essential. However, there are equally times when to misquote Moelwyn Merchant we need others to point to us and say: You see that person over there (s)he is a follower of the Son of God.

One of my favourite jokes, not attributable to the late Prince Philip is: The Vicar announces to the congregation: *“Our next hymn is “Stand Up, Stand up for Jesus” and we’ll sing this hymn sitting down.”*

However much we may on occasion both crave and need anonymity, we must also remember that our calling is to Stand up, Stand up for Jesus. No, you can’t do that sitting down!

With my love and prayers as always

Ben.

Easter Garden

I do hope that by the time that you read this, you’ll have had an opportunity to walk through our astounding life-sized Easter Garden in Kington Churchyard. I need to acknowledge our very sincerest thanks to Malcolm Price who designed and made the tomb panels and the additional cross, to Michael Horne who assisted Malcolm in erecting it all. To Linda Ellams for her astounding painting of the tomb and Gil Pennell, Lesley Walters and the rest of the gardening crew for all of their work in preparing and planting the garden.



Easter Preparations

If you’ve had the delight of seeing our churches decked in all of their Easter finery; then you’ll know what an incredible job all of our flower arrangers have done in preparing them for Easter. I’d also like to thank our organists, sacristans and choir for all of their work. It was lovely to welcome so many into church for our Easter services.

Secretarial Changes

The end of April sees us bid farewell to Anna who’s been serving us as part time Secretary for almost five years now. Anna has decided that she wants to pursue pastures new. I’m deeply grateful to Anna for her work over these years and wish her well in the future. I’ll be announcing Anna’s replacement in next month’s edition but please feel welcome to continue emailing the office during the transition period.

Lambing Service Old Radnor Sunday 2nd May at 5.00pm

After a year’s delay for Covid-19 the Lambing Service is returning to Old Radnor on May 2nd. It’ll be a slightly different service this year, but it’s still proper and fitting to remind ourselves that Coronavirus notwithstanding some things continue as normal and I’m sure that as you’ve been travelling around you’ve rejoiced as I have in the little miracles of lambing that have been occurring in our midst and which for some of us have dominated life as they always do. We’ll gather at Old Radnor on May 2nd to give thanks for a successful lambing time; although this year sadly, we can’t enjoy a fabled Old Radnor Tea afterwards. See Ewe there!

Ben.



Confirmation Sunday 19th September 2021

Bishop Richard our new Bishop of Hereford has agreed to be with us on Sunday 19th September at St. Mary’s Church, Kington for a Confirmation Eucharist.

If you or anybody you know would like to consider confirmation this year, please do be in touch either via email to: office@kingtonparishes.org.uk or via a phone call to the Vicarage on 01544 230525.

Expressing an interest does not in itself mean a commitment to being confirmed. It simply means that you are prepared to begin a journey which, we hope, will lead to Confirmation, but it’s the journey that counts not necessarily the destination.

I’m hoping to begin that journey in early August with a probable six sessions at a mutually convenient time.

Please do consider this for yourself and encourage others to do the same.

All are welcome

Ben



The Easter Garden and Tomb at St Mary’s

Kington Parishes Service Schedule for this month

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

All services in Kington marked * below will be available via livestream at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCho108zE6VUpNGQAmmfA9OA>

Sunday, 2nd May:	Easter V:	White	
<i>Genesis 22. 1-18</i>	<i>Acts 8.26-end</i>	<i>Psalm 22.25-end</i>	<i>John 15.1-8</i>
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Titley	
10.00am:	*Holy Eucharist:	Kington	
11.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kinnerton	
5.00pm:	Lambing Service	Old Radnor	

Sunday, 9th May:	Easter VI:	White	
<i>Isaiah 55:1-11</i>	<i>Acts 10. 44 - end</i>	<i>Psalm 98</i>	<i>John 15. 9-17</i>
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist(BCP):	Huntington	
10.00am:	*Holy Eucharist:	Kington	
11.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Old Radnor	
6.00pm:	Evensong:	Kinnerton	

Thursday, 13th May:	Ascension Day:	Gold/White	
(Thy Kingdom Come begins)			
<i>Daniel 7. 9-14</i>	<i>Psalm 47</i>	<i>Acts 1. 1-11</i>	<i>Luke 24. 44-end</i>
7.30pm:	Holy Eucharist:	Kington	

Sunday, 16th May:	Easter VII:	White	
<i>Ezekiel 36:24-28</i>	<i>Acts 1. 15-17, 21-26</i>	<i>Psalm 1</i>	<i>John 17. 6-19</i>
8.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Kinnerton	
10.00am:	*Morning Praise:	Kington	
10.00am:	Holy Eucharist:	Titley	
5.00pm:	*Taize Service:	Kington	
6.00pm:	Junior Praise:	Old Radnor	



Sunday, 23rd May:	Pentecost/Whitsun: Red	
<i>Ezekiel 37. 1-14</i>	<i>Acts 2.1-21</i>	<i>Psalm 104. 26-end</i>
<i>John 15. 26-27, 16. 4b - 15</i>		
10.00am:	*Holy Eucharist:	Kington
11.30am:	Holy Eucharist:	Old Radnor
6.00pm:	Evening Prayer:	Huntington
6.00pm:	Evening Prayer:	Kinnerton

Sunday, 30th May:	Trinity Sunday:	White	
<i>Isaiah 6.1-8</i>	<i>Psalm 29</i>	<i>Romans 8. 12-17</i>	<i>John 3. 1-17</i>
10.00am:	*Group Eucharist:	Kington	

St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON



We have been pleased to welcome a slowly growing congregation to our Easter Services and say a big thank you to Gill, Lesley and the flower team who made the Church as attractive and special as they always do for festivals. We hope that you have visited the transformed Lych Gate and the Easter Garden

Sadly as we approach Ascension Day, Thursday, May 13th, we have again to accept that regulations do not permit us to enjoy what has become an annual event, Ascension Day Eucharist followed by a fellowship breakfast. However, you are welcome to join us for a Holy Eucharist Service at 7.30pm on that evening.

We have welcomed the enhancement a small choir has brought to our services and thank Phillip and Choir Members for this.

Hopefully greater normality will soon return but meanwhile it behoves us to be careful and continue to obey the rules

Be vigilant and keep safe. Our best wishes to you all

Ann Edwards and Rodney Bowdler

Tribute to Prince Philip

On Saturday 17th April, John Clayton, Tower Captain at St Mary's, rang the tenor bell, half muffled, at 12.00 noon, ninety nine times in remembrance of Prince Philip.

