

Parish News

Kington, Huntington & Titley

March 2021



Lent

SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

email: office@sargeantsbros.com
Tel : 01544 230481

Mill Street, Kington
Herefordshire
HR5 3AL

HEREFORD 461 via Lyonshall 462 via Eardisley

Journey times vary Kington to Hereford approx 65minutes

Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON

	461	461	461	461	461	461	462	461	461	461	463
Mon-Fri	0645	0720	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1550	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	1732	1810
M-F Coll Hols	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1732	1810
Sat	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1732	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	0638	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805
Sat	-	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805

TOWN SERVICE

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

ARROW VIEW

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

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

Also available on www.sargeantsbros.com

THE KINGTON PARISHES



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

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

The following letter has been written by the Archbishops in response to an article written in the Spectator magazine in which the writer criticised the Church of England for its alleged lack of action during the pandemic. The Rural Dean, Revd Guy Wilkinson, has requested that this reply from the Archbishops be printed in all church magazines. *Editor*

Letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury & York

Archbishops: the Church in changing times 11/02/2021

If you've been following the media coverage of the Church of England over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, one question you might have seen is: 'Where is the C of E?'

Let us offer an answer. We have been burying the dead, comforting the bereaved, feeding the hungry and praying for our nation. We have been doing this not as superheroes, but as human beings living through the same crisis as everyone else: grieving, home-schooling, worrying, getting sick, shielding, isolating, weeping.

With that said, we fully understand — and indeed share — the anger and frustration felt by some that the government ordered public worship to be suspended during the first lockdown. We share the anxiety felt by many over the sharp fall in collection plate donations with fewer people currently attending church. We weep with and pray for our clergy who have been on the front line for nearly a year now.

One thing is abundantly clear: the Church of England has been a bedrock of faith, love, hope and compassion in this country for centuries through wars, plagues and pandemics — we still are, and we will go on being just that.

You can imagine our shock, then, when we read in the media about what is supposedly happening to our beloved church. That the parish system, with its beautiful vision of serving every inch of the country and every person in it, is being systematically dismantled. That clergy are being made redundant. That there are plans to somehow centralise everything and for services, even beyond Covid, to be online rather than in person.

So let us try to set the record straight. There are no plans to dismantle the parish network. We are committed to our calling to be a Christian presence in every community.

Throughout our history, some churches have closed and others have opened. We weep at the former and rejoice at the latter. But it is not new. The untold story is that in recent years the Church of England has planted or renewed at least 100 new congregations and churches.

Far from withdrawing from the poorest areas, there is a huge effort towards growing congregations and supporting ministry in those areas — including rural areas, where we invest £10 per head of population compared with £6 per head in urban areas.

Meanwhile, the suggestion that all we do is cut back clergy numbers is not only untrue and unhelpful, it creates unnecessary anxiety. We need more clergy and they are coming forward in record numbers. And where dioceses are saving posts, it is usually through retirements.

The reason the C of E has survived and flourished over centuries is because ministry has evolved

This year, we have seen the biggest rise in ordained and lay vocations for a quarter of a century. To fund this, the church commissioners' strategic ministry fund is channelling £1.6

million to support curacies for dioceses that would otherwise not have been able to afford them. In total, £33.7 million is formally committed to dioceses by the end of 2025. This is to help ensure each new priest has a future ministry.

At the General Synod this month, we will be talking about the future vision and strategy for the Church of England. And yes, we are imagining a 'mixed ecology' church — new communities alongside and emerging from established parishes; a fresh focus on chaplaincies — where so much remarkable work is being done in hospitals, prisons and so many other places; and efforts to provide for those who have come to faith online over the past year. We want there to be more church, not less.

At the same time, we are looking very carefully at how we serve and administer the church so that we can be as effective as possible. Our aim is to ensure that the money we raise goes to the frontline ministry the nation needs. But at Synod we'll be focussing on the heart of the vision: inviting the church and the nation to return to Christ — and find a vocation as His followers through prayer and service.

