

Parish News

Kington, Huntington & Titley

November 2020



SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

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

LLANDRINDOD WELLS

Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON

	461	461	461	461	462	461	461	462	461	461
M-F Coll Days	0600	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1725	1810
M-F Coll Hols	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1725	1810
Sat	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1725	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 Serves all areas of Kington
Arrives DOCTOR'S SURGERY 10.02 & 11.20

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

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THE KINGTON PARISHES

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

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

Message from the editor

Welcome to the November edition of the Parish News, and once again I would like to thank all the people who have sent me such interesting stories of what they've been up to - some of them describing recent events and others giving accounts of past activities. Please keep them coming so that we can have a really interesting magazine which helps people to keep in touch with each other.

If you want anything included in the December magazine, I need to receive it by 15th November. My contact details are at the bottom of page 3 - I'd love to hear from you.

Freda (Editor)

Kington PCC Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting of Kington PCC was held, at last, on October 13th and proved very different from the normal annual event,

In a normal year the APCM is held in April, in the warmth of the Parish House, with opportunities for lively conversations and refreshments in the middle of the evening. The achievements of the previous year are reported and celebrated and all can look forward to the planned events of the summer months.

This year, with fewer attendees than normal, we met in the Church on a damp autumnal evening and had to "socially distance" ourselves in the pews, all dutifully wearing face coverings. The 'Annual Report and for 2019' had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were opportunities for questions and comments. Although 2019 seems a long time ago now and much has happened and been on our minds since then, it was good to have the opportunity to remind ourselves of all that the church, congregation and friends of St Mary's had achieved during 2019 and how much involvement with the community there had been in that year. We all look forward to the future when we can all be out and about again.

The main business of the evening was the election of two churchwardens. Ann Edwards and Rodney Bowdler have been carrying out these roles super efficiently for many years and were duly re-elected. Elections for four PCC members and three Deanery Synod representatives were also held.

Finally, Revd Ben was able to assure everyone that the Church in Kington, after an enforced break, is very definitely open, albeit with differences. The Church is open for visitors every day and the Church choir is singing again for the Sunday services in the Church, which are now live streamed for those unable to attend in person. Community links have been re-established, the latest plan being for Ben to conduct an assembly for the Primary School via Zoom. Plans for the celebration of Christmas are being made - possibly with more taking place outside in the fresh air!

All in all, the meeting was very different - and much shorter than usual! - but the opportunity to celebrate past achievements and successes and look forward to the challenges of the future was much appreciated by all.

Penny Halcrow (Kington PCC secretary)

(The Annual Report and Accounts are available on the Kington Parishes website:
kingtonparishes.org.uk/events - or in the Church.)



Dear Friends

Worth more than many Sparrows

I wonder how many more surprises this extraordinary year still has in store for us? Who would have imagined when we first heard reports of a new virus in a place in China few of us had heard of, that it would go on to spread its insidious and pernicious tentacles across the whole world and have a devastating impact upon the lives and livelihoods of people across the whole globe.

As I write this Governments across the UK and around the world are desperately seeking to do whatever they can to both control the spread of Covid-19 but also protect as much of people's livelihoods and general well-being as possible.

The Welsh Government has today announced a national lockdown in Wales between 23rd October and 9th November. Part of the restrictions include the closure of places of worship so Old Radnor and Kinnerton Churches will, of course, be closed between those dates. Please do hold in your prayers all of those in our communities and our country who are being most affected by these draconian measures across the UK.

While Covid-19 has decimated the lives, livelihoods and so much more of so many people both in this country and across the world it has presented its own opportunities for innovation and I'm reasonably convinced that, at least, some of those innovative ideas will, in themselves, rapidly become some of the treasured traditions of the future.

As I write this we've just completed our rota of Harvest Festivals. The service we used this year was quite distinctive from what we have used in the past and felt entirely appropriate in a fundamentally agrarian community such as these parishes.

Although we were denied the joy of congregational singing we were entertained and entranced by the calibre of our soloists, from the new sound system at Huntington showing how brilliant it is, through St. Mary's Choir, Buttons and Bows and the handbell ringers at Kington.

Nobody who was there will I'm sure forget Malcolm Hughes' renditions at Kinnerton, Harriet Williams' at Titley or even Rebecca Afonwy Jones' at Old Radnor. All of them deserve our most profound thanks for lifting our spirits so magnificently. Will we repeat some of these experiments for Harvest 2021: you bet we will!!

For the Church, as for us all, 2020 has been a year of considerable challenge but also unimagined possibilities and opportunities – will Christmas be different, almost certainly – does that mean worse? No way!!

Whatever Covid-19 has or has not taught us; it's something that we in the Church have always known. We're better and stronger when we work together, people are precious not because of their material wealth or celebrity status but purely and simply because like us they are a precious child of God and as Christ expressed it so beautifully: *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."* (Matthew 10:29)

Each and every life is precious and each and every human life is doubly precious. As we enter the season of Remembrance let's give thanks as we always do for those who've been our guide and inspiration in the past. Let's honour the memories of those who sacrificed themselves during the conflicts of the past and let's redouble our resolve to playing our full part in protecting ourselves and especially those most vulnerable today. Let's also not forget those who've worked with such dedication and devotion this year to cure the sick, provide essential services and support those in need, for that is nothing more and nothing less than Christianity in action, remembering as Christ teaches us in St. Matthew's Gospel that we are all worth more than many sparrows!

With my love and prayers as always.

Ben

Worship in the Kington Parishes: November 2020

Sunday 1st November

Revelation 7. 9-end Psalm 34. 1-10 1 John.3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12
 8.30am: Holy Eucharist: Titley
 10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington

Sunday 8th November

Wisdom of Solomon 6. 12-16
Canticle: Wisdom of Solomon 6. 17-20 or Amos 5. 18-24 Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4. 13-end Matthew 25. 1-13
 8.30am: Holy Eucharist: Huntington
 10.00am: Remembrance Service: Kington
 10.15am: Remembrance Service: Titley



Sunday 15th November

2 Before Advent
Zephaniah 1. 7,12-end Psalm 90. 1-8 (9-11), 12 or 90. 1-8
1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11 Matthew 25. 14-30
 8.30am: Morning Prayer: Titley
 10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington
 11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Old Radnor

Sunday 22nd November

Christ the King
Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95. 1-7 Ephesians 1. 15-end Matthew 25. 31-end
 8.30am: Morning Prayer: Huntington
 10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington
 11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Kinnerton

Sunday 29th November

Advent
Isaiah 64. 1-9 Psalm 80. 1-7 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9 Mark 13. 24-37
 10.00am: Group Eucharist: Kington

Old Radnor and Kinnerton

Following the Welsh Government's announcement on 19th October of a Lockdown in Wales between 23rd October and 9th November; it is with great regret that Public worship at Old Radnor and Kinnerton Churches will be suspended during that period and the Church buildings will be locked for that period. We hope to resume regular worship after 9th November but will await further announcements. Our livestream service from Kington Church will be unaffected.

Sunday November 8th - Remembrance Sunday

Regrettably due to the Welsh Government's lockdown, Remembrance Sunday Services at Old Radnor and Kinnerton are cancelled.

In Titley the Remembrance Service begins at 10.15am and ends at the War Memorial' Kington's Remembrance will begin with a Service in Church at 10.00am.

