

Parish News

Kington, Huntington & Titley

April 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 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

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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Vicar's email: vicar@kingtonparishes.org.uk
Parish Office email: office@kingtonparishes.org.uk

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Rev Denis Parry 33 Mill Street, Kington HR5 3AL 01544 230550
Rev Tony Jardine 9 Park Green, Kington 01544 239160
Rev Paul Buckingham The Cottage, Prospect Lane, Kington HR5 3BE 01544 231357

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Huntington Mrs Christina Powell 01544 370655
Upper Hengoed, Huntington, Kington HR5 3PQ
Mr Peter Kelly 01544 370266
Greenfield Farm, Huntington, Kington HR5 3PZ

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

Kinnerton Mrs Ruth Jones:
Upper House, Kinnerton, Presteigne, LD8 2PE 01547 560207
Mr Michael Symons 01547 560319
Church House, Kinnerton, Presteigne LD8 2PE

Titley Mr Dick Allford 01544 231052
Pincroft, Titley, Kington, HR5 3RL

MAGAZINE EDITOR

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

Letter from the Bishop of Hereford

I've lost count of the number of times people have said to me, "everything happens for a reason." It is normally in response to a personal tragedy or unexplained event. I often wonder what evidence lies behind that assertion. The desire to see meaning in the apparent chaos of the world seems entrenched. Of course, It could be an evolutionary artefact, like seeing patterns in the clouds, leftover from a need to make sense of the world so our ancestors didn't get eaten by sabre-tooth tigers! Faith in that sense would be believing something in spite of the evidence, or despite evidence to the contrary.

Christians use the word faith very differently. In the New Testament, it's not seen as an abstract quality, where someone might have 15 units of it, another 30 or another 5. It's always faith in something, much more akin to trust than a set of intellectual convictions. For the first disciples, it was staking their lives, both now and in eternity, on something they passionately believed to be true. The root of their (and our) conviction is that Jesus rose from the dead. They witnessed it with their own eyes. We continue to believe the evidence for this historical event is compelling and have experienced the lifechanging reality of encountering Jesus. To speak of the resurrection as a metaphor or in spiritual terms like 'he rose in their hearts' would have made no sense whatever to the disciples. The reality was difficult to comprehend, but they couldn't deny the evidence of their own eyes and fingers as they reached out to touch him.

The resurrection was the final evidence they needed that the claims Jesus made during his earthly life were true. This was more than just a man, but in a real sense, God squeezed into human form. St. Paul put it very starkly, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God!"

How very joyous then, that He has!! Christ is risen: He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

+Richard

WALKING THROUGH THE EASTER GARDEN

Have you ever been able to walk though an Easter Garden. From looking in horror up at the crosses on the hillside to walking down and into a garden and in the garden a tomb.

Have you wondered what it might feel like to peer down and gaze into the tomb – to see the grave clothes as the Gospels describe them?

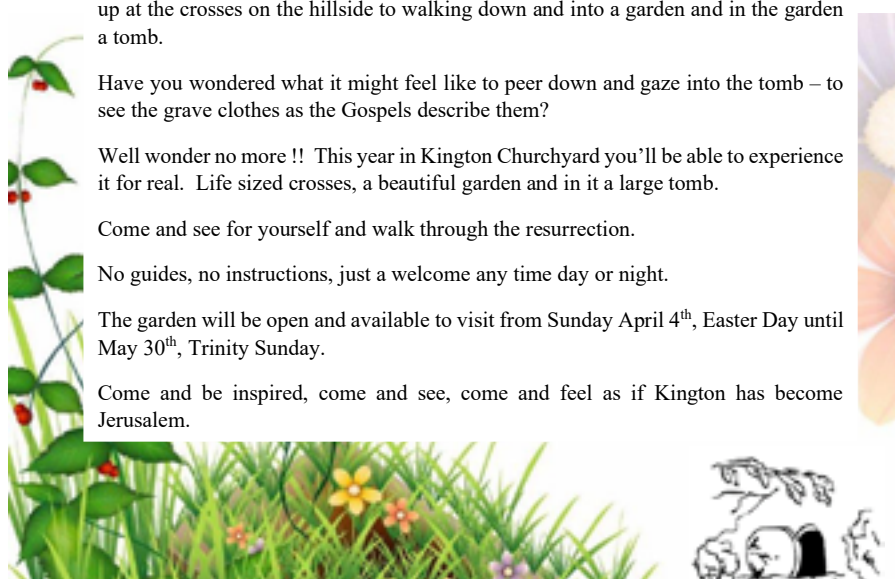
Well wonder no more !! This year in Kington Churchyard you'll be able to experience it for real. Life sized crosses, a beautiful garden and in it a large tomb.

Come and see for yourself and walk through the resurrection.

No guides, no instructions, just a welcome any time day or night.

The garden will be open and available to visit from Sunday April 4th, Easter Day until May 30th, Trinity Sunday.

Come and be inspired, come and see, come and feel as if Kington has become Jerusalem.



View from the Vicarage

Dear Friends

Back in 1981 a British gangster film was released which went by the intriguing title: "The Long Good Friday". Sadly the content of the film had nothing whatsoever to do with Christ's Passion and Death. It seems to me, however, that the title "The Long Good Friday" probably feels more descriptive of our own life experience this Lent than it has done for any year perhaps since 1945.

For many people it seems the last months of national lockdown since Christmas have been the most traumatic and testing of the whole experience of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Is it, because, we're all beginning to feel a sense of desperation of emotional fatigue, craving the return to the close physical interaction with our families and the mundane activities which perhaps we took for granted? As one illustration of that, I think a great many people miss singing together, in a way I am sure they wouldn't have conceived before last March.

This may not perhaps have been a Long Good Friday but I'm sure that it has felt like a very protracted Lent. Deprived of some of the activities and experiences which provide colour and variety, life can begin to feel very bleak and unpromising. I'm absolutely convinced that all of you are striving for the end of restrictions and a return to at least comparative normality.

Like a nation of jack-in-the-boxes we're all eager for freedom, for normality, for the engagement with those we love and that, of course, is a perfectly natural, entirely normal human reaction. But, it seems to me that if we rush too fast heading into the post lockdown environment then we're in very grave danger of missing one of the most vital lessons it has to teach us.

It's rather like what we do in church on the real Good Friday. We're so keen to have our churches looking at their best for Easter that, as soon as possible we put aside the sombre trappings of Holy Week and Good Friday and out come the flowers etc of Easter.

I remember once visiting a Church in Norfolk where they stripped it for Good Friday before the Service on Good Friday and dressed it for Easter immediately afterwards. It felt rather as if Good Friday was nothing more than an unwelcome interruption to the natural course of events.

Now, before a battalion of our wonderful flower arrangers think that this is criticism of them: it isn't!! But if we're to truly rejoice in the joy and the triumph of Easter, then we have to spend our time focussing on the sorrow, the grief and the trauma of Good Friday.

In the same way, if we really want to relish the prospect of a world in which Coronavirus restrictions are lifted permanently then we need to approach changed circumstances with care and caution, exercising a degree of patience which may feel unnatural and for some unnecessary

By the time that you read this I expect that over 130,000 people in the Country will have died from Covid-19. That's 130,000 lives cut short, that's 130,000 grieving families and that, of course, excludes the 1000's of others who've died from different causes during this extraordinary 12 months.

Let's not allow ourselves to paper over the suffering, to relax our guard and caution before it is truly safe to do so, because if we can together guarantee that this lockdown really is the last then finally the Long Good Friday will be over, and we can truly rejoice in the triumph of a world made new which is the real and abiding Easter Joy.

With that, I'd like to wish you all a happy and blessed Easter.