Plant Sale

The Plants for Good stall will be starting up again on 19th April. The money raised will go to St Mary's Kington.

Any one can leave plants there to be sold. Or if you can't get here let me know on 07791 935 955 and I will collect. All plants need a name tag.

There will be new plants appearing regularly so just wander up Cutterbach Lane to check out the stall.

Thank you for all your support last year.

Trish Maccurrach

Message from the editor

Now that lockdown is easing, and we are all able to get out and about more, it would be really lovely to receive accounts of what is happening again in Kington and its surrounding villages.

When I look back at pre-pandemic years, there seemed to be such a lot happening, and I'm sure that many of these activities will be starting up quite soon, but I have received virtually nothing so far that I can advertise in the Parish News. I know that the Community Charity Shop will soon be reopening, and the Arts and Crafts market opened last weekend (thank you Anna for the notice about this).

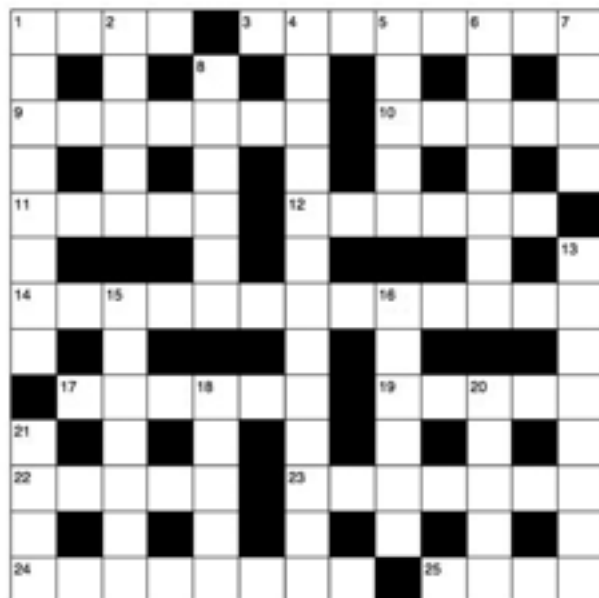
I'd be really grateful if anyone having an activity planned for June would send me a note about it, and I'll be very pleased to put it in.

Freda (Editor)

May Crossword

Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)



Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

Answers to April Crossword ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison. DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

Reader Writes



This was the old king's favourite time of year. He would slip away from his household before the business of the day got under way and come out on the battlements to pray, and of course, to be truthful, to do a bit of birding. The swifts would be here any day, a cuckoo called in the beech forest below the castle, and red-rumped swallows were renewing their tunnelled mud nests under the walls. But of course the king's peace didn't last long; a well known lunatic came along the battlement and fixing the king with his dark and shining eyes demanded to know whence came hope. And, as usual, while the king was summoning his thoughts, the disturbance had passed on, leaving the king still uncertain where to find an answer.

Reluctantly leaving the swallows and the cuckoo, and now a green finch chirring atop a fir, he went off to stir his chaplain, Father Mattei. Finding him, as usual, sipping Turkish coffee and lighting his pipe, the king asked Father Mattei for his advice on this question. The chaplain was much valued, in balance, but one had to accept that he was an incurable cynic. And the king wasn't disappointed. Hope, pronounced the chaplain, is the worst of all evils because it prolongs our torments rather than relieves them. (In case you are wondering, Father Mattei came up with this one long before it was ascribed to Nietzsche.)

Once Father Mattei had had his fun, the king too found some strong coffee — the Turks were good for this at least — and they considered the lunatic's challenge, for that was surely what it was. So the ploughman ploughs and the sower sows in the hope of a crop; that is just plain reasonable hope, give or take the ravages of wild pig. But Abraham 'hoped against hope' that Sarah would conceive a child in their old age because God had promised them. So Christian hope is inseparable from faith in something that otherwise would not be possible.

The long handled coffee pot, the djezva, was refilled and settled in the embers once more. Now the king was feeling excited; with hope what couldn't be accomplished? Even Father Mattie allowed himself some enthusiasm as he delved in his Greek New Testament. Didn't the Apostle Paul write to the Romans saying '*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope*' (Ro 15:13)? There it is; faith and hope inseparably linked. Christian hope rests securely on what God has already done for us, and in what he will do for us in the power of the Spirit.

The old king took his leave, a little shaky from the coffee, or perhaps Father Mattei's hookah, and took himself home via the battlements. Ah, was that a swift he heard?! Yes! Indeed, a pair of swifts were sweeping, scimitar winged, around the palace walls. So the birds have something to teach us as usual. We hope where we also have faith. We hope where we trust in what God has promised. The world was changing, but the king had hope. A sure hope; we can dare to move forward. We can dare to love, where we dare to hope.

Robert MacCurrach

ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

Huntington Village Hall News:

Hello everyone I hope this finds you well. We recently held a hall meeting so I thought I would update you on the situation.

We have decided, all being well, to reopen the hall on 1st September and will be taking bookings from then on. We have also put a few events in the diary for the autumn to kick start our social calendar. Obviously these will only take place if everything continues to improve and restrictions are not re-imposed.

In September we plan to have a film night, in October a quiz and in November a curry night. So look out for further information.

In the meantime the Hall Committee are looking at ways to improve the facilities. We will therefore be giving the Hall a bit of a "facelift" by revamping our rather tired looking kitchen. We are also considering the possibility of extending the car park, because as we know parking can be a challenge at times.

I would also like to thank all of you who responded to the questionnaire we sent out. We had some great ideas and as a result, are looking at the possibility of holding some new events in the future, including a jazz night. So if you have any ideas about the type of events you would like to see being held in the hall, please let us know.

Huntington Village Walk Pizza and Pud:

Providing all restrictions have been lifted and remain so, we will be holding a village walk starting at Yew Tree Farm (HR5 3PG) at 2pm on Monday 30th August, followed by Pizza and Pud from 5pm. The cost is £7.50 per person (£14 per family). Places will be allocated by bookings only, so if you are interested in reserving a place please contact me either via e-mail: pippalloyde@btinternet.com, or Tel.No: 01544 370692. You are welcome to come for the walk, or pizza, or both.

Pippa Lloyd

Riding for the Disabled: - (it's what you can do that counts)

At Riding for the Disabled from the stables at Bryngwyn, we, like so many other charities, groups and organisations, have been twiddling our thumbs (and hooves) for some time now. But with the coming of spring and a steady relaxing of the rules, we have new optimism for the coming months.