Following the Service we will process to the Cenotaph for the Act of Remembrance. Please note that there will be NO parade this year.

KINGTON LIVESTREAM SERVICES

As many of you will know we've been experiencing some considerable difficulties in establishing an adequate connection to Kington Church to allow uninterrupted livestream recordings. After many false dawns I am confident that the installation of a fibre connection on 27th October should enable us to have the bandwidth we need (whatever that is!!). Thank you for your patience and please pray that this will be the answer to our prayers.



Ben

Letter from the Archdeacon (the Ven Derek Chedzey)

I write this as the view from my window is looking very autumnal. The leaves are turning and the nights are drawing in, the warmth of summer is slowly ebbing away. This time of year marks a change in the churches year as we move away from Easter and Pentecost and begin to prepare for Advent. In the Church Calendar we have some significant moments coming up and the Kingdom Season is almost upon us. The liturgists and those who plan our lectionary have created a number of markers along the way that help remind us of the role that Kingdom has in our faith. We have All Hallows Eve (Halloween), All Saints and All Souls and then Christ the King. In between we have Remembrance Sunday and in more recent years Armistice Day has taken on new resonance in society as a whole.

These moments all have something in common they are about memory and remembering and they remind us that we belong to something bigger than ourselves. These memories are all the more poignant this year for me as we have just had a significant family funeral. We have been looking through old photographs. It was a very odd feeling as photographs going back to the early part of the last century were recovered. I am sure over time we will as a family sit down and work out who they all are and no doubt scratch our heads as we work out the significance of why certain shots were taken. It struck me that the black and white photographs have lasted far better than colour from the 60's & 70's. I guess most of us of a certain age have boxes of old photographs and possibly even slides. Slide shows feature strongly in my memory as when I was growing up every friend and relative seemed to want to show us their holiday slides. What struck me is that these pictorial records of life are very much a unique part of 20th Century life, everything now

is digital and dare I say it disposable. Now if we don't like them we simply delete them or manipulate them in a computer until they look the way we wanted them too.

These church festivals allow us to remember. All Saints reminds us that we are part of a worldwide church which stretches back through history and we give thanks for the ordinary Christian men and women who worshipped and prayed often in the same churches as we do today who have gone before us. There is a strong and unbreakable spiritual bond between those in heaven who have gone before us, and the those of us living in this present time. The Book of Common Prayer refers to those in heaven as the Church Triumphant and those of us who are here and now as the Church Militant. Strange terms in the 21st Century but it captures well the sense that the Kingdom is both here and yet to come. Those who have gone before us are the great cloud of witnesses that cheer us on that the writer to the Hebrews reminds us of, for we collectively are the Saints.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ...” Hebrews 12:1

All Souls allows us a moment of reflection as we remember with thanksgiving those who have died who we love but see no more. It offers us a powerful window in to God's heart of compassion for those who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones and allows us as a church to accompany one another on that journey. It reminds us too that we have a Saviour who has overcome the sting of death and fulfilled for us the promise of eternal life. It is in the festival of Christ the King that we are reminded that our faith has a Saviour who will return to wind up history and restore God's Kingdom. Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and it is to him and him alone we owe our homage and worship. It marks the end of the Church year with a strong reminder that Jesus Our Saviour is prophet, priest and King.

Ultimately this is a period of reflection, of memories and of thanksgiving like the season of autumn it can feel full of melancholy but it is also one of joy and celebration. In our COVID dominated world it is good to be reminded that there is life beyond ourselves and that there is an unbroken chain of Christian witness going back through the centuries. Sometimes we need to stop and reflect that there is more to life than this present moment, that things will change and we will see a new creation. Until then we simply need to share with each other the joys and tears of our common humanity and remember with thankfulness those who have gone before us in faith who have ensured that we can take forward the message of hope for our world.

Derek Chedzey

KINGTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Due to the Corona virus restrictions
there will not be a meeting in
November

The Sunday lunch to celebrate our Fifty years
is on hold

More details next month
D W Phillips 230683.



Curates Column.

Angels from heaven.

As many of you will know, on the 26th September I was Ordained a Priest at Hereford Cathedral. The service was delayed by three months, due to the restrictions which we are all living under this year, and in contrast to last year's Ordination service, it was a very quiet affair.

That said, during the service, when I turned to look at the small congregation, not only did I see the smiling faces of my close family, in my imagination I also saw the faces of the people of Kington, Huntington, Old Radnor, Kinnerton and Titley. The people who have welcomed and encouraged me in my training, who have let me practice and have let me make mistakes!

Over the weekend of my Ordination, and since, I have received cards and gifts, good wishes, and most importantly I have received prayers. I am very grateful for all, and a very big thank you from me. I am particularly grateful for your prayers, which continue to sustain and uphold me as I learn how to be the Priest that I am meant to be.

For my Ordination, I wore a white stole (a bit like a long silk scarf), often but not always, they are decorated with something meaningful. As we were celebrating the Feast of St Michael and All Angels that weekend, my stole was decorated with images of angels painted on silk.

For me, the angels represented all of the people who have helped me to realise my vocation, and that includes all of you here in the Kington Parishes. Every person I have spoken to in the last eighteen months was represented as an angel. So, you see, it was not hard for me to imagine you all in the Cathedral with me that day, as I carried an image of you on my stole.

Thank you all, for being angels. God bless,

Linda



St Mary's Church Bookclub

This started up again in October, and if you would like to join, please contact Trish by phone on 01544231848 or by email at patriciamaccurrach@gmail.com

Charity Knitting

The Salvation Army in Hereford are now able to take our donations.

Please will you let me have all the knitted goods that you have ready as soon as possible - adult hats, scarves and mitts etc (not children's clothing at this time) Thank you

Irene Phillips Tel 230683

Reader Writes



Our government came in almost a year ago with an unarguable majority to get a lot of things done, most obviously and controversially Brexit. But featuring prominently among the issues that Brexit is expected to resolve is immigration; and our Home Secretary is floating a raft of policy ideas likely to make thoughtful and compassionate citizens (including most Christians) dismayed.

Here's a Kington anecdote; I was in the community shop, well before the pandemic turned our lives upside down, when a youngster came in looking for clothes. Apart from his colour I immediately noticed the Orthodox cross on a chain round his neck. He was an Eritrean economic migrant with a typical and shattering story; easy to imagine his very concerned parents, the life savings, the risks and threats of people smugglers, the desert, Libya, torture and extortion, a dangerous over-crowded boat, rescue "by white people". And God was with me he said with his quiet smile.

And here's a recent headline concerning far away lives. Scientists have been shocked to discover the extent of sea-ice and glacier melt in the last 30 years; they expect sea-levels to rise unavoidably by 1m by the end of this century. If all goes well in other respects, children born today will live to see this. For every 1cm of sea-level rise a million people will be displaced. And that excludes the migration-causing effects of drought and wild fires and deforestation. Let's be profoundly grateful that Extinction Rebellion, including youngsters from the Marches, is prepared to face discomfort and opprobrium to expose the recklessness of our "business as usual" priorities.

There is an uncomfortable underlying factor linking the many and various causes of migration; that is our own implication in most of them. As it turned out it was a huge mistake to invade Afghanistan and Iraq; but we did and should bear responsibility for the tragic consequences. Even the Arab Spring that disintegrated into civil war and repression was exacerbated in Syria by drought and migration to the cities. Bringing it all the way home again to the Co-op in Kington, we should face up to the link between our own consumption and climate breakdown. Surprisingly, it's hard to buy chicken, for example, that hasn't been fattened with soya imported from S America where deforestation continues due to consumption in the rich north.