With my love and prayers as always,

Ben

Holy Week and Easter in the Kington Parishes

Holy Week is the pre-eminent week in the whole Christian year leading up to the triumphant Day of all days on Easter Sunday.

In accordance with Coronavirus Restrictions our worship this year will be socially distanced and people will be required to wear face-coverings unless exempt, but we are still offering the breadth of opportunities to enable all of us to walk with Christ through his passion and death, so that we shall also gather with joyful wonder at the Empty Tomb on Easter Morning.

Palm Sunday

Join us for the blessing of palms and reminder that Covid-19 or not we're still here.

Maundy Thursday @ 7.00pm*

We gather in Kington Church to recall Christ's final meal with his friends.

Good Friday

Good Friday begins with Morning Prayer and the Litany with its powerful reminder of Christ's suffering but also his care and concern for the whole of creation.

At 2.00pm* in Kington we keep the final hour at the cross and we'll end by standing by the three crosses on the hillside of our life sized Easter Garden.

Finally at Old Radnor we'll gather by the tomb as Christ is buried.

Easter Eve

Surely the most powerful and beautiful moment of the Christian year – As we gather in the darkness for the lighting of the fire and the Candle which symbolizes Christ the Light of the World, and in a candle-lit church hear the great Song of Praise. The Exultet sung unaccompanied by a solo voice.

Easter Day Alleluia, Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia

All of our churches will be celebrating the Resurrection – there may even be some chocolate Easter Eggs – you never know. At Kington we will end by gathering at the empty tomb in the Easter Garden.

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

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/UCh0108zE6VUpNGQAmmfA90A>

Thursday 1st April: Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12.1-4 (5-10) Psalm 116.1,10-end 1 Cor 11. 23-26 John 13.1-17, 31b-35
* 7.00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper Kington



Friday 2nd April: Good Friday

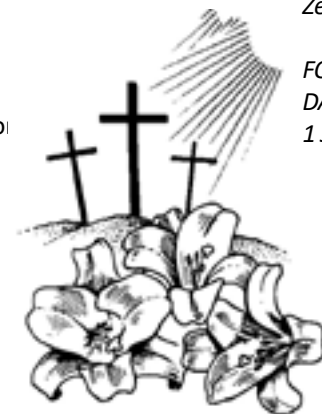
9.00am Morning Prayer and Litany Titley
* 2.00pm The Last Hour Kington
6.00pm At The Tomb Old Radnor

Saturday 3rd April: Easter Eve

Genesis 1: 1-2:4(a) Exodus 14:10 - end Exodus 15: 20-21
Ezekiel 36: 24-28
* 8.00pm Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter Kington

Sunday 4th April: Easter Day

Romans 6. 3-11 Psalm 118. 14-24 Acts 10. 34-43
Mark 16. 1-8
8.30am Holy Eucharist Huntington
8.30am Holy Eucharist Kinnerton
* 10.00am Holy Eucharist Kington
10.00am Holy Eucharist Titley
6.00pm Holy Eucharist Old Radnor



Sunday 11th April: Easter II

Exodus 14. 10-end Acts 4. 32-35 Psalm 133 John 20. 19-end
* 10.00am Group Eucharist Kington

Sunday 18th April: Easter III

Zechariah 3. 14-end Acts 3.12-19 Psalm 4 Luke 24. 36b - 48
8.30am Holy Eucharist Titley
* 10.00am Holy Eucharist Kington
11.30am Holy Eucharist Old Radnor

Sunday 25th April: Easter IV

1 John 3:16-end Acts 4. 5-12 Psalm 23 John 10. 11-18
8.30am Holy Eucharist (BCP) Huntington
* 10.00am Holy Eucharist Kington
11.30am Holy Eucharist Kinnerton

The normal service pattern will return in May.

Origins

It was soon after we got married in 1977 that Margaret and I started thinking that it would be rather lovely, as a retirement treat, to go away on a narrowboat for about six months. Now it is true to say that we were doing a really long term bit of planning because we did not eventually retire until 2007. Thirty years of planning is not such a bad idea though!

The first think that I did was to look up hire firms to see if anyone would hire a boat out for that period of time. We came up with Heritage Narrowboats so I duly entered a reminder on my Outlook calendar to look into it in about 27 years time. In the meantime we would continue to hire a boat from time to time for a week's holiday in the summer.

There was a hiring gap in our lives from the time that Andrew, our older son, was born until Kate, the youngest of our children was able to swim but after that we gradually indoctrinated the next generation of Cookes into the delights of canalling.

As time went on it became apparent that the economics of a long hire were not sensible. It was a much better idea to buy a boat and then resell at the end. The cost of hiring was increasing year by year and it looked as if it would reach about £1000 per week by the time we were ready to retire.

At last it was time to think about the buying our dream boat! The years had turned us grey and had made us more wise but had not dimmed our ambition. We set about looking through the classified ads in the back of the *Waterways World* and it seemed to us that a scruffy 45 foot boat would be within our budget.

It was half term and arrangements had gone awry. There was nothing booked. Idea! Why don't we go and visit a marina and have a look at boats for sale? (Pedant alert! Marinas are places where shiny white boats moor before putting out to sea. Such places on canals are properly called canal basins.) We took ourselves down to Whilton which is on the Grand Union Canal near to Daventry and had a lovely wander around looking at a dozen or so boats. We found our way to the end of the basin where they keep all the boats that are a bit scruffy and haven't sold and there we found Theodora. We immediately decided that was the boat for us. If you remember the photo in the last article you will have noted that she is different from almost all of the modern boats in that she has a long canvas tent like arrangement at the front. In a historic boat this tent covered by what the boatmen would have called cloths would have covered the cargo hold. In Theodora the cloths covered a 12 foot area which, with the cloths down, was open to the sky. This, to us, is the ideal arrangement and we can't understand why everyone doesn't have it. Other people like a maximum of indoor space but that doesn't worry us. We bought the boat without even trying out the engine. Engines can be repaired or replaced. Hull design is fixed for the life of the boat.

We soon sorted out moorings as close to our home in Leicestershire as we could manage. Insurance and licensing were easy to arrange. And then started to renovate her. If you like



practical working and are willing to "have a go" you can save a great deal of money by not employing people so we set about doing as much as we could ourselves. I worked my last few months at school thinking of little else but Theodora and in February 2008 we set off on what was planned to be a ten month trip.

This is the first of the emails that I sent to a group of friends

Are we nearly gone yet? 15/2/2008

Hello all.

This is the first of the emails from NB Theodora. I have determined not to be a slave to the laptop so there might not be many or very long so make most of this one!

Margaret and I moved aboard yesterday. All very organised as always when my nearest and dearest is involved. I nearly scuppered things by letting the dog, Holly, out just before we left. We spent half an hour disturbing the village with calls of "Holly!". She eventually appeared nonchalantly out of the farm next door and we left. In fact the slight delay meant that we saw Richard, Phil and Harriet appear with a van all ready to move in.

First off: A word about Theodora. In fact quite a lot of words and so far no pictures but that will come later. Starting from the bow (front) is the button which is the rope fender which protects the boat from the attacks of lock gates. Next, and inside the boat is the gas locker containing two propane bottles used for cooking. Under the gas locker is the freshwater tank, about 1000litres. We fill this with a hose at water points and add a bit of chlorine (about 5ppm) to keep the wildlife at bay. Aft of the gas locker is the bow locker. This has lots of bits and pieces in it including a little freezer. Aft of that is the hold. We call it the hold because that is what it would be in a working boat. We use it as an outside sitting area. It is about 12 feet long and covered in what looks like a black ridge tent. The old boatmen would refer to the black canvas as the "cloths". The cloths are supported by the top plank and the top plank is supported at the front by the cratchpost and at the after end by the cabin roof. There will shortly be a nicely shaped support called a stand to stop the top plank sagging but at the moment the stand's function is served by a rather boring piece of 3" x 3".