It will be a gradual reopening for us of course, the health of our riders and volunteers still being of utmost importance. But the prospect of seeing everyone, and putting bums in saddles once more, gives us all renewed energy and enthusiasm. Our horses will be looking forward to getting back into their RDA roles too, although some may be keener than others!

Bryngwyn Riding Centre where we hire the ponies is in such a wonderful location that we can take the riders out on to the hills where they can sit up high and enjoy the countryside. Others may prefer to come and groom the ponies, or maybe just lead a pony out around the riding school. Our objective is to make the session fun whilst improving the well-being of our riders. Riding is a good physio for those who spend time in a wheelchair or find walking difficult, but seeing their enthusiasm, it is being with the ponies that count.

The last year has thrown up many challenges for everyone, but it shows the resilience of the human spirit that we are coming through with determination, good grace and kind hearts.



I started volunteering with RDA when we lived near Cardiff with a group who encouraged children with physical problems and learning difficulties to ride. I remember one small boy who had never spoken and he suddenly responded "drink water" to my question. His mother was amazed, emotional and joyful. Another child was thought not to be able to 'do' much but he learned his right from left rein and went on to be taught computer skills. We played gymkhana games and planned musical rides – all good fun.

The ponies are wonderful and seem to have a second sense of how to behave, they give our riders a good time. Without such understanding and co-operation from the ponies, we would be unable to provide lessons and challenges for the riders.

Since moving to Huntington, I volunteer at Bryngwyn and help the adults to ride on the hill, have a lesson in the school or just to be with the ponies. Hopefully I will see everyone again soon.

If you would like any further information, please contact us at:
Bryngwyn RDA at the Riding Centre – Tel.No: 01497 851360 or email: bryngwyn.rda@gmail.com

Marilyn Kelly

Rare breed farm animals and conservation of wild life habitat at School Green, Huntington - over the past 50 years. (continued from last month)

Badgerface Sheep:

Fortunately the breed of Badgerface sheep were saved by a small number of enthusiasts in the 1970s (a South Wales Postman, ex Welsh Guards farmer, and ex Spitfire pilot amongst them). There is currently a thriving Society and sheep numbers are now high. We kept a closed flock of 50 ewes, except for a new ram, as necessary. We found lambing exciting, difficult presentations needed our attention, but a new mother and twin lambs can be such a rewarding sight.



Poultry:

Poultry were kept by most farmers' wives as an important part of the farm income, and we were taught many lessons on how to manage Dorking chickens, Brecon Buff geese, Runner ducks and Norfolk Black turkeys. The Turkeys used to welcome the congregation out of The United Reform Church on a Sunday with much gobbling!! The geese were very protective of their young, but once a rat dug under the mother in the night and carried away six young goslings.

Wild Flower Meadow & Land Conservation:

More recently, over the past few years, we have been able to plant a wild flower meadow. This is not easy to achieve without following the necessary guidelines, but we now have plenty of perennials surviving and annuals are starting to self-sow. The field becomes a changing pallet of colours throughout the season and is a delight to see it develop year by year.

Our other fields are managed with large areas of long grass and edges not too tidy, so that it attracts wildlife. The hedgerows, including trees, are all at least 8ft tall and 5ft wide and connect

with our woodlands. The woodland area consists of mixed deciduous trees, which are selectively felled to allow for wild flowering plants to flourish. There is good ground cover, a shrub layer, and a new generation of young trees are allowed to grow – all making it a suitable habitat as possible for our furry and feathered friends. We have also reinforced a waterfall in a stream.



During the 1970's there were Peewits and Curlews on Dysgwlf - but not now. If we want our wildlife to return we will have to change the environment and we can all play a small part in achieving this. Our commercial farmers of course will have to be given the incentives to do this, and that is up to our Government to put the right measures in place.

How fortunate we have both been to play our part in the various breeding programmes for rare breeds and to belong here in our beloved Huntingdon. *Lesley and Philip Cleland*

Help wildlife – record your sightings.

Have you seen your first Brimstone butterfly of the year yet? I caught sight of one last week, and the first thing I did was record it on iRecord, an app I have on my smartphone. I know this record will be looked at by the county butterfly recorder to be verified, then added to the list of butterflies recorded in Herefordshire, which then will be added to Butterfly Conservation's database.

I have been recording flora and fauna on iRecord for several years. A couple of years ago I was in the Outer Hebrides and recorded the great yellow bumblebee, one of our rarest bumblebees. This was verified by Bumblebee Conservation.

This happens all over the country and applies to all flora and fauna. We are lucky to have a strong team of county recorders/verifiers in Herefordshire, which I have recently joined as verifier for the Mammal Society.

The iRecord website is hosted by the National Biological Centre so all your records help to build a picture of just how our wildlife is doing from year to year.

It is very easy to use.

Go to www.brc.ac.uk/irecord and sign up or download the app to your smartphone. I find the app much easier when I'm out and about as it immediately gives you a grid reference and enables you to take a photo which is always helpful for verifiers, particularly if you are not sure of the species.

So, get out there and record all the marvellous wildlife we are lucky enough to see in our county! *Sarah Cadwallader Kington HWT*



Lockdown Lodge: More Epic Tales of a 1931 Austin 7 called Jane

In July 1959 I was posted overseas ending up serving at RAF ShahJan in the Persian Gulf on a twelvemonth tour of duty. On returning to this country I returned to RAF Melksham and was reunited with Jane. Nick gave me the option to purchase Jane. During my absence, Nick had kept a log of repairs and mileage

"By mutual agreement Jane is sold to Anthony Jardine for the sum of £20. With her is included

1. Some tools
2. Paint to coachwork
3. Odds and Sods
4. Handbook and this log book
5. All legal documents appertaining to the car etc."

I carried on keeping records in this logbook for the following 6 years. Recording historic changes in Motoring Law etc. An entry in 1961 reads as follows: "As the 10 year test of motor vehicles becomes compulsory on the 15th February 1961 Jane has been taken to Stringers of Melksham for attention to the following points (a) steering (b) Brakes (c) Lights (plus fitting of stop lights) (d) MOT Test (e) Attention to the front nearside wing. Taken to Stringers 2nd Jan 1961."

"9/1/61 Well done Jane total cost £9 7s 4d she has passed the MOT."

Three months later I returned the car to Stringers for a major engine overhaul including relining the clutch costing £23 3s 10d. I hate to think what the cost would be at today's prices!

This entry in the log brought back memories of an epic journey.

While Jane was undergoing major repairs, I decided to take a few days leave. As usual north south travel on public service transport was quite good but trying to travel east to west was almost impossible (nothing much has changed over the past 60 years.)