So what should the Church say to the Home Secretary when she wants to "off-shore" asylum seekers, or to the Prime Minister when he seeks to assert our putative sovereignty? A lawyer, seeking to justify himself, asked Jesus "and who is my neighbour?". He got the timeless story of the good Samaritan. When a traveller was left beaten half to death on a lonely stretch of road going down to Jericho, the priest and Levite walked by on the other side; this is the "business as usual" response. They had meetings and the economy to worry about, and it wasn't their responsibility. Then luckily a despised Samaritan (certainly a foreigner if not an asylum seeker) came along and rescued the victim at his own expense and inconvenience. In the global village, those in flood zones, those in drought stricken nations, those sacking their forests to supply us with meat, those in never-ending wars are all our neighbours. Jesus tells us, following the Samaritan, to "go and do likewise".

Robert MacCurrach

St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

How do the months of October, November, December rate in a normal calendar year? Exciting, forward looking, many events happening and, of course. "busy ness" as one prepares for the great Festival of Christmas.



Usually the same applies to life at St. Mary's. October sees the glory of Harvest and Autumn colours, November sees All Souls/ All Saints Days marked in a special way. The Festival of Remembrance leading on to Advent then, of course, all the special events and services culminating with Christmas Day and, just beyond, Epiphany.

Happy those memories are but we dare to suggest that it serves little purpose to reflect like that, it can make one feel miserable, sad, deprived and with little to which to look forward. We are working hard at St. Mary's to see that we do have things to which we can look ahead albeit in a different way.

Let us remember that not so long ago we were not allowed to meet for worship in St. Mary's. Now we have a faithful gathering each Sunday of an average of twenty five people coming happily together. October, the month of Harvest Thanksgiving and yes we celebrated it with an increased number of people on that day and the Church glowing under an abundance of flowers, foliage and natural fruits, chestnuts, crab apples hips and a mass of hydrangeas and Mr and Mrs or maybe Master and Miss Scarecrow kindly lent by the Rev. Denis Parry. All the sills and ledges bore signs of harvest and we thank, as always, Gill, Lesley and their team who turned up as usual and used all the God-given colours of harvest to give pleasure to those who came. We enjoyed music supplied by St Mary's Choir, the Handbell Ringers and Buttons and Bows. We thank Philip Sell, our Musical Director and all who contributed positively in these difficult times to make it possible for us to celebrate harvest in the first of the expectant three months.

October saw our Annual Church meeting moved from April to October and we thank those who supported that.

It is St. Mary's turn to host the Remembrance Day Service this year and, unless present regulations change, we plan to do just that. If those who come sit as requested to ensure social distancing, all should be well.

Next week we should see decisions made about Christmas dates across the Benefice. We shall try to make Christmas the happy time it usually is at St Mary's and hope that the December Parish News will give you details.

We can tell you that, for some events, you will need boots, scarves, mufflers and thermals so that we can come together outside for some Christmas celebrations.

We shall miss very much the Hospice Tree of Light Service but the Hospice has decided to hold just one service at Hereford Cathedral.

We shall do our best to make what is bound to be a different Christmas a happy time and hope that you will support us as together we add another adjective to the Christmas message and say a "safe", happy Christmas.

Ann & Rodney.

News from Winchester.

Last week I received a letter from Geoffrey Treasure who keeps in touch via the Parish News which I send him every month.

He sends greetings to the many friends he made in the Benefice and an appreciation of the "Parish News"

I quote from his letter

"I must say that it is truly interesting with several outstanding contributions. I am constantly reminded of Kington managing, as ever, to be up to date and traditional. Warm appreciation to all who make the magazine so good".

Thank you Geoffrey, and I do agree that the new look Parish News is splendid. Thank you to all who are contributing to it and, of course, to Freda and Alison who edit and print it. Renewed thanks to all who ensure its distribution regularly month by month.

Ann Edwards.

The Corgi Story - Revving It Up

Sixty six years ago we were still in the grip of post-war austerity and the only means of cheap transport, apart from the bicycle, was a motorbike. It was every young man's dream to own a bike as soon as he reached his sixteenth birthday. The need for transport was much greater if you lived in a rural area; both for work and pleasure. Little has changed in that respect during the intervening years.



For some unknown reason, I had set my heart on owning a Corgi; originally built for the British Air Force during the War as a folding scooter with a 98cc sprite two stroke engine and, 12.5 inch wheels. It was manufactured by Brockhouse Engineering of Southport and is best described as a fairy cycle with an engine. I knew where there was one owned by a local businessman in Chipping Sodbury who, at the time, owned and ran the Glen Cinema in the town. What cinema owner or manager would use such a machine as regular transport today? I had found my dream machine. My only obstacle was finding the money to buy it.

On leaving school at fifteen years and three months, I entered full-time employment as a shop assistant and errand boy at an emporium in Chipping Sodbury that sold groceries, provisions, beer, poultry food and, when in season, seed potatoes, bulbs and rose bushes. On my journey to work I had noticed the Corgi and noted its lack of use. I enquired if it was for sale pointing out that it would be nine months before I could apply for a provisional driving licence. To my utter delight the owner told me he would sell it to me for £20 and keep it until after my birthday in December on the condition that I saved the money in the meantime. My pay at the time was 30/- per week (£1.50 in new money). I gave my mother £1 that left me 10/- pocket money. A quick calculation, and a dip into my meagre savings, meant that a bargain was struck and we shook hands on the deal. I am very grateful to the late Harry Dando, the owner of the Corgi, who both set a test and gave me the incentive to save.

I could hardly wait for my sixteenth birthday to arrive. On the very day I triumphantly presented the £20 and became the proud owner of my first bike. On hearing of the

purchase, my boss remarked that I would invariably be late for work and would never have any money spare.

I have several vivid memories of the Corgi. It had no kick start: you simply pulled in the clutch lever, ran alongside and at the appropriate moment bump started the engine by leaping onto the saddle; simultaneously letting out the clutch and hoping for ignition. This means of starting was fine except in wet or icy conditions. Many a time, during the winter, I had to look out a well swept and salted front path and stealthily creep up to someone's front door. It was then a question of making a mad dash back through the gate hoping that the engine would fire before being discovered by an irate housewife.

Corgis were never really designed for winter use. I remember one occasion rounding the sharp righthand bend at the bottom of Chipping Sodbury High Street at a modest speed. One moment I was mounted in the saddle and the next I was sliding along on my backside. This was most embarrassing as on lookers came to my rescue. The nett result was injured pride but no damage to vehicle or rider.

On another occasion I was late getting home from work (an interesting reversal of the bosses prediction) because the copper fuel pipe came into contact with the rear drive sprocket with disastrous results. It was a weary mile and three quarter's Corgi pushing walk home!