Yes, there are hard decisions currently being made across many dioceses. Overall some stipendiary posts will be lost. But that isn't the same as making clergy redundant. The aim is to make each parish and each Christian community sustainable. If that doesn't happen, there really will be no Church of England. And to do it requires generosity and sacrifice.

Of course we get some things wrong, but it would be irresponsible for the leadership of the church to ignore the severe challenges of Covid and the financial hit that comes with it. But our efforts are focused on enabling churches to stay open and for clergy to flourish. The very reason the Church of England has survived and flourished over centuries is because ministry has evolved. The Anglican stability that people rightly cherish — as do we — is the result of our willingness to change. As the theologian Hans Kung once observed: 'To stay the same when everything else around you changes is not to stay the same.'

There are rascally voices around who want to undermine the church — it was ever thus. But the real story is that we so believe in that vision of serving every inch of the country, and every person in it, that we are having to expand what it is to be the church. There is no central plan for all of this. How could there be? Each diocese is its own legal and charitable entity and makes its own decisions. But there is a central and local vision. It is to be centred on Jesus Christ and flowing from that to encourage the Church of England to embrace new ways of serving the nation — not to dismantle what we have inherited, but to build upon its proud and treasured foundations.



Easter Lilies

Ben has requested that he would like the Church to be decorated for Easter as usual.

If anyone would like to purchase a lily in memory of a loved one could you please let Gill know by the 18th March to enable her to place the order.

The price per lily will be £3.50.

Lesley Walters

View from the Vicarage

Dear Friends

The Morning Prayer Reflection for Ash Wednesday began with the following: "Lent is a snowfall in the soul. Just as snow makes us see our landscape in a different light making us renavigate our environment and wonder at the sight of our own breath, so Lent invites us to distil, reimagine and remember the fragile miracle of our own self."

I found those words by Canon Mark Oakley profoundly moving and for me, a timely and welcome reminder of what Lent calls and encourages us to do and to be. For many of us Lent has become the ecclesiastical equivalent of "Dry January" or "Movember" an opportunity or a challenge to give up something that we really shouldn't have been doing anyway. But if that's the way that we view Lent then surely we've missed a trick! Let's go back to Mark Oakley's metaphor snow (and we've seen some this year!) fundamentally changes the landscape. For a start it drains landscape of colour. A snow-filled landscape is one that looks very monochrome with the majority of the things which give shape and colour to the environment either obscured or obliterated – snow covered trees especially deciduous ones appear stark and gaunt with the blankets of snow covering bare branches denuded of leaves.

Even the built environment looks and feels different – houses acquire an eerie beauty with roofs covered in snow and window ledges looking like white eyebrows. Regular lines are softened and ungritted roads and paths begin to resemble glaciers or lines of icing. A snowy landscape looks and feels different, indeed it can feel quite disorientating when familiar landmarks are changed or hidden.

While a landscape of freshly fallen snow seems to exude a purity and cleanness – which, of course, it all too quickly loses.

If you subscribe to Mark Oakley's theses then those changes to the physical landscape reflect the alterations to our spiritual, moral and emotional landscapes which Lent encourages us to attempt during the six weeks of Lent.

The various activities offered during Lent even a surreal one like this one are all designed to help us to as Mark Oakley puts it: distil, reimagine and remember the fragile miracle of our own self."

You, in common with many others may well be feeling after a whole year of Coronavirus restrictions that the fragile miracle of your own self is feeling more fragile and vulnerable than usual and, therefore, the hard disciplines associated with lent are unhelpful. Well snowfall isn't harsh, it's gentle, it changes not with a loud bang but a gentle whisper and I'm sure that all of us need that "gentle whisper" this year more than ever.

At the hear of Lent, as at the heart of the Christian Gospel is one word "love", the love that is the divine spark at the heart of the universe, the divine love which became human in the person of Jesus Christ and the love which is the birth right of each and every human person made in the image and likeness of the God of Love.