That is enough of a description for the moment. I will add some more in a later episode. I would hate to bore you with endless details.

What have we been up to? Not going anywhere yet, that's what. There are a few bits and pieces that need to get done before we set off. I have told everyone who is willing to listen that the alternator needed to be replaced. The new one went in yesterday and was tested and found correct today. Next I needed to fit the control gear which decides which of the batteries are being used or charged. I have got half of that done now and will finish the rest in the morning. Margaret had been bringing order out of chaos in the domestic arrangements. I am now in the happy situation where I can ask her where something is and she is very likely to know.

At the moment we have much more food aboard than we normally intend to keep. We needed to clear the house, you see... Drink too. She has sorted out all that lot and made the executive decisions on the location of books and the canal map that hangs on the wall outside the bathroom. Bread has been made and life is becoming very civilized.

The weather today has been beautiful but very cold once the sun went down. The solid fuel stove keeps us very cosy very economically. Three small logs will keep us warm all evening. We put a bit of smokeless fuel on over night too keep it burning. So we remain cosy all night.

The best guess for the actual departure is Sunday. I have a bit of woodwork to do and would rather not have to take the Workmate with us. It is decidedly bulky and 60' x 6'10" is not a limitless space.

Nick

St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

Strange times, and yet how quickly, in some respects, have the last twelve months and the start of the pandemic and lockdown passed. The joyous season of Easter approaches and we look forward to seeing our elegant, late eighteenth century lych gate once again transformed, this time for our Easter celebrations.

Read the Rev. Ben's invitation to you and to visitors to visit and walk through St. Mary's Easter Garden. We look forward to welcoming you to do that and to our Easter Services, also detailed in this Parish News.

Rodney and I send greetings to you all for a happy, peaceful and safe Easter.

Ann Edwards and Rodney Bowdler.



Kington Branch HWT News

Although the branch has been unable to host the usual programme of indoor and outdoor events over the last year, individual members have been busy monitoring and recording the local wildlife, particularly at Birches Farm, which has remained open to visitors.

Over 120 moths were recorded over the summer months, and it was a good year for butterflies too, with one sighting of a Green Hairstreak, a large number of Marbled White. The raised beds outside the Barn were filled with perennial plants specifically for pollinators and attracted a good variety of bees and butterflies.



The branch provided funds for the new roadside sign at Birches Farm, and for much needed repairs to the bird hide roof of at Tittley Pool Reserve.

A newsletter was sent out to members in December, and another is planned for the spring.

Other projects the branch has been involved in, include Kington Pollinators who are working to improve the biodiversity of an area at Kington Park, and the distribution of Black Poplar cuttings as part of the North West Herefordshire Tree Warden Group

We are currently planning some outdoor summer meetings, which will be advertised to members as soon as covid restrictions allow.

Sarah Cadwallader

Reader Writes

The Divine Rescue

Shame on shame is the Devil's work. He trips us up and takes us down
The gliding serpent took our wills and turned us from our Lord and Maker
Sent from paradise, condemned to pain, no longer Eden's kings and queens
Pontius Pilate traded us, but our God had an endless plan to rescue us
Even on Babel's blackened plain confusion was sent to restrain us
God's dark tide raised the ancient ark, life pattern, saved seeds, for our future
The Red Sea shuddered dry, and gulped and sighed, swallowed the enslaving foe
All this, but still destined for trouble, man addicted to his tyrant will
Painfully divided from our Maker and Lord, insatiable greed and disregard
But God had this plan, his love for his creature made him come to us
He came as a man, flesh and blood, wisps of straw, sudden flight, refugee
His Father had a mission, and the Son knew its progress, foretold by the prophets
Baptised by John, dove descending, Holy Spirit dwelling, "This is my Son!" the Christ
He, Judas, took the hands that healed the blind, and kissed the man of peace
He, Peter, bravado fled hiding his head, protested him and denied him thrice
The cock crowed for the end of the world, the die was cast and the weeping begun
The elders conspired, they knew their work; save the temple, Pilate will know
The Son of God, on a Roman cross impaled, in darkness "It is finished" he cried
The priceless ransom was paid in blood, the redeemer of mankind had come
The temple came down, the priesthood was gone, dividing curtain rent in two
"Surely that was the Son of God" said the soldier standing beneath the cross
Taken down, dead and buried, sealed, he rose again, alive after death
The angels told Mary in the cool empty tomb, "He is risen, He is not here."
Go out into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation
God in Christ reconciled the world to himself; he repaired the deep divide
He no longer counted our wrongs against him, for the terrible debt was paid
We come with no sacrifice but a believing heart, and receive life in his name

Sola scriptura, Sola fide, Solus Christus

Scripture is sufficient for us to receive you; Thank you Lord
Faith with an open hand is the only gift we bring you; Thank you Lord
Christ alone, our Rock and our Redeemer; Thank you Lord, Amen



ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

New Shelves:

Malcolm Gane from Kington has kindly made and donated a set of shelves, with an integrated money box, for St Thomas a Becket's honey and jam supplies. We've come to rely on sales of these items and now have an attractive display with a design which is thoroughly in keeping with the church. We are very grateful to Malcolm and asked if he would write about 'Project Jam Jar'. He has kindly sent the summary below:



Sue Maiden



Project Jam Jar:

I trained as a coach builder in the 1940s using timber and metal. By the 1950s nearly all construction had changed to metal-only. However, my love for working with timber has never left me and I have continued as an amateur woodworker ever since. My uncle was a cabinet maker and he set me off making more intricate pieces out of wood. I had a little bench in his workshop to work alongside him and he supplied me with tools, some of which I still own.

I have, in my time, made desks, corner cabinets and other furniture for my household; candle holders and pews for a local Church; a set of bannisters; even a bar in a private house now stocked with fine whiskeys!

When my daughter and now son-in-law decided to get married at Huntington Church, I was delighted to be asked to make a bespoke piece that could house homemade jams, chutneys and other preserves with an integrated donation box. I set about drawing-up a variety of designs. The final design is made of a single piece of chestnut which was, in fact, an old desktop that was in the Lucas Industries factory that I managed in Acton. I rescued it when the factory closed (not due to mismanagement I might add!) and I stored it in the workshop at my family home in Northwood for over 25 year waiting for a suitable use.

I'm now nearly 89 years old, and when my legs started to fail me a couple of years ago I moved to Herefordshire to live with family, leaving behind all of my woodworking machinery (including a lathe), many of my hand tools and my beloved workshop. Nevertheless, it has been an interesting challenge to produce this piece with only basic tools and limited space. I have used just a saw, a hand router to shape the edges and some sandpaper.

It has given me something to focus on during the long Winter lock-down. Each day over a couple of months I have gone out to the shed to work on it. I hope the piece provides a service to the Church for many years to come and I am grateful to the Parish for the opportunity to do something that I may be remembered for. I also hope that the donation box is big enough!

Malcolm Gane



Hall's Mill Continued

Following the extract last month from the Hall's Mill visitor's book I thought people might be interested in this photo of the Turner family taken in 1957. Apparently they lived at Llanarrow from 1923 until 1950. The photograph was passed on to us when we purchased the property in the summer of 2018. Since then the grand daughter of Stanley has made contact with me via social media. Stanley moved to Australia and his grand daughter now lives in the US. She tells me that he has very fond memories of his time at Llanarrow but is somewhat reluctant to talk too much about his time here as he becomes quite emotional.