Two other adventures with the Corgi stand out in my mind. The first, as usual, happened in the no man's land between my home in Old Sodbury (yes! there is such a place) and Chipping Sodbury. At this time I was involved with an amateur theatrical group who were staging a play that we hoped would be entered in a drama competition at Cheltenham. I was in a particular hurry one evening to reach the dress rehearsal when I ran into problems. The cause of the trouble was the very poor Miller direct lighting: the headlamp was similar to those supplied with a cycle dynamo set. It was dusk but, fortunately, there was enough light from the nearby street lamps to illuminate the pavement. In the distance I saw a couple of cyclists coming towards me and wondered why I was treated with some odd looks as they increased their speed and gave me a very wide berth. It was after they had passed that I realized that to save time I had put on my costume at home. The outfit comprised a bowler hat (this being before the age of compulsory crash helmets), sport's jacket, dress shirt, bow tie and, on my legs, pantaloons (these were made by my mother from a rather baggy pair of rugby shorts that were padded out and finished off with stripes of gold braid), pink hose and buckled shoes. There was no time to explain my get up and I hope that I had not been recognized.

My eldest brother was involved in the next hilarious happening. On a Sunday afternoon shortly after I had taken ownership of the Corgi, he demanded a trial run of his own. At the time he owned a far superior machine: a 1936 150cc Francis Barnett and knew more about bikes than I did. Naturally, he disregarded the starting instructions and warning I gave him about the initial power surge on opening the throttle that took the uninitiated by surprise. I shall never forget the image of my brother clad in his Sunday best, complete with a very smart camel hair coat, hurtling straight out of the gate, across the road and being thrown into a hedge. He was not best pleased and later, when I swapped the Corgi for his Francis Bamett, I discovered that the latter needed at least a half turn on the throttle before anything happened. However, that's another story and another set of adventures.

Tony Jardine

ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

Bishop Richard's visit to Huntington:

None of the parishioners in the village could remember a visit from the hierarchy at the Diocese. So there was much excitement as Rev. Ben announced that Bishop Richard was to include St Thomas à Becket Church as part of his beating the boundaries pilgrimage. We were squeezed into a tight schedule of eight calls in a day as each church on the Diocesan boundary was scheduled for a visit.

In the churchyard on a sunny Saturday 29th August, the gathered company listened as Bishop Richard expressed the heart of Christian faith as the relationship with God. This involved how we pray and what is discovered, enabling us to draw closer to God and to love and serve others. We followed an Order of Service and prayers were then led by his wife Deborah.



Harvest Thanksgiving:

This year it was our turn at St Thomas' to put on the Harvest Thanksgiving Festival and share it with Huntington URC.

The theme was in praise of and thanks to our farmers. Following tradition, the offering of the fruits of the land were taken to the altar in the form of seeds, vegetables, fruits and flowers and bread, thus ensuring that the community shares in the land's abundance.

Accompanied by Steve Gilling, who has been our resident organist for the past 50 years, Reverend Ben gave a flawless solo rendition of a hymn to the tune of Morning is Broken. Thereafter and during a time for reflection and prayers, Vaughan Williams' Lark Ascending came through hauntingly clear on the newly installed sound system.

Special thanks go to Ness who once again decorated the church beautifully. Thanks also go to all who presented the harvest gifts, and to those who attended.

Silence & Prayer:

The half hour silence and prayer sessions at St Thomas' have started again. The next session will be on Wednesday 28th October commencing at 3:00pm, for half an hour. Everyone is very welcome, whether you wish to come and pray or sit in silence and contemplate. If you'd like to come, please wear a face mask inside church and abide by the social distancing guidelines – and also wrap up well.



Rev. Ben gave thanks and after brief fellowship together, off they went to Presteigne as the next stop.

Peter Kelly – Churchwarden

Annual Parochial Church Meeting & PCC Meeting:

The above meetings were arranged at short notice and were held in church on Thursday 24th September, being postponed from April due to Covid 19. Apologies to anyone who wished to attend but who was not made aware of the date. Minutes of the meetings will be displayed on the church notice board inside the church. *Susan Maiden*

A bit of a pilgrimage (continued from last month)

Just prior to Linda's ordination in September, Linda and I continued our own pilgrimage and visited a number of other relatively local places. Not all are necessarily sites which pilgrims, in the strictest sense of the word, visit or have visited, yet all have an attraction or a pull which if not spiritual, then is definitely of interest in a different way.

St Catherine's church in Hoarwithy, about 8 miles south of Hereford off the road to Ross on Wye, was originally built c. 1840 as a Chapel of Ease for nearby Hentland Parish Church, (itself a place of pilgrimage connected to St. Dubricius). It is beautifully sited, with stunning views across the valley although we did wonder in all honesty how it could be called a Chapel of Ease as you have to climb a very steep path to access it - not for the faint hearted! It was converted in the later nineteenth century and now resembles an Italianate Romanesque church with Byzantine features! In fact, the bell tower reminds me of hilltop churches in Italy, such as the famous San Gimignano in Tuscany with its numerous medieval



towers set against the skyline. Hoarwithy Church has cloister-like external colonnades, which lead you to the stunning interior: inside, there are tall marbled columns and over the altar a domed mosaic ceiling depicting Christ in Majesty. There are many more features to marvel at: beautifully carved choir stalls using local oak, lights modelled on those in St. Marks in Venice, and a Byrne-Jones stained glass window high in the wall depicting the Angel of Doom. It is certainly not what you might expect to find in a South Herefordshire village.

Our next stop on the pilgrimage was to Brecon. Following a picnic lunch by the canal basin, we made our way up to visit the lovely medieval cathedral, set on a ridge not very far from the current town centre. Originally established as a Benedictine priory in 1093 by the Normans, it was home to monastic communities until 1536 when it was reassigned as a parish church. I did feel that there is still today a monastic feeling about the building. It became a cathedral church in 1923, and is dedicated to St John the Evangelist.

In the middle ages, pilgrims visited Brecon to see a golden cross, which formerly hung above a three or four storey screen called the "golden rod", which divided the monks from the parishioners in those times. Sadly, the screen and cross were removed during the Reformation. Surrounding the cathedral is an attractive walled close, unique in Wales, with several other related buildings dating from earlier monastic times, such as a restored Tithe barn which is now a heritage centre. There are many other fascinating historical finds in the cathedral, such as a list of the names of the many bowmen from Brecon and area who

were contracted to fight alongside Henry V at the battle of Agincourt in in 1415, plus an actual sharpening stone reportedly used to sharpen their arrows!

Our first stopping point in the Northern part of the diocese, was a visit to Buildwas Abbey, just a little way from Much Wenlock in Shropshire. Now in the care of English Heritage, Buildwas is situated peacefully on the banks of the Severn in a lovely wooded valley, and was a Cistercian Abbey between 1135 to 1536, dedicated to St Mary and St Chad. The remains of the building we see today are very atmospheric-it lacks a roof, but on the showery day we visited this just added to the ambience, as well as ensuring we had a damp lunch! The crypt has a handsome vaulted ceiling, and there are sections of original floor tiles remaining.

Our next visit, only 2 or 3 miles away was to Wenlock Priory, former shrine and monastery of St. Milburga. By this stage the sun was shining, and we were able to spend longer in this special place, soaking up its feeling of history and peace. This building is on a different scale to Buildwas. I was in awe of the huge pillars still remaining which would have supported the roof of the 350 feet long church! It made me feel very small indeed. There has been a monastery of sorts here since 680, although there are no remains of that original Saxon building. St Milburga was the second Abbess in 687, and reputedly performed miracles. Eventually a large new monastic building was constructed in her honour in the 13th century, and new miracles reported until the monastery was dissolved in 1540. Although the priory is mostly a ruin, you do feel the presence of something, as you wander around. I learnt that pilgrims came here to Much Wenlock and then went on to Shrewsbury Abbey 20 miles away. Today there is the Abbesses' Way, a route which links these 2 sites for the modern pilgrim. Maybe Shrewsbury will be the next stop on our journey, although we are not planning to walk it ourselves!