So as you "distil, reimagine and remember the fragile miracle of your own self" this Lent don't forget that you are loved and you are lovely and all that Lent is calling you to do is simply polish the diamond so that it's facets reflecting the overpowering love of God shine more brightly. And that's snow joke!

Wishing you a holy, blessed and happy Lent
With my love and prayers as always.

Ben

Some Lent Highlights in the Kington Parishes

Lent Course #LiveLent God's Story Our Story

Our Lent Course this year is based around the Church of England's #LiveLent God's Story Our Story. Booklets, if you haven't had one yet, are available in all of our Churches and a donation of £1 per book would be welcomed. The course itself is being offered by Zoom. Please contact the office email for the link. All are welcome

If you don't or can't join the course the #LiveLent booklet is designed as a personal journey through Lent, so please do have one and pass them on as well.

Kington Garden of Remembrance

At some time over the next month it is quite likely that access to at least part of the Garden of Remembrance in Kington will be severely curtailed while temporary scaffolding is in place to enable essential maintenance and repair work on the roofs to take place.

Please bear with us while this is happening and my apologies in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Ben

Kington Museum & History Centre

We at the Museum would like to thank all those people who donated and bought second hand books last year. The funds raised have enabled us to paint the exterior of the building, including the erection of a new sign announcing our merger with the History Society.

We have appreciated donations made by local businesses and Friends. these funds have enabled us to meet some of the criteria in running an accredited museum.

There has been so much work needed to be achieved reflecting the merger. The committee and volunteers have worked so hard, but enjoying themselves at the same time Our hard working efficient Treasurer Judy Weir has retired to enable her to spend more time with her hobbies of painting and gardening. We give a very big thank you.

Our new Treasurer is Mr Tony Bennett, who I am sure will keep us running efficiently besides being an expert on the computer.

The visitors we have welcomed have come from worldwide and of course local people some of whom had never visited before, but have been pleasantly surprised at our exhibits and their history.

Hopefully after lockdown is over we shall be able to have the outside book stall once again to raise funds to keep the centre running, until we can once again open our doors to everyone.

Wendy Jones Secretary

Kington Parishes Service Schedule for March and Easter

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

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

Wednesday 3rd March

7.00pm Lent Course continues via zoom (please email office for link)

Saturday 6th March 10.30am The Way of the Cross Kington

Sunday 7th March: Lent III

<i>Exodus 20. 1-17</i>	<i>Psalm 19 7-end</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 1.18-25</i>	<i>John 2.13-22</i>
8.30am	Holy Eucharist	Titley	
* 10.00am	Holy Eucharist	Kington	
11.30am	Holy Eucharist	Old Radnor	

Wednesday 10th March

7.00pm Lent Course continues via zoom (please email office for link)

Thursday 11th March 3.00pm Prayer Group Kinnerton

Friday 12th March

* 8.00pm Compline & Address Kington

Saturday 13th March 10.30am The Way of the Cross Kington

Sunday 14th March: Mothering Sunday

<i>1 Samuel 1.20-end</i>	<i>Psalm 34.11-20</i>	<i>Colossians 3. 12-17</i>	<i>John 19. 25b-27</i>
8.30am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)	Huntington	
* 10.00am	Family Eucharist	Kington	
11.30am	Holy Eucharist	Kinnerton	
4.00pm	Mothering Sunday Service	Old Radnor	

Wednesday 17th March

7.00pm Lent Course continues via zoom (please email office for link)

Thursday 18th March 3.00pm Prayer Group Kinnerton

Saturday 20th March 10.30am The Way of the Cross Kington

Sunday 21st March: Lent V /Passion Sunday

<i>Jeremiah 31. 31-34</i>	<i>Psalm 51. 1-13</i>	<i>Hebrews 5. 5-10</i>	<i>John 12. 20-33</i>
8.30am	Holy Eucharist	Titley	
* 10.00am	Morning Praise	Kington	
11.30am	Holy Eucharist	Old Radnor	

Wednesday 24th March

7.00pm Lent Course continues via zoom (please email office for link)