Soon after we moved here we were having some work carried out on the property. The person carrying out the work was Nigel Turner. He was somewhat surprised to see the photo and that his grandmother was in it. Roger and I often talk about what life must have been like living here when it was a working farm and what the house looked like when it was a pair of cottages.

It seems that Llanarrow has cast its spell on the people who lived here. Indeed it has done so for us. It is situated in a beautiful location in a lovely welcoming community.

Gigi Luscombe, Llanarrow, Huntington

Editor's note: There was another development from last month's article; we received the following email.

"Hello, I was delighted to be sent a picture of the page in your most recent parish magazine that included the information on the Mill as written in the guestbook in 1994. The ladies that wrote that small but beautiful piece (Lily and Katie) were my aunt and my mother. It would be a very special thing for me, my brother's and a number of my cousins if we could get a paper copy of this issue of the magazine. Are there any spare copies that I could purchase and/or arrange to get sent to me? It would mean a lot."

Additional copies of the March Parish News have been forwarded as requested.

Ed.

Rare breed farm animals and conservation of wild life habitat at School Green, Huntington - over the past 50 years.

I am a Herefordshire boy and proud of it! My father was a farmer's son, who joined the RAF as a career, but sadly died as a result of WW2. He never forgot his farming background and I remember he and Henry (a German POW) milking a jersey cow at RAF Lindholme.

I undertook my medical training in Birmingham, where we had excellent hands on teaching experience across a vast area of the Midlands (no wonder I have such a regard for Brummies!). On graduating I became a junior doctor in Hereford during 1967, and then spent two years practicing in Southern Africa. On my return to the UK I became a locum for several GP's on the Welsh Border. On one occasion I was lucky enough to drive past School Green and noticed it



was for sale. It was just what I had been looking for and I bought the cottage in 1971. I joined the Kington Practice in 1972 and was GP there for over 30 years.

During my years as a family doctor in this area, I look back and remember the courage and composure that so many of my patients showed me. They did more for me than I ever did for them on so many occasions. They came from all backgrounds and walks of life and this reinforced my commitment to the principles of the NHS. After retirement I was privileged to travel several times as medical support for TRBL and TNFA with veterans, widows and families to War graves, battlefields, and special events, to remember the sacrifices made.

Lesley and I were married in 1976, and we were both keen to rear livestock. We were fortunate to have some land, but also fortunate that we did not have to make our living from it, as commercial farmers have had to do. Our journey through keeping cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry would not have been possible without the practical advice and help from people like John Bufton (Penlan), Jim Croose (The Grove) and Vera Williams (The Firs). You can't learn much about livestock rearing, from spending a few days attending a "workshop".

Longhorn Cattle:

In the 1970's there were only 200 Longhorn Cattle registered. We initially bought one cow with calf, and later kept a small herd of five cows and a bull for many years. With the efforts of the Society and it's many members, there are now 10,000 registered Longhorn Cattle. Commercial interest has been regained with the breed for its ability to not require intensive feeding, it's quiet temperament and easy calving etc., and of course it's superb meat quality. Our role was to check the cows were well fed, particularly when in calf, to be there at calving and to make sure the calf could adequately suckle. On one occasion a very protective new mother did give us a bashing – but she was only protecting her calf! The mums (not having midwives or health visitors) just do what comes naturally. Our bulls were always easy to manage, partly because we handled them regularly. However, with livestock you unfortunately occasionally have to experience dead stock, but that does not excuse being negligent!



Rare breeds of pigs - Tamworths, Berkshires, and Large Blacks, were different and a delight! Breeding pigs has a much wider dimension than growing on weaners for home consumption. It is vitally important to keep these rare breed types from becoming extinct - so this is a worthwhile challenge as numbers are still vulnerable. There is nothing like watching a sow suckling her new litter of ten piglets - usually accompanied by a unique satisfied grunting from her. Hubert, our Tamworth boar, was a real gent and would trot ahead to welcome a visiting sow. Once one arrived in a hatchback car (with some damage to the vehicle). She stepped down onto a bale of straw and after mating with Hubert did not want to get back into the car to go home and had to be lifted in by Lesley and the owner!

Rare Breed Pigs:

Rare breeds of pigs - Tamworths, Berkshires, and Large Blacks, were different and a delight! Breeding pigs has a much wider dimension than growing on weaners for home consumption. It is vitally important to keep these rare breed types from becoming extinct - so this is a worthwhile challenge as numbers are still vulnerable. There is nothing like watching a sow suckling her new litter of ten piglets - usually accompanied by a unique satisfied grunting from her. Hubert, our Tamworth boar, was a real gent and would trot ahead to welcome a visiting sow. Once one arrived in a hatchback car (with some damage to the vehicle). She stepped down onto a bale of straw and after mating with Hubert did not want to get back into the car to go home and had to be lifted in by Lesley and the owner!

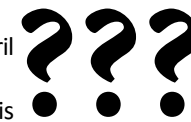


one arrived in a hatchback car (with some damage to the vehicle). She stepped down onto a bale of straw and after mating with Hubert did not want to get back into the car to go home and had to be lifted in by Lesley and the owner!

(to be continued) Lesley and Philip Cleland

April Quiz (answers on page 43)

1. What star sign are you if your birthday falls between March 21 and April 19? And what about April 20 - May 20?
2. 'It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.', is a quote from which book?
3. On what date in April is St George's Day?
4. 'April is the cruellest month', is the first line of which T.S. Eliot poem?
5. Which major UK sporting event will be held on April 14th, 2018?
6. What is April's birthstone?
7. April's birth flower is often listed as *Bellis perennis* - this is the Latin name of which flower?
8. On which holiday in the United States, on the last Friday in April, are individuals and groups encouraged to plant trees?
9. Which event made British news headlines on the 2nd of April, 1982?
10. April Windsor, played by Amelia Flanagan, is a character in which soap?
11. Which birds arrival in mid April, is said to signal the start of Spring?
12. What was first introduced into Britain on the 1 April, 1973?
13. On what date in April is the Queen's birthday?
14. The April Lyrids last from April 16 to April 26 each year; what are they?
15. In a famous TV prank from 1957, the BBC broadcast a film showing Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown what?
16. Which famous Englishman's birth remains unknown, but is traditionally observed on the same days as Saint George's Day?



Easter Biscuits

This recipe makes about 12 delicious currant-studded Easter Biscuits. They're soft and round with hints of lemon and a sugary crunch.

Ingredients

90 g butter	50 g caster sugar	1/2 lemon
1 egg yolk	1 egg white	115 g plain flour
25 g currants		



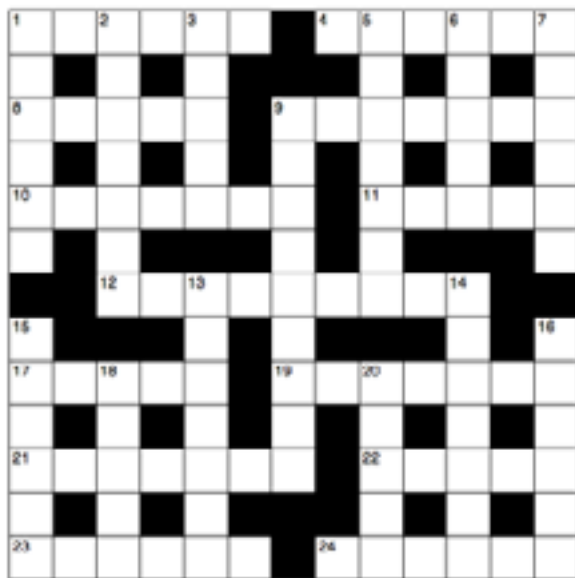
Method:

1. In a large bowl cream the butter with the sugar and lemon zest until light and fluffy. Work in the egg yolk then stir in the flour and currants. Knead lightly in the bowl until smooth. Leave in the fridge to chill for around 1 hour, until firm.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C/ Fan 160C/ Gas 4. Line 2 large baking sheets with non-stick baking parchment.
3. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to a 3mm thickness and cut into rounds with a fluted 7.5cm cutter.
4. Lift onto the baking sheets, brush with a little lightly beaten egg white and sprinkle over a nice amount of caster sugar. Bake for 12-15 minutes, until just golden brown.
5. Lift off with a palette knife and leave to cool on a wire rack. Store in an airtight container.