Paul MacDermott

**Macmillan Kington & District Committee
CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS**

We shall be having a table in the Place de Marines
on

Friday morning 6th November

where there will be a selection of Macmillan charity cards and gift wrap
available for you to purchase.

If you are unable to make it to the Country Market then please contact Teresa Laurie
on 07462 877232 who will arrange for a catalogue to be delivered to you.

Please try and support this local charity.

Twenty's plenty - Free Stickers to brighten up your bins and get the message over to drivers.

KLEEN and the Kington Town Council have worked together to buy some wheelie bin stickers that can be very effective in reminding people that we now have a 20mph speed limit around many of the roads of Kington, particularly near to the Schools.

The combined effect of improving safety for other road users and pedestrians plus reducing particulate emissions must make sense for us. Others studies in the UK have shown that people feel safer to walk and cycle in 20mph zones. It also usually reduces noise levels.

We can supply two of the stickers (one for the black rubbish bin and one for the green recycling bin) free of charge to anyone that wants them, but only one set per household as we have a limited supply, so collect them now. They consist of an A4 sized very noticeable 20MPH red and white round sign with the writing below 'Please drive carefully '

They can be collected from the Locally Kington stall on a Friday morning for the next few weeks, or contact KLEEN by email at Kingtonkleen@gmail.com

We have been trying them out across the town and they have been well received so far by the residents.

KLEEN



Handbell Ringing in Kington

It is sad to report that St Mary's Handbell Ringers are no longer in existence, due to infirmity and ill-health, but the FANDANGO ringers are still going strong. We recently played a musical interlude at St Mary's Church Kington Harvest Festival with words written especially for the event by the Rev Denis Parry. He also wrote some words for Buttons and Bows (a small group of two accordions and one violin). These words were printed on cards that were given to members of the congregation with the pew sheets, and are reproduced on page 22 in this magazine.

The handbell ringers hope to produce some musical performances around churches in the group over the Christmas period. At the present time we have the maximum permitted ringers (six); but if there is sufficient interest we would be willing to start up a second team. You do not need to be able to read music, although this helps, but if you can count up to four and know your left hand from your right then you could learn to ring handbells. It is a fun sort of social activity, where each member of the team relies on every other member to do their best. Will you make mistakes? - of course you will, it does not matter, just be prepared to have a laugh and have fun. If you are interested then let us know on 01544 231780.



Alison and Freda

ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS

Condolences

As a village we send our most sincere condolences, love and prayers to David Forbes following the death of his wife Carol.

Carol had been unwell for some time and passed away peacefully in hospital. She will be greatly missed by us all in the village and church. Carol was part of the team which keeps the church clean and makes sure that the church is beautifully decorated with flowers.



Harvest Festival Service.

It was lovely to see the church full for our Harvest Festival Service. As always the children came up trumps with the lovely baskets of harvest produce which were brought up during the service and placed on the altar. Thank you to everyone who read, and to Harriet Williams who sang so beautifully "Amazing Grace" and "Somewhere over the rainbow". As we cannot sing in church it was great to hear someone sing as opposed to hearing recorded music.

Lastly special thanks to everyone who helped to decorate the church for this special occasion.

Remembrance Sunday.

There will be a service in church on Sunday 8th November at 10am. Following the service there will be the laying of a wreath at the war memorial. If you can not make the service in church please meet at the war memorial at 10.45am.

Christmas Services.

With the Covid restrictions everything is changing on a day to day basis. We all hope we can have our Christmas services but in what form we do not know as yet. Please keep an eye out for posters in the village nearer the time informing us what is possible.

Dick

(I am delighted to let you know that the following two items are the first of a series of articles that Stephen Gilling has agreed to write about the organs and churches in our Benefice and the surrounding area. Ed)

The Organ in Old Radnor Church

My first article on local organs starts at the top of the tree with the organ case at Old Radnor, which is the oldest in the country, dating between 1500 and 1540. Only two pre-Revolution cases are in their original homes, the other is in Kings College Cambridge dating from 1605. The Old Radnot Organ is indexed eight times in the "British Organ" and illustrated twice. One shows it completely pipe-less in a derelict condition before restoration in 1872, and the other in its present condition. Mr Moggeridge, the Vicar at that time, said that some of the old pipes had found their way into local cottages!

Lady Lewis of Harpton Court paid for the restoration. She beat Walkers, the builders, down £3 on the bill (the full cost is not stated) and gave instructions that it should sound “soft and sweet” and she would like “all the loud stops delicately voiced”. The original organ two manuals, is thought to have had five stops on the great and two on the chaire. The present specification is seven stops each on swell and great and a pedal of one stop. This iconic instrument carries a rare Grade 1 Historic Organ Certificate from BIOS the British Institute of Organ Studies.

Another treasure in the Church is its magnificent screen. Both it and the organ may have come from the then flourishing school of woodcarvers at Llanana.

In the choir stalls are remains of the chains once attached to books. They are identical to those found in the chained library of Hereford Cathedral so are probably medieval. A final mention is the ancient tiles behind the screen curtain in the South Aisle.

Much, much older than all the aforementioned is the massive font at the church door which may have come from Five Stones nearby.



Bibliography

The Organ: Sumner 1952

The British Organ: Clutton & Niland 1963

Church Organs: Sutton 1866

Some Local Music Stories

Henry Williams Baker, the Victorian Vicar of Monkland, was the prime mover behind the birth of Hymns Ancient & Modern, first published in 1861. Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, the son of a Rear-Admiral, he contributed from his own resources for the rebuilding and refurbishing of Monkland Church.

A bachelor, his views of women in church was extreme, if in keeping with Victorian times. He wrote *“If the organist must be a woman, she could enter and leave her post through a separate vestry door, without inflaming the passions of the opposite sex”!* This, in fact, happened at Monkland; the lady organist, wife of the itinerant choir master of the Herefordshire Choral Union, reached the organ through an external door to the vestry. Once there, she was cocooned at the console, facing the altar, with only her head and shoulders visible to the men of the choir.

Baker wrote the words to many hymns such as “The King of Love my shepherd is” and “Lord, Thy word abideth”.

Rev. Chignell, Rector of Huntington in the 1960’s, would recount how his father, a Worcester friend of Edward Elgar, would bring out his freshly composed pieces to dry on an internal clothesline.

Rev. Monkley pastor of the Baptist Chapel, also in the 1960's remembered the Ken Russell film on Elgar shot at Plas Gwyn, Elgar's Hereford home, then owned by Mr Monkley senior. Elgar, keen on chemistry, carried out experiments in his small basement, and once managed to blow out a window. So a temporary window with plastic panes was substituted, to fall out during filming.

George Frederick Bodley, my favourite designer of organ cases, died in 1907, aged 80. He is buried at Kinnersley. I was first drawn to his work by the half dozen cases shown in the "British Organ". His large horizontal gravestone resembles his cases – Gothic in appearance with much Latin script. His widow, also buried at Kinnersley, later married a Captain Halfpenny. The story has rather a strange ending; to quote an information board in the church "Captain Halfpenny had forgotten to include an item which he had requested to be placed in her coffin. A tube was drilled down into the grave and the item dropped down through it".