Thursday 25th March: The Annunciation

3.00pm Prayer Group and Communion Kinnerton

Friday 26th March

* 8.00pm Compline & Address Kington

Saturday 27th March 10.30am The Way of the Cross Kington

*** Remember that clocks go forward one hour tonight ***



Sunday 28th March: Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11. 1-11 Liturgy of the Passion: Mark 31.9-18

Philippians 2. 5-11 Mark 15. 1-end

8.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Huntington
* 10.00am	Blessing of Palms and Eucharist	Kington
11.30am	Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms	Kinnerton

Wednesday 31st March

7.00pm Lent Course continues via zoom (please email office for link)

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



St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

The current situation regarding the virus remains although if things continue to improve we may have a little more freedom shortly. I hope that you are all being successful in having had your job or that you are next in the queue.



We cannot be sure enough about anything at the moment to plan events which bring us together.

The joyous season of Easter approaches but it will, I expect, be tempered by restrictions but maybe not quite such stringent ones. We may be allowed to sing the joyous Easter hymns, let's hope so.

We know that Ben is planning to keep as much of the Lent and Easter worship as normal as he can and we are most grateful to him and to Linda for that.

I came across some previous "Parish News" as they are now called, the other day. One was dated March 1921, one hundred years ago and I thought readers might find it as interesting as I did, to read what the pattern of worship at St. Mary's was then.

THE KINGTON, HUNTINGTON AND LYONSHALL PARISH MAGAZINE. March 1921

Editor the Vicar

Two clergy were named together with a Church Army Evangelist and 18 sidesmen (they were all men) with some interesting family names among them, surnames still familiar to some of us today.

Services at St. Mary's Kington.

Sunday: Matins (with Litany on 2nd and 4th Sundays) at 11am. Evensong at 6pm.

Matins : daily at 11.30pm.

Mission Room (now St. Bede's Church) Sunday Evening Service at 6.30pm Men's Service every Sunday at 3pm.

Intercession Service on Friday evenings at 7pm.

Holy Baptism: First Sunday in the month at 4pm and on due notice.

Churching of Women: Wednesdays and Fridays after morning service

Holy Matrimony: On due notice.

Funerals: On due notice except on Sundays.

Sunday Schools: Boys and girls and infants 11am. and 2.45pm.

Church Benefit Society: the second Monday each month at Old National School at 7.30pm.

Band of Hope and Young People's Hour: National School every Monday at 6pm.

Marriage: for Banns apply to Mr. Evans, High Street, for Licence to Vicar.

Also recorded in the same issue were 5 baptisms for February and 4 burials.

What busy lives they led!! How times have changed.

Rodney joins me in sending you best wishes for a happy, peaceful Easter.

Ann Edwards and Rodney Bowdler.

Reader Writes

I'm very hesitant about writing this; you'll see in a moment. All friends (I thank God for them) and many neighbours and acquaintances know. So it feels a bit indulgent and repetitive to talk about it here; but I feel there are things worth sharing. It started some 3 years ago when I began trailing behind my bicycling comrades; they thought I was being gentlemanly by bringing up the rear, but in fact I was struggling to keep up. When I took these symptoms to the GP I got a good laugh. How old are you?! Eventually, having very thoroughly ruled out all the usual suspects, last autumn I managed to get an appointment with a consultant (plot spoiler: he was a neurologist). Puffing behind his mask and within 15 minutes, with an air of encouragement, he had a diagnosis. You have Parkinson's Disease!

So at last I know that I am one of some hundred and sixty thousand people in Britain whose substantia nigra region at the base of the brain fails to produce sufficient dopamine. This is a messenger that connects the brain to the rest of the nervous system. Prominent symptoms among many include tremor, stiffness, poor balance, slowness etc. It's a beast, but I'm assured you die with it rather than of it! And staying fit is really helpful, so the bike is muddy and well exercised.