April Crossword

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7) 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matt25:36) (6)



Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6) 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5) 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5) 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Answers to March Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.
 DOWN: 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

Lockdown Lodge - Epic Journeys in a 1931 Austin 7 called Jane, 1959-1962

While serving in the Royal Air Force as a Nursing attendant along with Nick a national service airman we joined together and purchased a 1931 Austin 7 saloon for £10.00. We were both stationed at RAF Melksham in Wiltshire and planned our joint use of Jane. I had not passed my test at that time and was using a 350cc AJS motor cycle for everyday transport. Nick used Jane to travel to Wickham in Hampshire on the weekend when not on duty. During the week it was on with L plates and driving lessons with any qualified driver brave enough to take to the road with me!



My first epic journey took place in late spring of 1959. Nick was on duty over a 72 hour pass that lasted from Thursday afternoon until Monday morning. Jim a cook from the Sick Quarters kitchen was on the same 72 hour pass but as he came from the Isle of Man there would hardly have been time for him to get home and back. He readily agreed to come with me in Jane for a trip from Melksham to Lands End in Cornwall.

We packed our bags, were given permission to leave at lunch time and set off on our journey calling at my home in Old Sodbury to pick up a tent. We set off again joining the A303 and travelling along it until linking up with the A30 that would take us to our destination. This was before the age of the motorway network!

We were tootling along quite merrily in open countryside on the A303 and came across some warning signs of road works ahead. Suddenly as we rounded the bend we saw a line of traffic halted by traffic lights. Austin 7 brakes are notorious for their inability to stop at a moment's notice. Help! Fortunately the roadworks were in place straightening a bend. I was able to swerve off the road running alongside the stream of traffic including a coach party who all waved with much laughter. Our front wheels came to rest against a stationary digger. Shaken but no damage done we were able to rejoin the traffic and continue our journey.

While crossing Bodmin Moor Jim enquired about fuel levels. The Austin 7 had a front mounted petrol tank and no modern fuel gauge. A wooden measure was provided. You dipped this in the tank and then removing the measure you gained a rough idea of your fuel level. I told Jim that we should have enough to reach Lands End. We arrived at our destination just as it was getting dark. Putting up our tent we could not find the poles. A hasty search in the nearby woods provided us with two good poles. We made our beds, had a warm drink and retired for the night. Early next morning Jim cooked an excellent breakfast of bacon and egg which we ate off huge dock leaves. We forgot to pack any plates!

We packed up our kit, leaving the site clean. We tried to drive off but the engine would not start. On lifting the bonnet I discovered that a wire running from the coil to the distributor had come adrift. The fault was soon rectified but still the car would not start. Removing the petrol filler cap I squinted into the tank to find a small puddle of petrol.

I set off on a mile and a half walk to the nearest filling station. Explaining my predicament I asked if I could have the loan of a petrol can on the promise that I would fill up the car later.

There was at the time only a single road in and out of Lands End! I walked back to the car, put in the petrol and we set off. I returned the can with grateful thanks and filled the tank.

We returned home without incident travelling along the north coast of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

Well done Jane!

Tony Jardine

Kington Medical Centre Update March 2021

The Covid Vaccination Programme is progressing at speed. We have vaccinated over 16,000 patients from all 6 practices of the North and West. In the coming month we will commence administering the second doses of vaccine to complete vaccination courses. Patients will be contacted by the 11th week after the first dose to ensure they receive a second dose before 12 weeks. We are currently vaccinating Cohort 6 which includes many of our "flu group" patients over the age of 16. We continue to use the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccines. We are grateful to all the surgery staff, temporary vaccinators and volunteers that are ensuring we deliver the vaccination programme to our population. If people wish to volunteer they can contact HVOSS (www.hvoss.org.uk). We ask that only people with appointments attend the site and I am afraid I have to be a bit of an ogre and ask that gifts such as food are not brought to the vaccination site. Sharing foods even if individually wrapped is a significant risk for Covid transmission. We would encourage all those who wish to donate foods to do so at local foodbanks.



The Covid situation in Herefordshire has improved since the initiation of the highly effective lockdown. The hospital in Hereford is getting closer to a point where routine work can resume and we will have greater access to diagnostics. General Practice has had to divide its resources to support vaccination and maintain critical services. We will continue to do this and appreciate the understanding of our patients. We continue to encourage those feeling unwell, those with possible cancer symptoms and those with mental health challenges to come forward to us without delay.

At some stage there will be an easing of lockdown measures and as much as we all want to return to "normal" we must remain cautious in our contacts and our activities. This time will pass but we need to be careful, not only to prevent deaths and serious illness, but to prevent "long Covid" the impacts of which remain uncertain.

Dr Silvana McCaffrey, GP and Clinical Operations Manager

PS In response to a query from a patient, April Jones, Practice Manager has clarified the following:

- There are no vaccination clinics in Kington
- The Practice is inviting patients to the vaccination clinics held at Leominster Sports Centre, Bridge Street, Leominster
- NHS England is inviting patients to attend mass vaccination sites such as those at Ludlow Race Course and Elgar House in Hereford. If patients receive a letter from NHS England it is a genuine letter, and patients are encouraged to book via this system as it means they have met the criteria for mass vaccination sites (currently ahead of surgeries' criteria) in terms of the 9 priority groups.
- GPs have been given a set NHS directive of the patients that they are able to invite in line with the priority group criteria, so it may be some time before patients are called by the Practice.

April Jones, Practice Manager

Easter Jokes

1. Where does Christmas come before Easter? The dictionary!
2. What kind of jewelry does the Easter Bunny wear? 14 Carrot Gold
3. What do you call the Easter Bunny the day after Easter? Eggshhausted
4. What's the best way to make Easter easier? Put an "i" where the "t" is.
5. What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school? He was eggspelled!
6. What does the Easter Bunny plant next to the green beans in his garden? Jelly beans
7. How does Easter end? With an "R"!
8. Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!
9. What do you get if you cross Winnie the Pooh and the Easter Bunny? A honey bunny
10. Where does Easter take place every year? Where eggs marks the spot!
11. How does the Easter Bunny stay healthy? Hare-obics
12. What proof is there that carrots are good for the eyes? You don't see rabbits wearing eyeglasses.
13. How can you make Easter preparations go faster? Use the eggs-press lane!
14. How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket? Only one. After that it's not empty anymore!
15. Where does the Easter Bunny get all of the eggs he hides? He gets them from an eggplant.
16. What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny.
17. Why did the Easter egg hide? Because he was a little chicken.
18. What happened when the Easter Bunny met the rabbit of his dreams? They lived hoppily ever after!
19. What do you get when you pour hot water into a rabbit hole? Hot cross bunnies.
20. What do you call a rabbit that tells good jokes? A funny bunny.



Easy Sudoku

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

Intermediate Sudoku

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

TO BE A PILGRIM

Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan Zepherus eek with his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tender croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his half cours yronne
And smale foweles maken melodye,
That slepen al the nyght with open ye
(So priketh hem nature in his corages),
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages
And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,
To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes;
And specially from every shires ende
Of Engelond to Caunterbury they wende
The hooly blisful martir for to seke,
That hem hath holpen whan that they were seeke.