I decided to visit relations in Compton Bassett just off the A4 between Marlborough and Calne in Wiltshire. I spent an enjoyable time in the village where I was born and a friend had kindly dropped me off there. When the time came to pick the car up I asked what time the free enterprise bus travelled to Calne. Much laughter as I was told that there had been no bus service through the village for years!

Never mind I packed my bag and walked to Calne via a footpath that cut at least 3 miles off the route. On arrival in Calne I found that I had just missed the bus to Chippenham. Ah well with an hour to wait I could walk there in that time. What's another 6 miles? As I approached Chippenham, a police car travelling towards Calne, stopped, turned round and came alongside. The officer wound down the window; on request I produced my RAF id card and leave pass. I explained my plight, trying to get to Chippenham and then on to Melksham to collect my car hoping that I might be offered a lift, at least, to Chippenham. No such luck. Before pulling away I was asked how my trousers had become splattered with mud. I told them I had taken a well known footpath from Compton Bassett to Calne.

Reaching Chippenham, a cup of coffee revived my spirits. I caught the bus to Melksham collected Jane the car and drove home to Old Sodbury for the remainder of my leave feeling quite exhausted.

Tony Jardine



And they're off - But only just 19th February 2008

Theodora slipped her moorings at 1600hrs this afternoon and turned around in the marina to the gentle song of the ice. For those who have not heard it it is a tuneful echo as the ice vibrates when it is disturbed. Out through the pond on tickover, gently breaking ice all the way. Theodora nearly came to a stop so I had to apply a little more power. Out on the river and there was no more ice.

The boaters among you will be asking why we were boating in the ice. The answer is that we were ready to go and we had already lived for a week at Raynsway Basin which, while being a very nice place to be, with a number of friends there, is not what we were planning to do. We did take it very slowly so that, we hope, a minimal amount of blacking will have been removed.

We turned left as we left the pond and turned upstream along the Soar. That takes us south and to warmer climes. Chugging along through the winter scenery we felt cold enough to Christen the hats that dear friends in the village (Sproxtton, Leicestershire. Here you may need instruction on the pronunciation of the name of our village. Please note that "Sproxtton" rhymes with "boatswain". Very nautical!) had given us.

They were the business and kept the scalp that is now somewhat exposed to the weather, warm. Most welcome, they are! We continued the chugging motions until we got to the lock at Birstall. Which is only a few hundred yards from our mooring but by water a mile or so. We went up the lock and moored up at the top. And here we are for the night. New scenery. New light. Different water. And all this not ten minutes walk from where we were in the marina. But we are off and the technical systems are working well. We have light.



Electric from the new battery bank. We have heat for personal warmth from the stove which is busy burning a little wood. We have heat for cooking from the gas cooker. Life is just too peachy!

Tomorrow, after a visit to Birstall DIY shop and a bit of scabbling around in the electrics to fit the engine hours counter that I have not had time to fit yet but is now getting urgent because I want to have a record of the time that the engine has been running, we will cruise through Leicester and beyond down in the direction of Foxton.

There is nothing, simply nothing, half so much worth doing as messing about in boats.

Traa for now...

Out in the Sticks. 20th February 2008

I could not get a signal to go on the internet last night, but was I dismayed? Of course not. I entertained myself by writing a spreadsheet to record the data of the trip. Brother-in-Law, Martin did one and I nicked a copy to use for us but my guardian angel meted out punishment and the file is nowhere to be found so I have written one for myself which, of course is much more rewarding. (As you see my enjoyment of spreadsheets is long standing and not just a product of the fact that I am treasurer for the PCC!) I will be able to regale you with fascinating facts. Example: we had the engine running for 3.5 hours today and hurtled along at an average of 1mph. If that seems rather daring then consider the fact that we also locked through 7 broad locks and averaged 3 (locks+miles) per hour which is even more astounding. We live in the fast lane here.

And what is the fast lane? Actually it is the Grand Union Canal south of Leicester in a delightful part of the country called Newton Harcourt. Just to rub in the slowness (slowth?) of our mode of travel we have stopped a field away from a railway line and laugh in a deranged sort of way when a high speed train trundles past at 125mph. Why does anyone need to go that fast? What are they going to do with the time that they save? Do they need to go there in the first place?

I do enjoy a little extreme narrow boating. Yesterday evening, Thursday 21st, was the first example on the Grand Tour. We arrived at Kilby Bridge in the dusk. The moorings were on the right hand side of the canal which, on this occasion, was upwind. The wind was certainly up. About force 7 Beaufort at a guess (Half Gale: In which a well-conditioned man of war, under all sail, and 'clean full', could just carry close hauled... double-reefs, jib, etc). Theodora gently crabbed her way towards the chosen spot next to a very smart narrow boat all shiny and grey and black with scrolls and such like. Very stylish. Because of my superior physical strength and Margaret's elevated intellect I hopped ashore taking with me the centre line and three piling hooks leaving Margaret to work engine and tiller. Just at that moment the wind increased to 8 (Gale) gusting 9 (Strong Gale) so I needed to pull or the boat would end up on the other side of the canal. I pulled. The wind pushed. Theodora pulled in the opposite direction to that in which I was pulling. I modestly claim that I was winning until I found that I could not pull, put the pile hook (see glossary) in and thread the rope through the pile hook all at the same time. So I stopped pulling and busied myself with pile hook and threading the rope through the same. When I stopped pulling Theodora did not. Acceleration away from the bank was the result. A nifty couple of half hitches around the rope and Theodora's acceleration reversed but she maintained an inconveniently large distance from the bank. Margaret ran the engine ahead and the lateral component of the tension in the rope moved her towards the bank. At this point the nice owner of the Stylish Boat appeared and offered assistance. We laid hold of the headline and pulled the bow in, threaded the headline through the second piling hook and I leapt for the boat to make the headline fast on the T stud. I used the deckboard (See glossary) to help me up. The deckboard was loose and came away. My life flashed before me as I fell towards the water but lightning reflexes meant that I hung on to the bow and only got my feet wet. Perhaps that is the one dunking that I will get this trip. There is always one for me and none for Margaret. As I said, she is the one of elevated intellect. In the end we were moored up with no fewer than three piling hooks and all was secure. The wind blew hard all night and made the stove smoke.