I have a lot to be very thankful for. Our clan have excellent support, helpful medication, and dedicated NHS professionals. Christian friends have been wonderful; I've been anointed with healing oil, fervently prayed over and endlessly supported. When I moaned that I felt like a prisoner with a life sentence I was sharply and lovingly reprimanded by one friend; No, she said, you hold the key! Here's where faith helps. God is sovereign and has our lives in his hands. We long for healing, but healing and wholeness can come in many ways. Whilst I'd love to escape Parkinson's altogether, and everything is possible with God, healing may mean learning to live with it, and live well.

Along these lines I had a great spiritual encounter on a Cornish cliff last Autumn. Walking the coastal path we came to a headland buffeted by strong wind. Leaving wife and sister clinging to the turf in a hollow at a safe distance, I resolutely took the narrow path to the point where wind lashed the cliffs over a boiling sea. There, enjoying the tumultuous scene, I had my own conversation with God. "Why, Lord, Why??!". It was an epiphany experience; almost immediately with striking clarity Paul's words to the church

in Corinth came into my mind. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2Cor12:9.

Those are familiar and comforting words, but in an instant with salty wind on my face, and gulls riding the airstreams, I knew this verse to be practical and personal. First, it is simple; God always equips us with gifts and power sufficient for whatever task he gives us; the apostle Paul wrestled with his own problems whilst declaring its truth. But there is more; secondly, God is also able to use us and empower us best when we accept our own weakness. Lord, we can't but you can, through us, if we let you; thank you!



Robert MacCurrach

ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

Burns Night in lockdown:

My brother-in-law Tony invariably celebrates Burns Night, not because he is a Scot, but from memories of being first aware of it during his days at Edinburgh University. This year, care of digital technology, (I resent naming those we have had to come reliant upon for communication and shopping) Tony welcomed us on screen as each fumbled with navigating the meeting window.



With Scottish descendants, I sported scarf and tie of Clan Ferguson, but Pete (Marilyn's other brother) and Joanne stole the show with very authentic and outrageous Tam O Shanter. After exchanging pleasantries, the Burns' Selkirk Grace was said- "Some hae meat and canna eat..." – and the haggis piped to the table (Tony in Lincoln). Tony sensibly deciding that his imitation of a Scottish brogue would soon weary his guests, cut out three verses of Address to a Haggis but made a good fist of – "His knife see Rustic-labour dight, An' cut ye up wi' ready slight, Trenching your gushing entrails bright..."

With glasses charged, a toast was raised to the National Bard and we settled down to haggis and neaps followed by the traditional pudding of Topsy Laird (whisky trifle). The evening progressed with recitals from some of Burns' best known works-"A Red, Red Rose", "A Man's a Man for A' That" and "Ae Fond Kiss." To lighten the mood, a riddle was proffered:

"Two fathers and two sons went fishing one day. They were there the whole day and only caught 3 fish. One father said, that is enough for all of us, we will have one each. How can this be possible?" Lateral thinkers had no need of the answer below. (hold up to a mirror to read)

Following tradition and with microphones muted, we closed with Auld Lang Syne. So, the screen was powered down having enjoyed a bit of a change to the norm, which lockdown has become.

Peter Kelly



Answer: There was the father and his son and the son's father and the father's son and the son's father and the father's son!
 !E to lstat

Kington Seed Exchange:

Calling all seed swappers...

We are having a local seed exchange in the Market Hall on Fridays during the normal local market, 9.00am until 1.00pm for the next few weeks.



Seed swapping is a great way to expand your collection of seeds and try new things.

- Save money: When you buy a packet of seeds there are always more than you need, but if you exchange these with other people, for different seeds, you get twice the range of seeds from your original investment.
- Grow new plants: You'll pick up ideas to grow new plants and vegetables which you might not have thought of before.
- Get growing tip: It's not just about exchanging seeds but about meeting other growers in the community and swapping ideas and advice on how to look after them.
- Which seeds can I swap?: As a rough guideline, envelopes contain enough seeds for a small crop, for example a short row of peas, or beans, a square metre of salads... We advise 5 to 10 seeds per pack for tomatoes, 5 seeds for squashes, 20 to 25 seeds for peas and beans. Spare commercial seeds are good too, so if you have left over seeds from this or last year please.
- Tips for seed saving:

Some seeds need to be fermented before being dried, for example tomatoes. This process ensures germination. Keep them in a jar of water for a few days. Rinse well and dry.