So begins Chaucer's amazing "Canterbury Tales" telling how, on the long pilgrimage from London to Canterbury, the travellers regaled themselves by each telling a story. And what wonderful stories and characters Chaucer invented! If you wish to read them sometime, get a copy of Nevill Coghill's translation into modern English. But be warned, some of them are quite earthy. To go on such a journey was the way in which, in those days, working folk would be able to take a short break, a holiday.

But making a pilgrimage has, in recent years, regained popularity. You may have seen, on Television, films about folk doing the Spanish Camino or the pilgrimage to Rome. And pilgrimages are becoming popular today; to Canterbury to the shrine of Thomas à Becket - or to St David's, two of which in the Middle Ages, were reckoned to earn you as many Brownie points as one to Rome. Many of us doing our lockdown walks have probably rediscovered how the physical action of walking helps one to sort out a problem. Certainly if you have something difficult to discuss with someone, it's easier to broach the subject walking than sitting in an office or study. And likewise, if by yourself, it's easier to get in touch with your own thoughts.

And pilgrimages, however short, walks with a purpose to a special destination, can also provide pleasant company and enjoyable sharing. In my Incumbency, where one of my churches was dedicated to St Ishmael, I introduced an annual pilgrimage called In the steps of St Ishmael to be held in June near the saint's day. It began on Monk Haven beach just below the little church of that designation where pilgrims used to land on their way to St David's, a fact borne out when one of my parishioners found, when digging round the well in her garden, a beautiful silver pyx which must have been dropped by a pilgrim. We would start our pilgrimage with the blessing of shells to be our badges, and then go to visit the five other St Ishmael churches in the area, doing something at each (not necessarily just eating and drinking!) And something which encouraged a few youngsters to come was the inclusion of a short train journey to Ferryside where, as well as the church, there was a holy well to be visited.

A similar sort of pilgrimage was held here locally one year not so long ago. The purpose was to visit all five little churches consecrated to St Michael around Radnor Forest, where the

superstition prevails warning that, should one of those churches ever be destroyed, the dragon sleeping in the forest might wake up, and then....!

Some of you may remember, too, that a couple of years ago we included in the Walking Festival, led by Rob, a pilgrimage to the Celestial City of Huntington. The theme was I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. We started on the Way at the narrow gate and visited Hergest Gardens, Park Wood, Twt Castle, Mahollam School (where we learnt the Truth) and on to a Life giving cup of tea in the church. Along the way we enjoyed relevant readings, prayers and poetry. After three days of rain the sun had shone for us as we had set off from St Mary's following the morning Eucharist.

Dr John Rerrie can tell you all about the pilgrim trail which ran through Kington and via Twt Castle to St David's. I may be wrong but I believe it went along Duke Street, Mill Street and on through the Rec and the School Field. Perhaps I should claim that on some moonlit nights I can see pilgrim ghosts walking past our house. Alas, not so!

However, pilgrimages don't have to be physical. In Lent especially they should be spiritual; and many of us, though we miss the getting together in Lent groups, have been able to follow on Zoom (which I can't get) or at least with the booklets, the pilgrimage through Live Lent which Ben has provided. And our Bubble at home here have hugely enjoyed and profited from being led on YouTube day by day through the morning prayer gospels, by Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury and formerly of Hereford, from his wonderful garden (in all weathers!) And during Lent, as we have been reading St John's Gospel, he has suggested that we, members of what has become known as the Garden Congregation, might take each day a thought, word or idea and use it creatively in art or prayer or writing. So I decided to write Haiku, one or more for each day's reading, and that has become for me quite an obsession. Even when lying in the bath I am working out one or two! It certainly has me reflecting deeply about the text we have read. A haiku is a short poem originating in Japan. It has just 17 syllables in three lines, 5, 7, 5. Like this, or the one I wrote to introduce my pilgrimage:

A haiku may have
just seventeen syllables:
a sort of précis

Pilgrimaging with
the garden congregation:
Lent through to Easter

Next time you have a long soak in the bath, why not try to compose one?

Denis Parry

Kington Bowling Club

The Bowling Club will be open for the 2021 season as soon as confirmation is received from Bowls England regarding dates and the current situation, we are hoping to receive this information by the 22nd March.

Preparations in anticipation of our proposed opening date are already in hand and these include the painting and spring cleaning of the Club House and ensuring that the bowling green is ready and waiting for members to play the fixture list that has already been organised and prepared for 2021.

We very much hope that we will be able to welcome back all members and also would very much like to see new members join us to enjoy our excellent facilities.

If anyone feels that they would like to know more about joining the club then please speak to any of the members or contact our Club Captain, Dick Alford for further information and advice.

The Club night is always on a Monday and if you are ever walking by and see members at the club then please do call in and have a chat to find out more about our club, you will be made very welcome.

Sue Price

ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS

Easter Services.

There will be a service of Morning Prayer and Litany at 9am on Good Friday (2nd April)
Easter Day (4th April) Holy Communion at 10am
Sunday 18th April 8.30am Holy Communion.



The Titley Tidy Up.

I am sure you will have noticed that the road side verges between Titley and Kington are now free of rubbish. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank Fiona and Moira for all their hard work in collecting all the litter which mindless people have deposited on the verges. *Dick*

Kington Art and Craft Market.

We are delighted to announce that Kington Art and Craft market will be reopening on **Saturday 17th April**

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.

A Word from St Hugh's

Augustine's words "Happy necessity compels us to do a better thing"! And so here at St. Hugh's our endeavour to mirror the way of life in a monastery, albeit in a minuscule way, requires not only discipline but also organisation. A better thing.

During recent months, every bird nesting box in our small wood has been thoroughly prepared for the imminent arrival of the Pied Flycatchers. The thought of them migrating from Africa to breed here makes our hearts sing with joy! As does their arrival!

However, also during the past winter months we have been blessed by the sightings of the master of natural camouflage, the elusive Woodcock. Disturbed, it quickly disappears, giving little time to savour its presence. The brief glimpse of this bird heightens mystery and thanksgiving.

Life at St. Hugh's has many moments of joy and we thank God for that fact each day in our worship. We pray for peace and joy within the homes and work places in our community, and ask for comfort for any in distress.

Most especially at this time of year, the natural world gives us so many joyful happenings, but the most precious gift of joy given to us is when a kind word, a helping hand or a cheerful countenance is shared with each other. Those moments can't be bought but are priceless. Pure joy! 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



More local pilgrimage - St Cosmas & St Damian, Stretford

Due to lockdown of course, we are unable to travel far at this time, but once we are again able to go further afield, this little church not far from Leominster is worth a detour. Sitting adjacent to a farmyard in an isolated hamlet, the church of St. Cosmas & St. Damian is named after two fourth century saints who are linked with physicians and surgeons. It is no longer an active church and is now looked after by the Churches Conservation Trust, and volunteers. However, although redundant, it remains open and consecrated, and until recently there was an annual thanksgiving service for doctors and nurses. Although no modern-day miracles can be guaranteed, it really is a peaceful and restorative location.

The church is relatively well-maintained and very interesting both inside and out. The structure dates initially from Norman times, and is an unusual square shape, rather than the more traditional oblong of a church building, and contains a double nave and respective chancels. There are later additions such as the Jacobean pulpit, and some 14th century stone effigies. Other sources suggest that the building sits on an ancient trackway, trade route or is even on a ley line starting at Dinedor, and passing through Hereford. I have discovered that there are multilayers of history, tradition and legend once you start to explore a little bit, but I am only just scratching the surface!