Those of you of an analytical turn of mind will have realised from the first paragraph that today we have actually been on the move for only 3.5 hours. The other hours of the day have not been wasted. Theodora, despite the fact that we have had her for a year and a third is still not as we would like her. We have decided that the way to get her sorted is to spend mornings on work and afternoons boating. This morning I tightened the alternator belt, checked over the wiring and put some protective stuff on some of the bits that could get rubbed, fitted two hooks on the deckboards so that they will not come adrift again except when we want to remove them, put up a towel rail for the kitchen towels and a rack for the tea and coffee tins. We are slowly getting down the list of things to do. Polishing the brass is getting nearer to the top of the list.

Glossary:

Pile Hook: A device for mooring a boat on the canal. It hooks around the horizontal stringer which ties the tops of the interlocking piles which protect the canal banks. Useless on those parts of the canals where the banks are not piled.

Deckboard: The decorated triangular board at the bow. In a horse drawn boat this would have storage attached to the back in which would be kept hay. This storage was known as a "cratch".

Nick Cooke

'Rogo,' Latin for 'I ask.'

A lovely lady who sang in my choir (now 93 and still keeping in touch with Giles) always professed to hate the hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter.' So I made sure to have it four times a year (good for her soul!), on Plough Monday, Rogation, Lammass and Harvest. In rural parishes these agricultural festivals are especially popular and important and it's good that we keep them properly here.

For one of the village schools in which I regularly took assembly, Rogation was an outdoor occasion. All together we did a circuit of the school field, giving a willing victim the bumps at each corner (very gently of course - Health and Safety) and sang a verse of a hymn. We did this remembering how, in times past, folk would beat the bounds of the parish and not just bump a choirboy at each boundary stone, but give him a proper thrashing (!) so that, in days when maps were not that common, he might remember the place, and know in future if a wicked neighbour had moved one of those boundary markers to steal a bit more land. Apparently, such processions often degenerated into a drunken orgy, but not so with our assembly (Spoilsport, I hear you say!). At each corner we would look in a certain direction and make a short prayer, asking (rogo) for God's blessing on 1. The village centre, church, pub and shop, 2. The Milford Haven oil refinery, 3. The sea, fishermen and "all who go down to the sea in ships", and 4. The countryside and farms. A good assembly: "I do," 'tis said, "and I remember."

We once did something similar at St Mary's here at a Family Service. We all stepped outside and prayed in four directions, singing a verse to each:

1. Titley, Sunset, industry, the surgery, Kington Court, Suncare, RC and Baptist churches, P.O. etc.
2. The shopping centre, pubs, restaurants, Burton and market.
3. Recreation and education, bus depot etc.
4. North and West – farms, countryside, outlying villages and churches.

Here's one verse of the ditty we sang. It goes to the tune "Little John", easy to play on recorders.

Lord we pray, come today, bless our farms this month of May;
Sun and rain, swell the grain growing in our fields.
Guard potatoes, barley, swedes from disease and choking weeds,
Pasture, ley, silage, hay, bless our harvest yields.

Of course, at Rogation we are praying in the name of Jesus. It's as if we have signed our request using his name with 'pp' after it, meaning 'for and on behalf of'. And to show that that's OK, I usually produce in church a little sprig of apple blossom, the flower indicating that it is God's will that there should be a fruitful harvest.

And one thing that many of us look forward to is a Rogation walk, perhaps just a short one up to the church, or a longer one for those who can manage it. We did one such with Ben a year or two ago from Kinnerton to Old Radnor for example, and long ago, when Paul was here, from Kinnerton to Ednor, where there was once a church. But stuck in my

memory is the one when, must have been during an interregnum, some of us set off in pouring rain from Kington to Kinnerton. Most of the party gave up at Ditchyeld Bridge, an ancient river crossing of Offa's Dyke near Burfa Bank, and went home to dry out. In the end it was only June Gittoes and I who waded along a narrow footpath through a sea of knee high soaking wet barley to end up at the church. June upturned her boots to pour out the water and we steamed our way through evensong smelling like a laundry.

Forgive these ramblings. We tend to carry on like this as we get older!

Denis Parry.

Kington Bowling Club

We are very pleased to be able to inform you that the Bowling Club will be opening on Saturday May 1st. We are very much looking forward to meeting up with all our previous members and to welcoming new members and anyone who is expressing an interest in starting to play bowls and enjoy our excellent facilities. The Club Night is always on a Monday from 6.00pm and you will all be made very welcome, if you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Club Captain, Dick Allford on 01544 231052. *Sue Price*

Co – Co

Kington Compassionate Community

We are a group of volunteers, trained by St Michael's Hospice who visit
(or contact by telephone through Covid)
people identified by the staff of Kington Surgery as being lonely and needing befriending.

Are you interested in becoming a Co-Co volunteer?

If so, training will be provided by St Michael's Hospice,
currently via Zoom owing to Covid restrictions.

For more information please contact
Deborah or Michael Horne on 01544 340604
or email hornemichael794@gmail.com

World Bee Day - 20th May

We all depend on the survival of bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, but bees are increasingly under threat from human activities. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity, and significantly contribute to solving problems related to the global food supply and eliminate hunger in developing countries. The date of 20 May coincides with the birthday of Anton Janša, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and praised the bees for their ability to work so hard, while needing so little attention.

UPDATE RE COVID - 19 PANDEMIC KINGTON MEDICAL PRACTICE MAY 2021

"The vaccination programme continues at pace with our site in Leominster now focussing on the provision of second doses. We expect this work to be complete in June. We have seen that most cases of Covid in the vaccinated have no symptoms or only mild symptoms and the rates of new cases in the over 65's are very low. Cases in Hereford County Hospital have dropped from a high of 122 to 0.

Our network (which covers the patients of Kington, the Leominster practices, Mortimer Medical Practice, Tenbury Surgery and Weobley and Staunton) has not opted to continue administering new doses to the younger age groups; the under 50's will be able to access vaccination at sites in Ludlow and Hereford via the National Booking System. We feel we are at a juncture where we must fully dedicate our surgery staff to as much direct care of patients as possible. We are aware that there are considerable waiting times and backlog for specialist care and inevitably we will need to provide extra support for our patients. We are increasingly liaising with hospital consultants to manage complex cases to avoid delay in investigations and treatment. We must also ensure that all those with chronic diseases receive their check ups and ask that patients do make appointments to see us when we contact to advise them that a review is needed.

Covid cases are low at the moment but we do not know what will happen in the coming months. I would ask members of our community to consider their activities and exposure; we are having a taste of freedom but every different opportunity we exploit is an opportunity for Coronavirus transmission. We may cherish being able to go for a swim or enjoy a drink with friends in a pub garden but if we start the day with a swim, go to the hairdresser, pop out to do some shopping and then meet friends for a drink, it is easy to see that potential for transmission dramatically increases. Vaccination reduces this risk but it does not eliminate this. Contact tracing is now being done at a local level and our contract tracers are highly effective at reaching people who are potentially infected. We can help them by considering our activities and exposures carefully.