The Kinnersley organ case was designed by Bodley and much of the roof and wall decoration.

Bibliography

Hymns Ancient & Modern
and Henry Williams Baker:
The British Organ:

Leominster History Study Group 2013
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Stephen Gilling

Not a Gardener (Part One)

Not a gardener, at least, not like Monty Don and others of that ilk; and yet I have always enjoyed gardening in a sort of rough and ready fashion. I started at about the age of four, I suppose, being allocated a little plot of my own in which to grow radishes and nasturtiums and things like that. And so, having a bit of garden became a lifelong necessity. Moreover I've



always felt that if one has a bit of this planet it is more or less incumbent upon one to cultivate it, doing one's bit to produce food in a world where hunger is such a scourge. So, when moving one August into a house with a garden which was a blank sheet (save for a bit of a shrubbery and three ancient apple trees) the first thing I did, even before unpacking indoors, was quickly to dig a patch and sow some land cress and other winter salads, protecting them with cloches.

Then I set about planting trees. In the front garden I chose to plant the four traditionally to be found in a mediaeval herb garden: walnut, mulberry, medlar and quince. The walnut was a mistake: it quickly grew too big and as it produced its first nut I was obliged to cut it down. The medlar, variety Nottingham, was fine until broken accidentally as a football which had come over the hedge was being retrieved. Until then it did well, and my wife and I, on Sunday evenings, enjoyed eating one or two medlars, well blotted of course (= rotting) with a little cheddar cheese and a tot of port. The tree survives, but only just. The quince, variety Vranja, has pretty pink flowers in spring and produces large yellow fruits which can be used in various ways. It was nearly blown down by a gale early on and needs support if it is to survive, as we hope it will. But the triumph was the mulberry, a large tree, shading the drawing room in the summer and letting in the sunshine after leaf-fall and producing, year after year, loads of fruit, specially delicious eaten with ice-cream, easily preserved by bottling or freezing and, for those who eat jam, very good. This year, however, has proved an exception: frost on 14th May came at the very worst time, just as the fruits were forming. Never mind, the tree deserved a year off. Also that first year I had four odd trees from Lyonshall Nursery for £3 each. These I planted in the hedge. One was a eucalyptus which lasted about five years before the frost got it. The others were (1) a lovely yellow crab from which branches have been used to decorate the church for harvest (but not this year!) I also used some of those crabs one year to make St Jude's jelly with some funny little grapes from our vine, (2) a nondescript apple, used for cider, (3) one I've failed to identify, not very special, but at least it's a tree.

So far as the back garden is concerned I must mention two rather special apple trees. In 1999, just as we moved in, Herefordshire Council amazingly decided to promote the cultivation of five vintage varieties; £7 per tree including a stake and tie. We were allowed two, and I chose Adam's Pearmain and Pitmaston Pineapple. This latter features in a novel by Tracy Chevalier entitled *At the edge of the orchard*. It is a little sweet yellow eating apple with an after-taste of pineapple. It keeps well, and this year the tree is heavily laden. However as most of the apples have been invaded by a little protein (though that doesn't seem to worry Giles) I am using a lot of them in making cider. Like Adam's Pearmain it seems to fruit biennially, so there may not be many next year. That Adam's Pearmain has also done very well this year. It is, as its name suggests, a bit pear-shaped, stores well (we have eaten them right until May) and is in any case best kept until after Christmas, by which time it has matured.

All these apple trees I planted complement our three ancient relics (of some former orchard perhaps). Two of these yield plenty of large green cookers, organic and therefore mostly imperfect, weighing up to a pound each, and wonderful for bottling, and Emma's favourite, which we call the Jesse Tree because it fruits on an offshoot of a large, mostly hollow and apparently dead, ivy throttled trunk.

A last word. If you have a garden, consider planting an apple tree; easy to care for, it will reward you richly. Our little James Grieve, also in the front garden, is on a dwarf rootstock, so has grown to only about five feet in height. It produced 30 dual-purpose apples in its second year of being planted (in 2000) and more than that every year since. Happy gardening!

Denis Parry

Harvest Music at St Mary's

Below are some of the words written by Revd. Denis Parry and set to well known tunes for the Harvest Festival at St Mary's. They were performed by the handbells and the music group, and sung as a solo by Philip Sell. They really are excellent, and we are very lucky that we can call upon Denis to use his poetic skills in this way, particularly at this time when congregational singing is not allowed.

Freda



BUTTONS & BOWS

Tune: Edelweiss

Harvest loaf, harvest loaf,
pride of place on the altar.
Best of bread, best of bread
next to a jug of clear water.
These we extol at this harvest time,
in our glad thanksgiving.
Harvest loaf, harvest loaf,
given to feed all things living.

Best of bread, best of bread,
baked for harvest thanksgiving.
When we eat such a treat
what are we really receiving?
Labour of farmer, of miller, cook,
so much work and weather.
Sun then rain, drought again
all this mixed up together

Daily bread, daily bread,
flour, water and leaven.
Here below, knead the dough,
filled with the Spirit from heaven.
Suffer it must, left three hours to prove,
captives freed from prison.
Make and bake, take and break,
for your sake I AM risen!

HANDBELL RINGERS

Tune: Men of Harlech

Autumn brings an invitation
to God's rural celebration:
all the bounty of creation
she provides for free.
All the wild things make selection
from this bountiful collection
storing it for safe protection
from what's soon to be.

Winter brings a gale,
frost and ice and hail;
snow and sleet they cannot eat;
to store this precious food they must not fail.
So like us, provision needing,
hide they their stores for winter feeding,
Mother Nature's warnings heeding.
Harvest's safely home.

Autumn breezes, gently blowing,
shed their leaves, such colours glowing,
floating gently earthwards, showing
summer time is past.
Hips and haws light up the hedgerows
where the loaded bramble vine grows;
bullace, hazel nuts and sloes
all ripe (for gin) at last.

And a sight amazing,
where the sheep are grazing,
pink-gilled mushrooms from the grass
their tasty polished crowns are shyly raising,
while tall chestnuts and old crab trees
nuts and apples drop as they please.
All are for this harvest praising
our amazing God.

Go'n'knit in Kington

Here is the pattern for slippers that I promised last month. It uses VERY thick yarn - ie super chunky or two or three strands of aran yarn, and large needles (8 - 10mm). The tension is 8 sts and 16 rows to 4 inches, measured over garter stitch, so use whatever combination of yarn and needles that gives you the right tension. There are four sizes and the pattern is very stretchy so it should fit a range of feet sizes from child to adult. They will appear to be far too small (about half size) when you make them, but they are designed to stretch onto the foot to give a good fit.



First side of slipper

Cast on 17(19,20, 22 sts.) Knit 7(9, 11,13) rows

Row 1 (wrong side) Knit 4 (4, 5,5) then purl to end of row.

Row 2 Knit

Row 3 repeat row 1

Row 4 Cast off first 6 (7, 7, 8) sts. Knit to end of row. 11 (12, 13, 14) sts remaining.

Shape opening

Row 1 (wrong side) Knit 4 (4, 5, 5), Purl 4 (5,5,6) Knit 3

Row 2 Knit

Repeat rows 1 and 2 2 (3, 4, 5) more times.