The history of St Cosmas and St Damian, who lived and died in Syria, is fascinating, although sadly they were martyred for their Christian beliefs. Among other things, they are thought to



have successfully transplanted the leg of a recently deceased (black) Moors man onto the body of a (white) nobleman, who had a gangrenous leg. There are some famous depictions of this story, including one by Fra Angelico in Florence, Italy. Following their martyrdom, many miracles are reported to have happened throughout Europe, and there are now churches dedicated to them around the world.

Within Stretford church itself, there is a stone shrine to Cosmas and Damian. A plaque tells us that the twin candelabra which is on the wall here, holds a black and a white candle representing the famous transplant. We also learn of a local tradition in the middle ages of a 3-day fair, and local pilgrimage! Pilgrims walked from Leominster to Stretford church, carrying black and white candles in memory of the transplant and as a way of venerating the 2 saints. There is reputedly a holy well in the churchyard, but little evidence of this exists today.

Paul MacDermott

A Message of Thanks

Rita, Ron and Tina's family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for the kindness shown to them in their sad loss. They would also like to thank everyone for the many cards, flowers and donations received. Tina was a much loved wife, mother, sister and daughter. Thank you.



Tales from the Chalk Face: (3) On Her Majesty's Service

During the Summer of 1983 Deborah and I attended the wedding of a friend from college. As we sat during the wedding breakfast, we chatted with other another college friend and her newly wed husband. He was an officer with the army, stationed in Cyprus. They told us of the wonderful life they had out there and how she was teaching in one of the Service Childrens' Schools (SCS). It turned out that her father was a high up official working for the MOD and in charge of teacher recruitment for army schools around the world. She suggested I might get in touch with him for a chat and so, I did.



I applied to join the SCS system and waited to see what would happen. Then, in late February 1984 I had a letter saying that the MOD would like to talk to me about a position they thought might suit me. The letter told me to be available by a telephone at 1400 hrs the following Friday. Mr Rootsie let me use his office. When I answered the call, the Commander said that they would like to offer me a post in a large primary school in Lippstadt. I was a bit taken by surprise - it didn't sound like it was in Cyprus! He confirmed that it was in West Germany (as it was referred to then). They wanted me out there from the 1st April, and he wanted an answer right then!! As Deborah and I had prepared for taking a brave step into a new world. I was ready to say YES. I certainly had lots to tell her when I got home that evening!

At once, the army machine sprang into action. My new passport arrived, stating my occupation as 'In Her Majesty's Service'. I had to attend briefing sessions at Eltham Palace to introduce me to life with the military. My fellow recruits and I were shown slides of typical quarters for single and married staff, of life in the Mess, military uniforms and badges. We had briefings about our role, potential dangers (including threats from IRA), overseas allowances, tax, travel arrangements, issue of MFO boxes for transport and storage of effects, etc. Thus, I was prepared to join the staff in Germany, and to head off with our two young sons into another adventure.

As a teacher, I was given the notional rank of a Captain. I was a member of the Officers' Mess of the 22nd Signal Regiment and a Quarter (living accommodation) free of charge. At first this was in a very large flat living amongst the German civilian population. But later we were allocated the house of one of the teachers who moved to be head another school. It was 'on the patch'. The houses were all occupied by officer's, originally built during WW2 for officers of the German Army. We had a huge house, with a cellar containing a boiler room, drying room, workshop and wine store! 4 beds, dining room, lounge, kitchen downstairs cloakroom. At the top of the house was a huge attic with a thick concrete floor- part of the bomb proofing of the house. It was a fantastic area for the boys to play in during the wet and cold, so very cold, months. They would ride around on their bikes up there and it even had a little climbing frame for them to play on.

On my first day at the school I had to sign the Official Secrets act in the presence of an Army Officer and the headteacher. From that day on, we were very much part of the military set up and way of life.

The winters in Germany were long, and sometimes amazingly cold. But, in contrast, the summers in Lippstadt were far hotter than UK. We had lovely long summer evenings sitting in our garden with friends from school. Lots of BBQs for fellow staff- especially the many single unattached. Most weekends, we had dinner parties with our neighbours and lots of social gatherings in the Mess. Gala Balls, Dinner- nights, shows, Quizzes and concerts. My newly cleaned dinner suit (following the Craig incident) was often pressed into service as formal dress was compulsory for dinner nights. They were very good fun. On one occasion, we had the Brigadier visiting the regiment. A dinner was held in his honour and, after a sumptuous feast and much

wine, we played games. One favourite was human draughts. Using the black and white marbled tiled floor in the mess, the Brigadier gave commands to move his pieces -the black team (men wearing dinner jackets) around the tiles of the floor and the Colonel moved the whites (men in the shirts). When a piece was 'taken' the man concerned had to do a forfeit. When a 'queen' was made the man had to carry another on piggy back, round the board!

The most important visit we had was from our Colonel in Chief, The Princess Royal. When she came to visit, trees were planted, kerb stones painted white, a new loo was built on to the back of the Officers' Mess. It was bedecked with flowers on the day of her arrival. We had all been summoned the day before her visit; the Officers and their husbands and wives. Each was shown where they were to stand when being introduced to the Princess Ann, how to greet her and how to shake hand very gently (which would be gloved we were assured). On the big day, I was so excited to be introduced to her, that I forget all my instructions and protocols, and shook her limp hand rather too vigorously. Which prompted an "Ouch" from the said royal personage. Promptly followed by her words... "Well there goes your knighthood!!"

Life with the army was good, it was a magic time for us all. Lots of opportunities; a lovely house and garden, a stream of visitors and plenty of money. Soon after arriving, I brought our first car, a little red Golf GTi, second hand from one of the teachers. But, I had to learn to drive, and so took a 'crash course' with an army instructor, which included skid patch experience. Before lessons could commence I had to pass a theory test (known as the tick test). This was very unusual at the time, but is now common practice. Once we had both learned to drive, we were off!! Every holiday we took the boys away in our little red golf. As there was no sea to cross, we could just drive and drive – and we did! Denmark, Holland, Italy, Austria, Luxembourg, France, Belgium, and so many places across West Germany. We tried to get back to UK lots too, using either the hovercraft from Boulogne or ferries from Hook Van Holland, Zeebrugge, Oostende or Vlissingen, Calais or Dunkirk.

We made our second crossing home to UK for Christmas 1984. It was very cold indeed. The day time temperatures in Germany were often around -16 degrees, and up to -25 at night at year. We took the ferry from Oostende and enjoyed a very happy Christmas with family and friends. When it came to getting back, we found that many of the ferries to the continent had been suspended because of the appalling weather. Eventually we managed to get a crossing to Boulogne, which would mean a much longer drive- but at least we would be over the Channel and on the way home.

When we landed in France it was snowing a bit. But as we carried on through to Belgium the snow got worse and worse. By the time we had reached Oostende we had been driving through a very heavy blizzard for around 5 hours. We had stopped at many hotels and guest houses en-route, but they were either closed or full up. We HAD to stop and get the boys into the warm. So I parked up outside the swankiest hotel, to be welcomed in by the doorman. They had rooms- very expensive rooms, with gold taps and a marble bath - but it was worth every penny (or Franks as it was then)!