Planning has already started for this year's 'flu vaccinations and preparing for any needed Covid vaccination booster will be part of this.

It has been a challenging and, at times, heartbreaking 14 months. We have reasons to be optimistic about the coming year and if we all help to keep each other safe we can look forward to better times ahead."

Dr S McCaffrey, GP and clinical operations manager

Christian Aid Week

10 - 16 May 2021



Climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

To find out more and to make a donation

visit www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week

Hedgehog Awareness Week

This runs from 2nd – 8th May 2021, it is organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and takes place every year. It aims to highlight the problems hedgehogs face and how you can help them.



This year the Charity is asking people create their very own hedgehog haven! Gardens are a stronghold for hedgehogs, and we can make their lives so much easier with very little effort!

There are many things we can all do to help hedgehogs; here are just a few:

Make sure hedgehogs can access your garden with a 'Hedgehog Highway' a 5" x 5" (13 x 13cm) square gap in the bottom of fences or walls should do it! Once created you can log these on the BIG Hedgehog Map at www.bighedgehogmap.org

- Create a log pile that will offer shelter and food
- Build a Hedgehog Home (see plans at www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-homes)
- Move piles of rubbish to a new site on the day you are burning it.
- Check areas carefully before mowing or strimming.
- Ensure netting is kept at a safe height.
- Check compost heaps before digging the fork in.
- Stop using pesticides and poisons.
- Cover drains or deep holes.
- Ensure there is an easy route out of ponds & pools.

A Word from St. Hugh's

The reading of Holy Scripture can occasionally surprise us! Recently at St Hugh's we found ourselves unable to remember ever reading a few verses from the Book of Job. It comes when Job reminds himself how the frailties of humanity are a part of human life. In doing so he expresses the opposite of frailty through certain types of trees.

Job 14. 7—9 says, "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its roots grow old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant".

Perhaps Job should be nominated as the Promoter of Coppice Workers!

Our close relationship with the wonders of a small woodland reveal the positive effect of coppicing which can be hugely beneficial for wildlife. It is not surprising that dear Job nominates the opposite of human frailty as seen through a tree. The root stock of specific types of trees will continue to grow older providing new young growth that can be harvested periodically.

Although our Easter celebrations are now past, the Job verses brought to mind that Christ's death and resurrection means we are able to have a fresh start just as the Coppice puts on new growth. Consequently as the woodland is managed enabling the various forms of wildlife to flourish, so our lives can be directed to bring forth goodness.

First Pied Flycatcher arrived on 31st of March.

Please feel free to contact us for specific prayers or queries about St. Hugh's.

Peter and Pauline Swain. Tel. 01544 230999 Mobile 07950 877916

Email: pandpswain@gmail.com

ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS

Condolences.

We send our sincere condolences and prayers to Peter Dunn following the sad death of his father recently. Peter's father lived in Ireland and thankfully Peter was able to get there for the funeral under the present restrictions.



Best Wishes.

We send our best wishes and a speedy recovery to Judith Jones who recently had a fall and broke her hip and also to Rocky Lloyd who had an operation to remove his gallbladder. Both are great supporters of Titley and with all the good weather recently we hope this will aid their recoveries.

Flower Rota.

There is a small team of dedicated ladies who arrange the flowers in church. More volunteers are needed to help them. If you are not on the flower list and would like to help please give Win Dowdeswell a ring on 01544 267342. She would love to hear from you.

Service Rota.

As from May we are going back to our usual service rota that is 8.30am on the first Sunday of the month and 10am on the third Sunday of the month. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank Ben and Linda for keeping the churches open and for taking the services. A lot of churches locally have had no services at all so we have been very lucky.

Dick

Kington Art and Craft Market.

Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines

Saturday 15th May

unless government guidelines change.

We have 18 local artist and crafters attending including,

Alpaca Products, 3 Artists, Cards for all occasions,

Felting, Woodturner, Handcrafted ironware,

Potter, Papercrafts, Wax melts,

Knitted, Crocheted, Woven and Sewn products plus other crafts.

We are delighted to support local artists and craftspeople.

There is something for everyone, with items to suit all budgets.

Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All are welcome!

The Art and cCaft market is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Further Pilgrimage

Madley Church

En route to Hereford, a diversion and a bit of serendipity took us to the church of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Madley, a huge structure with an interesting history of pilgrimage. Records of it being a shrine dating from 1318 are kept at Hereford Cathedral, but it is thought to have been a pilgrim site since much earlier, around 550AD.



In the middle ages & before it was famous for a miracle-working statue of the Virgin Mary, although this has long since disappeared unfortunately! The statue was located in the vaulted chamber/crypt underneath the church, which you can still access, although the entry point is difficult to find and you have to squeeze down a narrow and gloomy set of steps. It used to be such a popular pilgrim location, they had to instal a second set of steps. The chamber itself is a revelation. Recently restored, it is well lit, and the vaulted ceiling, although simple,

is lovely to see. So, it is worth the effort to persevere. Empty at the time of our visit, it is a quiet & peaceful place, and these days it is used as venue for meetings or retreats even.

Also worth seeing are the remains of thirteenth century wall paintings high up above the chancel arch which depict Christ's passion, death & resurrection. Difficult to spot initially, once you find the light to illuminate them, they come to life. These are a rare surviving example of this type of wall art. Madley church is also known for St. Dubricius (Dyfrig in Welsh). Do you remember we met him a few months ago at Hentland Church? It is thought he was born here in the village in 550, and may have founded a church here, maybe the first on this site, before he was called to greater things as the Bishop of Landaff.

Kilpeck Church

The lovely church of St. Mary & St. David in Kilpeck, small in comparison to Madley, is off the main road between Hereford and Pontrilas about 10 miles south of the city. Little documentation exists about the church in earlier times, but it is estimated to have been built between 1135-1140. According to the church website, although this area was almost certainly part of Wales at that period, it was dedicated to a local St David! These days, it is famous for its finely carved Romanesque sculptures, especially those above the South doorway, and those supporting the corbel table which runs the whole way round the church. Mythical beasts can be seen in these carvings: basilisks, serpents, dragons and grotesque heads among them. It is thought that the master craftsmen who created these had their training at Hereford Cathedral in the 1130's and 1140's, where the Herefordshire school of Romanesque sculpture began. There is an interesting parallel, as today you might even have seen the master stonemasons' workshop in Hereford Cathedral Close, adjacent to the Cathedral itself, which works on the cathedral, trains apprentices and also undertakes commissions from around the country. It is fitting that the influence of Herefordshire craftsmen continues to be recognised so widely!