All seeds to be dried should be thoroughly cleaned first, and the chaff and the unviable seeds sieved or removed before proper drying. In the case of broad bean seeds, they should be visually inspected for holes, and later stored in a freezer in order to kill any possible insect infestation.

During ripening and drying on the plant, the seeds prepare for dormancy by converting sugars to more stable fats and starch. After that they can be safely dried and stored.

Drying should be gradual and thorough, shady spot, airy, dry (20% to 30% relative humidity), for a couple of weeks, relatively to the size of the seeds. One easy way is to place the seeds in a jar of dry rice for a fortnight. The rice will gradually dry up the seeds. Dry corn and beans will shatter when hit with a hammer.

Storing should be in a dry, constant temperature and moisture, in an insect-free environment. You can store them in the fridge, or even a freezer, but gradually bring them back to room temperature before sowing.

Best not to swap squashes and pumpkin seeds (Cucurbits), unless the plants have been well isolated, as they cross-fertilize very easily, being a promiscuous lot! Use new stock of seeds instead.

Some seeds can keep for several years, under favourable conditions. However, some (like parsnips) only keep for a year. Best to use seeds collected this year. Old seeds can always be used for a spot of guerilla gardening.

We've also got some ideas for making your own pots from newspaper and loo rolls, so come along, bring what you can and take home something new.

Fiona Shone

The following is an extract from Hall's Mill Visitors' Book dated April 9th to 16th 1994

"The perfume o clover is faint in the air,
The night is so sweet and so still,
There's nought to be heard save that one singing bird
And the wheel of the old water mill....

I will rouse me again for the battle of life
And bid my heart's longings, be still.
Why be tempted to yearn, for what cannot return?
By the wheel of the old water mill....

Please can anyone name the composer of the above – an extract from "The Old Water Mill" learned by us during the 1930s when we were pupils at Huntington School? During that time our uncle was the miller at Hall's Mill. We lived just down the lane at Llanarrow and often stayed with our aunt and uncle in the house that Grace (Watson) is now having "done-up". We spent many happy hours playing in and around the mill, watching the water flowing over and turning the wheel. (Pity the wheel didn't survive the war, but it probably did its bit to help win the war by being turned into munitions, along with park railings, garden fences and other metals which could be managed without.). The mill was rather a frightening place in those days, at least for little girls, what with the rumblings of the workings which seemed to shake the whole building, the pit where the inner wheel was (now at the back of the kitchen) which you stood back from for fear of being drawn in, the banging of the trapdoors as the sacks of corn were joisted to the hoppers on the top floor. We also still remember the smell – slightly musty, and the thick covering of corn-dust and lots of cobwebs covered in this white dust.

It's lovely to see The Mill so tastefully converted, and no longer just a ruined building. A very pleasant journey back through time for us. L Drake and K Whittall (nee Lily and Kate Turner).

P.S. We remember lots of mice, and even a rat or two, but this time, NOT EVEN ONE MOUSE OR RAT. Thank you Grace, Mary & Gordon. See you again in August. Lily and Katie"

Grace Watson, Hall's Mill House, Huntington



Lockdown Lodge

The new year heralded a new lock down and a series of domestic failures that caused a little inconvenience to the smooth running of the household.

- The strip light in the utility room ceased to function – cure by replacing it with a lighting tube from the garage.
- A serious short circuiting of the lamp unit in the bathroom threw the trip switch – darkness at 5.00am on Sunday morning. Fault now cured.
- The woodburning stove has been throwing out eye tingling fumes. Son-in-law swept the chimney, fault not cured – awaiting expert advice.
- Downstairs toilet refuses to flush – plenty of exercise climbing the stairs several times a day!