Next row Knit 4 (4,5,5), purl 4 (5,5,6), Knit 3. Cast on 6 (7,7, 8) new sts at end of row .
17 (19, 20,22) total stitches.

Second side of slipper

Row 1 (right side)Knit

Row 2 Knit 4 (4, 5,5) then purl to end of row.

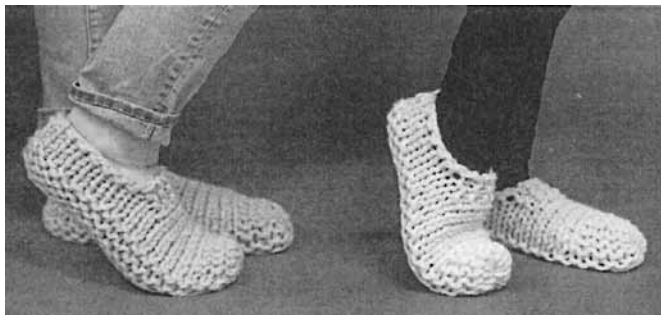
Row 3 Repeat row 1

Row 4 Repeat row 2.

Knit 7 (9, 11, 13) rows. Cast off leaving an end of yarn about 20 inches long for sewing up.

To make up

Turn the slipper to the wrong side and using the end of yarn, gather the toe end of the slipper to make a rounded shape. Fold it in half and sew the the edges together across the toe, along the bottom and up the heel. Turn inside out and make another to match.



I have washed mine in the washing machine at 30 degrees and have tumble-dried them and they stay very well in shape.

If you want a pattern for a particular type of garment, please let me know and I will find a pattern to print. Happy knitting

Freda

Young Churchman by Denis & Emma Parry

Penny for the Guy! Tune: "Hoosen Johnny"

Come dip your hand into your pocket, Penny for the Guy, sir;
And help us buy a squib or rocket, Penny for the Guy.

(chorus: Penny for..Penny for.. Come dip...Penny for..)

We've built our bonfire on the common, Penny for the Guy, sir;
You'll see the flames a-commin' from'un, Penny for the Guy.

(chorus)

We've made the Guy and dressed him proper, Penny for the Guy, sir;
So be a sport and spare a copper, Penny for the Guy.

(chorus)

So began a ballad opera I prepared a lifetime ago for my juniors who were always into drama in a big way. It told the story of the chant: *Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot.*

A ballad opera tells a story with some dialogue and action and songs set to folk song tunes. The story in *Penny for the Guy* begins on the evening of 26th October, 1605. Lord Monteagle was dining with friends when he received, anonymously a letter, the gist of which I turned into this song, one of the six included.

(Tune "Glenlogie")

Dear Lord Monteagle, take care I you pray
And from Parliament House on the 5th keep away
Of the love that I bear to your friends I advise
As you tender your life some excuse then devise.
God and mankind now together conspire
To punish the wicked - then to safety retire
And await the event, for though nothing yet show
There shall come at this parliament a terrible blow!
Mark well this letter; it may do you good
Of harm it bears nothing, observe it you should
And when you have burned it, all danger is past
And may God of his grace bring you safe home at last.

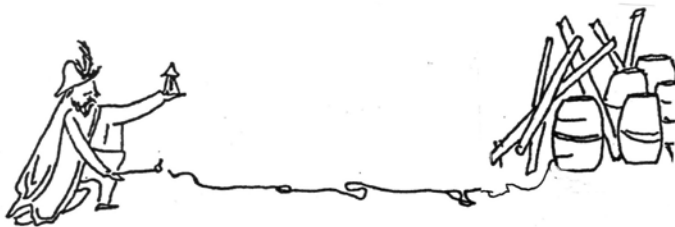
Lord Monteagle wasted no time in alerting the Privy Council and King James 1st, who immediately thought of gunpowder, for his own father had been blown up! He suspected a Catholic plot and he was right. Robert Catesby was the ringleader and others included Thomas Percy, John Wright and Thomas Winter and, of course, Guido Fawkes. Their plan was (**All in the name of Christ**) to blow up the Houses of Parliament with gunpowder when it re-opened on 5th November and the King, a Protestant, would be present. So, starting right back on 11th December 1604, they began stealthily to build and underpin a small tunnel into the cellar under the Lords' chamber. It took many months, but eventually the 36 barrels of gunpowder were



ferried secretly from Catesby's house by the Thames where they had been stored. On November 4th at 10pm Guido took up his position and Thomas Percy gave him a watch so that he might light the fuse at exactly the right time.

However, just before midnight Sir Thomas Knyvet arrived with a small band of men and, seeing Guido lurking in the shadows, arrested him; so in the nick of time the game was up. The plotters were all eventually rounded up. The lucky ones were shot, the others captured and tortured until they confessed and then hanged, drawn and quartered. **(All in the name of Christ!)**

Guy Fawkes was hanged, not burned, yet every year at this time we light our fires and burn his effigy. Burn, probably, because traditionally, certain pagan bonfires were commonly lit at this time of the year.



What can I do with all these apples?

Last month, Denis told us how to make cider, so this month we continue the theme with other suggestions for using up surplus apples. More recipes next month.

Apple Cake *(sent in by Priscilla Scott)*

2 eggs	250ml rape seed oil
400g castor sugar	275g plain flour
2tsp ground cinnamon	1tsp bicarbonate of soda
500g apples cored, peeled and diced	

Preheat oven to 180C/gasMk4 Lightly grease and flour a 20x30cm tin Beat eggs and rape seed oil until smooth and foamy. Add sugar, flour, cinnamon, bicarbonate of soda and mix well before stirring in the apples. Put the mixture into the tin and bake for 30 to 40 mins. Cool in the tin for 10 mins before removing. Serve warm with cream or cold cut in squares.

Apple and Almond Pudding *(Delia Smith)*

450g cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced		
110g ground almonds	50g soft brown sugar	110g butter
110g golden caster sugar	2 large eggs, beaten	

Place the apples in a saucepan with the soft brown sugar and approx 1 tbsp water, and simmer until soft. Place them in a buttered ovenproof dish (about 1 litre capacity). Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl cream together the butter and golden caster sugar, then beat in the eggs and then fold in the ground almonds. Spread this mix over the apples and bake at 180C/gas Mk4 for about 1 hour. Serve with cream, yoghurt or custard.