Kilpeck Church is one of the stages in a recently reinstated Pilgrims' Route, called the St. Thomas Way, which runs from Swansea to Hereford ending at the shrine of St. Thomas Cantilupe. In 1290, a Welsh outlaw called William Cragh was hanged in Swansea, by the Norman Lord William de Briouze. But the hanging ended unexpectedly and Cragh came back to life, in what local people understood as a miracle of St. Thomas of Hereford. After William Cragh's recovery, he went on pilgrimage to Hereford, together with Lord and Lady de Briouze, to give thanks at the tomb of St Thomas.

There is so much to admire in this small but perfectly formed building.

Paul MacDermott

Tales from the Chalk Face: On Her Majesty's Service (continued)

We so enjoyed living in Germany. So many exciting opportunities for travel. The little red Golf we had was very well used indeed. It had carried us through many a difficult journey, not least the great snow. People were often amused when we returned from an extended trip, as we stuffed the car to the roof with things we had purchased - ceramics and pottery from a trip to lake Garda. Copper pans and bowls from France. Wine from southern Germany. Austrian hats. Oil lamps from Denmark. Often the car was so full that it was hard to see the two boys stashed away safely in their child car seats.

After our third son, Lawrence was born in the British Military Hospital in Munster, we needed a bigger car. More room for children, and more room for shopping! So, I ordered a Sierra Estate through the British Army Forces network dealer in Dover. The arrangement was that I would collect it from the garage in Dover on Friday 6th March 1987. The head said I could leave school early that day, in order to drive to Zeebrugger for the evening ferry crossing. I was going to leave the Golf there, travel on the ferry as a foot passenger, collect the new car, then drive to stay at my parents' house and return to Germany on Sunday. However, that morning I had a call from the dealer to say, that it wasn't ready and that they would have it freighted up and ship it over free of charge for the next Friday. I was very disappointed. But that evening, we had a frantic call from the UK. Both our mums had seen the news that night telling of the Townsend Thoresen Disaster. The very same ferry that I was booked onto had capsized just 20 minutes out of port, with the loss of 167 lives. I would surely have been another lost life, as I cannot swim. The following week we drove to collect the car and were deeply saddened by the sight of the huge ferry lying off shore on its side, and thanked God that I had not been there the previous Friday.

At the start of the 1987 Autumn half-term holiday, we put the three boys into the car and set off on the long journey though Germany, Holland, Belgium to France to catch the ferry to Dover. The weather worsened all the way. When arrived at the port we found most ferries had been cancelled as the weather was so bad, but we eventually managed to squeeze on to the first one to leave for several hours, it was already dark and quite late when we set sail. On the crossing over things got VERY bad indeed, the ship was tossing and pitching violently. The engines were roaring away but we didn't seem to be moving. Chairs began rolling around the decks tables fell over, people fell over. Some crawled along the floor and were being very ill. We were stuck out on the high stormy seas. After about 4 hours, the Captain announced that they were trying to get into Dover harbour, but it was too dangerous. So we would have to anchor up along with other ships trying to get through, and ride out the storm. That was the worst night ever! We eventually drove ashore in Dover to scenes of devastation. Throughout our journey to London, we were confronted by 100s of fallen trees, floods and blocked roads. We now know we had ridden out the Big Storm!! The funny thing was that Lawrence had slept throughout the entire ferry crossing safe and snug in his carry cot.

We loved our time in Germany. I learned much there, which stood me in good stead for jobs yet to come. But, the boys were getting older, and Lawrence didn't really know who his grandparents were. So we decided to head back to dear old Blighty! After a number of applications for deputy headships, and a few more, less eventful ferry crossings, I had an interview for a rural school in Norfolk. This was the third Deputy head interview I had been invited to. At the end of the interview process, I was told that I was a very close second, as I had been told that in the previous two. But this time the Diocesan Director of Education who had attended the interviews took me to one side, and said that I was his, and the governor's preference. But, the Head didn't want me, he reported. I had too many ideas, and would be a bit of whirlwind, he said. His advice was to apply for all small headships!! So, that is what I did.

Philip Sell



Quiz about the Month of May

- 1 What's the birthstone of May - it represents love and success?
- 2 Which tennis Open Championship normally begins in the last week of May?
- 3 What are the two zodiac signs for the month of May?
- 4 May in the Northern Hemisphere is similar to which month in the Southern Hemisphere?
- 5 Which sweetly scented, highly poisonous flowering plant is the birth flower of May?
- 6 Historically, what sort of dancing has been linked to May Day celebrations?
- 7 Who did Queen guitarist Brian May marry in November 2000?
- 8 'The Third of May 1808', is a painting completed in 1814 by which Spanish painter?
- 9 How long is the lifespan for the adult female Mayfly, Dolania americana: 5 minutes, 5 hours, or 5 days?
- 10 According to a 1732 traditional saying, what should you never cast till May be out?
- 11 What is the more common name for the Mayflower shrub?
- 12 Theresa May was born in which town?
- 13 Victory in Europe Day, known as V-E Day, was celebrated on which day in May, 1945?
- 14 In the nursery rhyme 'Nuts in May', on what sort of morning are the nuts gathered?
- 15 Which American federal holiday, sometimes called Decoration Day, is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May?
- 16 The Mayflower left England for Virginia with which other ship on the 15 Aug, 1620?