The next morning the snow had eased and we travelled on for another 5 hours until we reached our house in Hirschberger Strasse. We couldn't wait to get in. But, as we did, it felt bitterly cold and damp. We were very sad to find the boiler had broken down. The house was freezing!! It was so cold that there was a sheet of ice two centimetres thick on the INSIDE of every window. When I looked in the loft I was horrified to find thick icicles about a metre long hanging from the ceiling. The jar of gherkins in the pantry, and other glass jars and bottles had cracked open as contents froze and exploded the jars. Fortunately, a call to the PSA started a rush of support. The boiler was repaired, the army arrived with hot air blowers and order was quickly restored. Though it took several days for the ice to melt away. (To be continued) Philip Sell

Not a (proper) Gardener (Part 6)

March is such a busy month both in the garden and in the natural world. In our little pond, since the last week of February, the frogs have been relentlessly at work driving little motorbikes round and round, day and night, or that's what it sounds like, a proper rally! and there is now plenty of spawn, some of which, we hope will, in time, produce frogs to gobble up some of the wretched slugs in the garden – slugs which I suppose God saw were good! O beautiful slugs, we love you dearly (dead!) Go to it, frogs!

Then there are the birds. I'm not sure Emma should encourage so many blackbirds by buying sacks and sacks of bird food. We may regret it when the raspberries are ready. But we would forgive the little thrush almost anything. When she thinks it's time for a snack she has actually been known to fly round to the drawing room window, where Emma is working from home, and to perch there, head cocked on one side, thus persuading her patroness briefly to desert her work so as to meet her at the back door with a handful of treats from one of those huge sacks. (I must confess that I do quantitatively exaggerate a tiny bit).

And it's a busy time for us. A fine row of my broad beans has just been supplemented by a couple of dozen from David Miller's weekly stall opposite the Burton, from which we've also obtained sweet pea plants. The potting shed is full of trays of seeds in my newspaper pots, including turnips, cabbages, broccoli, pak choi, parsnips chard, lettuce and beetroot, some just germinating. And soon there will be beans both runners and French. Beds in the garden are being raked to a fine tilth ready for outdoor sowings of carrots, sugar-snap peas etc. The greenhouse is still occupied by lots of salads and some more broad beans until some tomato plants are ready, these to be sown in the propagator towards the end of this month, along with courgettes and mini cucumbers. Emma has been tidying up the raspberry canes and the fruit cage generally and climbing the ladder to prune the pear tree, since she won't let me do it, and Giles enjoys coming out to help. I quite like getting down on my hands and knees to do a bit of weeding, knees, you might think, strengthened by much praying, (but wrongly, since I prefer to sit for that). And we've been a bit generous with compost, and potash scattered around fruit trees and canes.

We are still picking the last of the kale and have lots of leeks, and our frozen and bottled fruit stores are lasting well, as also are the stored eating apples until Giles shall have eaten them all. At present he takes a couple whenever we go for a walk and, having eaten those, hopes to discover that I have another in my pocket. Well, at least they're not fattening!

So spring is definitely in the air; but we mustn't count our chickens before they hatch; last year we had a damaging frost on May 14th which meant no mulberries. Happy gardening!

Denis Parry

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Priscilla

The joys of teaching in Kington

One of the possible drawbacks experienced by teachers with families of their own is that eventually the children would probably be taught by them.

Our eldest of five children is Michael: I was his History Master during his first year at Lady Hawkins' School. At the end of the school year he gained the highest examination mark in my subject. I deducted ten percent so that he came second. I considered it would prove beneficial to him – and to me! In his fifth year, I was not only his History teacher, but also Form Master and Year Tutor. During his final 'A' level History examination I was the invigilator. With four questions to be answered in the allocated three hours, having given the necessary instructions I settled back and scanned the question paper. Within five minutes I quietly strolled around the examination room, and glancing at Michael's progress it was immediately obvious from his opening sentence of his first and therefore strongest answer, that he had completely misread the question. Back in my invigilator's chair the next ten minutes seemed like a life time. However, on my second observation amble, to my great relief he had deleted the earlier work and was now on the right track. Later that same day, back in my History classroom and in front of our second son Peter, it became clear that all was not quite as it should be: it was soon discovered that Peter had set up a betting syndicate based on the number of times I used the phrase "Hence the reason why". We had words after school.

During the year 1976-77 all five of the family were pupils at Lady Hawkins' School, and I taught each one. Never before, or indeed since, has the school accommodated five siblings during the same academic year. The front page of Hereford Times carried a photograph of the whole family, including my wife Angela, in front of the main school building. That year they collectively made a pact among themselves not to speak to me during school time both in and out of the classroom. They all did well in my subject: retrospectively I realise that to please me they disproportionately spent too much time on my subject at the expense of more essential studies.

As a practiced History teacher and a senior external examiner in that subject, I used this experience to assist my pupils in their final examination revision. Having completed the two year syllabus, I focused the students' attention on the five most important question topics, that I was sure would appear on the examination paper: they had to answer four questions. This approach proved highly successful – except in Peter's year. He decided to ignore my fifth topic and selected one of his own. For the first time to my recollection only four of my topics appeared on the paper – but ironically Peter's choice was included. He has never allowed me to forget the fact!

All my life, professionally and socially, I have been involved with, and surrounded by, children. One of the most memorable of occasions was that of my eightieth birthday. Michael and his wife Pippa organised the event at their home at Yew Tree Farm, Huntington with eighty guests. It was also the eleventh birthday of Jacob the youngest of our thirteen grandchildren all of whom were present – as was the then only great grandchild: now there are four – all boys, with a great grand- daughter expected as you read this article. I have had so much pleasure being with children: it has had great life-time rewards.

Allan Lloyd





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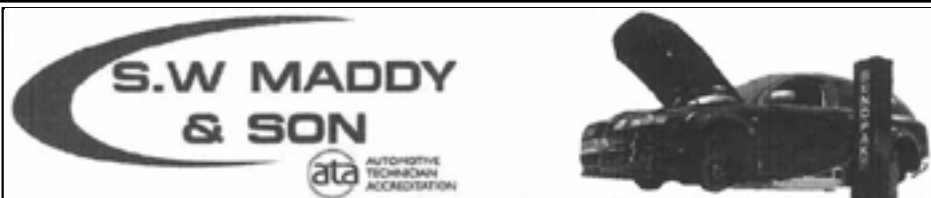
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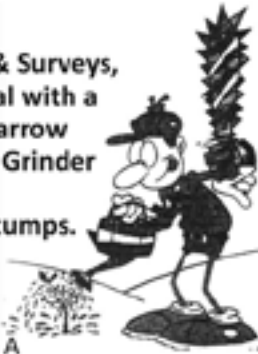
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Answers to April Quiz

1. Aries Taurus
2. Nineteen Eighty-Four (by George Orwell)
3. Zard of Brax
4. The Waste Land
5. The Grand National (at Aintree)
6. Disarm
7. Daisy
8. A Four Day (UK spelling: A Four Day)

... and finally

One Easter a priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them. 'Come with me,' said St. Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool. 'Oh my word, thank you,' said the taxi driver. Next, St. Peter led the priest to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set. 'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,' said the priest. 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word.' 'Yes, that's true.' St Peter rejoined, 'But during your Easter sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'



Marty, a little boy, was in church one Easter Sunday with his mother Doris, when he started feeling sick. 'Mummy,' he inquired, 'can we leave now?' 'No,' his mother replied, 'the service isn't over yet.' 'Well, I think I'm about to throw up.' Marty announced. 'Then go out of the front door and around to the back of the church and throw up behind a bush.' said Doris. After about sixty seconds, Marty returned to his pew, alongside his mother. 'Did you throw up?' Marty's Mum asked quietly. 'Yes,' Marty answered, embarrassed. 'How could you have gone all the way to the back of the church and returned so quickly?' Doris demanded. 'I didn't have to go out of the church, Mummy. They have a box next to the front door that says, "For the Sick".'

Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly. It took her mother a while before she realised that the hymn Maria had been singing was really: "Gladly The Cross I'd Bear."

MATERIAL FOR THE MAY 2021 PARISH NEWS

by

15th APRIL 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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