November Crossword

Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all — , Lord of all — , whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)

9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you — your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline — (2,3)

11 'At even — the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay' (3)

13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)

16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but — for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4) 1 7 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)

18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must — God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4) 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, — Eareckson Tada (4)

21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat — — ' (Matthew 13:2) (2,2) 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)

25 Tree (3) 28 'No fear of me should — you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5) 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem... how — I have longed to gather your children together' (Matthew 23:37) (5)

3 Way out (4) 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4) 5 Done (anag.) (4)

6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7) 7 Concerning the study of God (11)

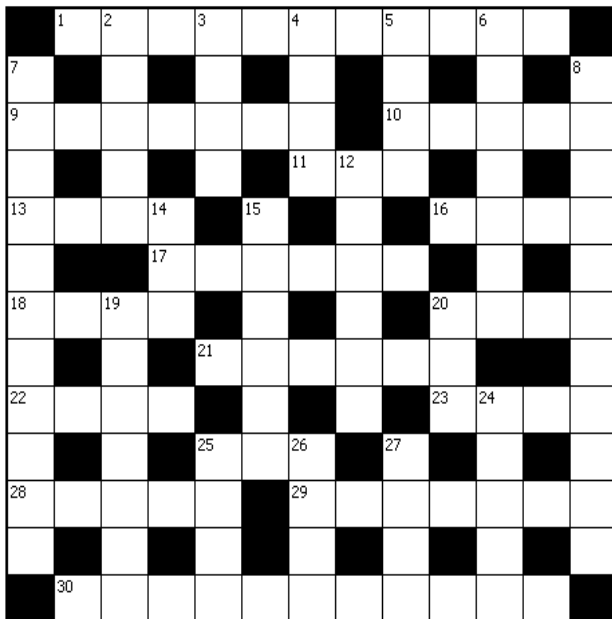
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11) 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)

14 Frozen (3) 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7) 20 See 1 Across 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag.) (4) 26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the — of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)



Answers to October Crossword

ACROSS : 1 Dare, 3 Cherubim, 9 Son Tohu, 10 Yield , 11 Ranch, 12 Enlist, 14 Baalah of Judah, 17 Edward, 19 Sheol, 22 Media, 23 Open air, 24 Apostasy, 25 Eton DOWN: 1 Describe, 2 Run in, 4 Household gods, 5 Royal, 6 Blessed , 7 MIDI, 8 Joshua, 13 Children, 15 Added to, 16 Jasper, 18 Await, 20 Exalt, 21 YMCA

A word from St Hugh's

In our small wood we had an ambitious plan in 2005 to find space to plant fruit trees. It was an experiment to attempt small scale agro forestry. The project was exceptionally naive at an altitude of 330 meters, exposed woodland edge and competition for light from already established Sweet Chestnut Coppice. The plan was highly unlikely to succeed.

However, during the last six years the fruit trees have provided St Hugh's Larder and the woodland wild life with apples, plums, pears, damsons and nuts. The appearance of the fruit isn't of supermarket standard, but the flavours are rich and unique according to their different varieties.

The trees gnarled from canker have self healed. They are bent from prevailing winds and, from a fruit growers perspective, not really in the right place to plant fruit trees.

As with many aspects of St Hugh's, our thoughts and ideas are rooted in prayer, and initially the fruit tree project might have been perceived as unsuccessful. However, we are naturally drawn into this significant "fruiting oasis", and frequently it is the place where the natural world greets us and will often surprise us.

Anything is possible!. Close encounters with Roe Deer; occasionally summer joy as a Silver Washed Fritillary glides it's way through the trees; a glimpse of a Fox at close quarters. Consequently, watching and waiting alongside the natural world can also be an exceptional "fertile place" to feel the inner presence of God.

For those who have followed the events of this summer's bird activity, we are pleased to report the following:

10 boxes used by Pied Flycatchers fledged successfully 53 youngsters.

6 boxes used by Blue Tits fledged successfully 27 youngsters.

2 boxes used by Great Tits fledged successfully 8 youngsters.

Please feel free to contact us for prayers, queries about St Hugh's, or if you need any other information.

Peter and Pauline Swain.

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

Intermediate Sudoku

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

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Kington and its Churches – a Fresh Look

Visitors to Kington can be quite surprised at the site and size of the parish church, in a relatively small town, and are always pleased by its condition. To emphasise both – which are not accidental – relies on some background knowledge of the developments through history of this part of Herefordshire, which is primarily a border county, and this has always been a factor. Kington, as a settlement, and later a town, is here because it is on the site of a river crossing, but there are two directions to consider.

The oldest crossing is south to north, of Celtic origin at least, and is aimed at Bradnor, the site of an Iron Age hill fort, and crossed the main part of the Arrow via an island in the river, and then climbed a prominent hill, at the top of which the site of Bradnor Fort could then be seen. The name has survived in a so called “Campion Lane” (really Camp Hill Lane) leading from that local prominence down towards a Back Brook crossing.

However, there was another route to consider, as in the post Roman period, Christian evangelists from the region of St David’s in the far west, were aiming at the West Midlands, which had not had much contact with the Church, and they made use of the remnants of the Roman Road system, but had to avoid the lower Wye area due to flooding, and crossed higher up, and made use of these crossing sites to establish the beginning of a local church, many of which have survived, such as Disserth and Cregrina and probably Gladestry.

As their route lay alongside the north of the Arrow, it passed through our area more or less along the line demonstrated by Mill Street, High Street and Duke Street to Sunset, to cross the Back Brook there, and Sunset is a name corrupted from a word meaning raft or plank. As they often did, a site nearby was chosen for a church, and near Sunset this is demonstrated by the existence of an ancient lane, Church Lane leading to a nearby site, (but unfortunately the sign has been lost and the Town Council has not bothered to have it replaced). These two routes crossed near the Crab Tree where there may have been some settlement. The route down the north side of the Arrow Valley reached Leominster (which is still only one of two English Churches to commemorate St David).

The arrival of the Anglo Saxons in the following era was that of a mainly pagan tribe, and they settled quite extensively in this area, and it is likely that the hill top of the summit of the North-South crossing was chosen as a site for pagan celebrations, very common elsewhere in the Midlands. This could be linked to the site of a nearby settlement, still named “the Wyche”, which means in old high German a place of jurisdiction.

Following the arrival of St Augustine, and in particular the appointment of the new Archbishop – Theodore – evangelization of Mercia began in a serious way, with the later followers of the original Celtic evangelists, having gone north to Iona and then across to Lindisfarne, and reaching this area via Presteigne (St Andrew’s), when serious flooding was in effect, and had to cross upstream via Hergest to reach our area, and were probably granted the site of the original pagan celebrations for a new church, often close to a site of local authority as the local chief would have been a patron of the local church.

The disturbances of the early 11th Century have obscured the nature and name of any church, which was probably quite important, as when Wessex earlier took over Mercia, King Athelstan of Wessex gave the name locally as Kington and the Church was then noted as a Minster in charge of a large area with a lay abbot, but when the Normans arrived, they had a lot of tidying up to do and rebuilding started in the late 11th Century.

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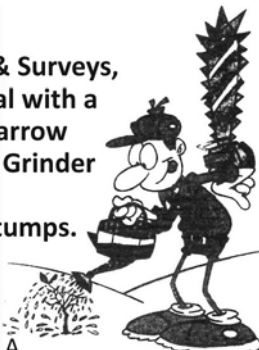
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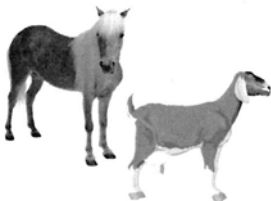
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COFFEE ROTA

There will be no coffee in church until further notice.



And finally . . .

Mother's reward

A man was decorating his new study and decided it was a good place to display all the awards he and his two sons had won at various athletic competitions. When he had filled two whole walls, he remarked to his wife that it was a shame she had no awards to contribute. The following day, she produced, neatly framed, the birth certificates of their two sons, and added them to the display.

Mothers and teenagers

A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son. "I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed," she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help. "Easy. My son sleeps with the dog."

Noah had problems too

When Noah sailed the waters blue,
he had his troubles same as you.
For forty days he drove the Ark
before he found a place to park.



MATERIAL FOR THE DECEMBER 2020 PARISH NEWS

by

15th NOVEMBER

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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