May Wordsearch

This month all the words are concerned with the period of time after Easter when three significant events in the Christian story are celebrated. Firstly Ascension day which this year takes place on Thursday 13th May, followed by Pentecost on 23rd May and Trinity one week later on the 30th May. The usual symbols associated with Pentecost are flames, fire and wind

Ascension	Holy
Blessed	Spirit
Taken	Trinity
Jerusalem	Father
Wait	Son
Prayer	Triune
Power	
One	
Room	
Disciples	
Tongues	
Flame	
Joy	
Praise	
Confusion	
Languages	
Earth	
Peter	

G	E	N	T	F	N	E	L	W	E	E	A
I	A	F	L	A	M	E	C	M	O	O	R
L	E	T	N	K	R	R	E	Y	A	R	P
R	N	D	O	E	Y	L	O	H	E	T	E
I	O	E	I	N	A	H	M	T	R	R	T
T	I	Y	S	S	G	O	T	I	P	I	Y
E	S	O	U	P	C	U	N	R	R	U	S
S	N	R	F	W	R	I	E	I	A	N	L
T	E	R	N	A	T	N	P	S	I	E	N
J	C	J	O	Y	T	S	O	L	S	O	E
T	S	K	C	S	I	H	W	S	E	T	L
L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	S	E	S	I
R	T	E	W	B	W	D	R	R	O	P	F

Easy Sudoku

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

Intermediate Sudoku

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

Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust Events in May

Jenni Dutton: Dementia Darnings Exhibition

Coinciding with Dementia Action Week, 17th - 23rd May, we welcome a temporary exhibition by artist Jenni Dutton to Hereford Cathedral. The display will show selected artworks from Dutton's Dementia Darnings series of intimate and intricate tapestries which explore her mother's journey with Dementia after being diagnosed in 2011.

"The series grew as my mother went into a nursing home. As I relinquished her care to other people, I became an observer. I continued to make the work which had now become about universal ageing, about time passing and about documenting her decline due to the development of dementia."

The exhibition will be on display in the North Transept from 17th May - 7th June, with a small selection of postcards available to purchase in the Cathedral Shop.

The exhibition will be available to view during normal cathedral opening hours.

The History of May Fair: An Illustrated Talk:

'All that Fayre commonly called the Nine Dayes Fayre to be kept yearly from tyme to tyme within the month of May'

This online event will be hosted via Zoom on Thursday 27 May at 7pm, lasting around 1 hour.

Tickets cost £5, booking is essential.

Celebrating 900 years since the Bishop of Hereford was granted the right to an annual fair, this illustrated talk by cathedral archivist Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe will pick out some of the highlights of nine centuries of history.

Find out how to open a medieval fair, discover what the Bishop spent the fair profits on, and what happens if you pick a fight during the time of the fair!

Not a Proper Gardener (Part 7)

Gardening has always been for me an important hobby, though in some ways I don't take it very seriously. But, you may ask, does it pay? Financially?

I sometimes look back to my earliest days when, during the war, one very important slogan was "Dig for Britain." We lived on the northern outskirts of Brighton, and my father (a member of Dad's Army!) since our garden was quite small, took on an allotment in which my pet rabbit, Topsy, took a keen interest. To grow our/her vegetables cost very little. "Bees seeds that Grow" were threepence a packet in Woolworths, and a large bag of National Growmore Fertilizer was quite cheap. That was all you needed, save for a compost heap and an occasional free load of manure from a kind farmer. A little soapy water helped deal with aphids and the caterpillars of the white butterfly were fun to 'squidge' between finger and thumb. So yes, growing vegetables was both beneficial and financially worth while.

Today, I doubt I could claim that. We spend perhaps more than we ought on protecting our crops from pigeons and butterflies, slugs and snails, aphids and other pests. But at least we know that the produce is not full of chemicals or other artificials. and it tastes good. So I don't feel guilty about spending money on glass and netting and fancy ways of growing potatoes in bags or pots, or using compost made from wool (experiment this year) for tomatoes in hanging baskets (which, incidentally, do in any case pay their way.) At the time of writing we have tomato seedlings in the propagator (Tumbling Tom, Ferline and Golden Sunrise) and lots of different vegetable seedlings in the growhouse, mostly in my little homemade paper (Church Times!) pots. Of these, Duncan cabbages have just been planted out under hooped netting, and parsnips under fleece till they get established, and there are yet more broad beans ready to plant out; and I've just put out sugar-snap peas, grown in short lengths of guttering, so that they are easily slid off into position. Also, soon to be ready for planting out, in their paper pots, are Welsh onions, pak choi, turnips, red cabbages, lettuce, beetroot, shallot, calabrese, chard...

But if it's profitability you are looking for, then you should grow rhubarb, winter salads under glass, runner beans and fruit. We have soft and hard fruit to last us the whole year. Such stored eating apples as Giles has not yet devoured (three or more a day) are mostly still good, while those deteriorating we stew and eat or freeze. And the cost of growing fruit is minimal provided you are not a proper gardener; just a few grease bands and some codling-moth traps is all we provide, and a bit of potash or bonfire ash if we have it.

So there we are; but once again (April 10th) we battle with a cold snap, just as the plum blossom is fully out, and a frosty week is forecast. Well, we can't win 'em all.

Denis Parry





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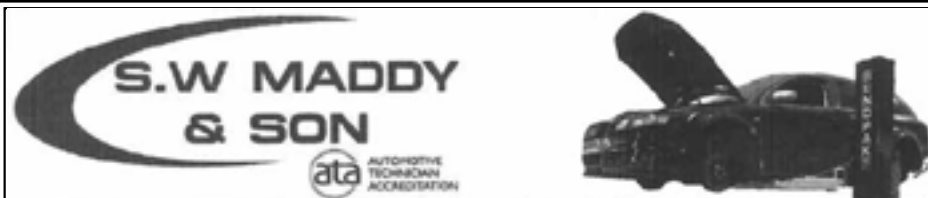
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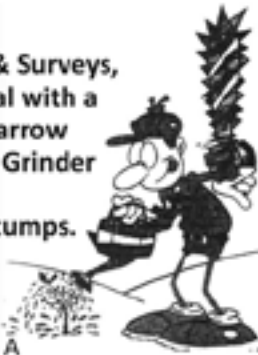
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Ann Edwards on 01544 230271 or Rod Symondson on 01544 231998

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Answers to May Quiz on Page 23

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Emerald | 9 | 2 minutes |
| 2 | French Open | 10 | A cloud (as a word for a piece of cloth) |
| 3 | Taurus (or Taurus) | 11 | Hornton |
| 4 | November | 12 | Estabroome |
| 5 | Lily of the Valley | 13 | 8th May |
| 6 | Morris Dancing | 14 | On a cold and frosty morning |
| 7 | Anita Dobson | 15 | Memorial Day |
| 8 | Francisco Goya | 16 | 2pbeqwell |

... and finally, seen on church noticeboards

The cost of the Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Parish supper Sunday at 5 pm - prayer and medication to follow.

Don't forget the Singles Progressive Dinner, 14 August. Attire is optional.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Thursday at 5 pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become Little Mothers, please see the minister in his private study.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



MATERIAL FOR THE JUNE 2021 PARISH NEWS

by

15th MAY please

to

The Parish News Editor

Arrow Weir House, Kingswood Road, Kington HR5 3HD

or email: freda@sparkiesofkington.com

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

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