(e) Over a three week period working in 2 hour shifts for a total of 6 hours worked; failed to fit a curtain rail over the front door. Rawplugs, no nails all failed - scars covered by Tetion and two coats of magnolia. I have removed fixing curtain rails from my D.I.Y. C.V.

Good lesson to be learnt - failure is not the end of the world we should learn from our mistakes but not be stressed when things go wrong. Fortitude and laughter are both an excellent tonic. It was a great relief to go out into the garden and trim the hedge – how lucky we are.

Also looked out of the bedroom window this morning and saw a number of snowdrops looking like pure white miniature pearls shining out from the green velvet background of our new lawn. Spring is just around the corner!

Tony Jardine

Our Rivers

Kingtonians enjoy the pleasure of having a delightful trout stream, the Arrow, running through the recreation ground into the town centre. Above water it is home to mallard, mandarin duck, merganser, kingfisher, dipper and occasionally cormorants. At water level otters and mink thrive and below water there are trout, salmon, and in the lower reaches, grayling known as the lady of the river, also eels though far fewer in recent years, river lamprey and under the rocks, bullhead or millers thumb, a small fish found hiding under rocks.

Sadly for local fly fishers, the salmon only reach the River Arrow from its parent, the River Wye and ultimately the sea in about November, when the fishing season for trout and salmon has ended. They arrive at that time with a view to spawning and then either die or eventually make their way seaward again.

Salmon fishermen on the Wye have the additional problem that as soon as salmon reach fresh water from the sea, their stomachs close and they are unable to feed so that when presented with an artificial fly by the ever hopeful angler, if they take the said offering, it is merely through curiosity and not hunger.

The Wye and Usk Foundation are a charitable organization dedicated to the environmental maintenance and indeed improvement of the Wye and its catchment. The local Lugg and Arrow Fisheries Association help fund much of this work specifically for the Rivers Lugg, Arrow and the Back Brook. In this respect they usually arrange a physical clear up of the river system annually, for which purpose volunteers are more than welcome. Let me know if you are interested, and I

will pass your name on.

Astonishing amounts of rubbish are collected each year and some very unusual objects seem to turn up. It is in our hands to keep our river as beautiful as it is, and I am very saddened to read of the River Chess on which I grew up, a beautiful Hertfordshire chalk, trout stream which has recently been the subject of regular sewerage spillages by Thames Water. Be vigilant and don't let anyone mistreat the Arrow. Contact me on behalf of the Lugg and Arrow Fisheries Association on 01544 231998, the Environment Agency or the Wye and Usk Foundation, and to those fisherman among you, I wish you "Tight lines".

Rod Symondson



Winter living on Narrow Boat Theodora (continued)

While boating on the Thames a nice man from the boat moored ahead of us at Windsor said that he was not at all sure that he would like a narrow boat because you stand outside in all weathers. The nice man had a very smart gin palace sort of boat which was all shiny and white and had a heated wheel house. Not my sort of boat at all. There is no way that you could take a boat like that through Birmingham except on the back of a low loader. Not one bit the sort of boat for me!

So given that at least one of us has to stand outside all the time that we are cruising, how do we cope. Extra layers, that's how. You allow an extra ten minutes to tog up. Full cold weather gear for me includes long johns, cords, vest, thick shirt, sweat shirt, body warmer, fleece and waterproof jacket to keep the wind out. With that lot on you try to avoid having to bend too much and accept that you might be accused of putting on weight.

After a morning's cruise in the bright frost, biting sleet or teaming rain we come down to a lovely warm cabin. The modifications to the plumbing that I mentioned were to pipe the waste engine heat through the radiators. This was a mean and tight fistled way to penny pinch and not heat up the canal but to heat up the cabin instead at a cost of nothing.

So much for keeping warm which is what most people are thinking of when they ask about boating in the winter. There are other things to consider in the winter too. One is the question of stoppages. The Canal & River Trust (CRT) and other navigation authorities like the Middle Level Commissioners and the Environment Agency plan maintenance work for the off season between October and March. CRT is quite good at leaving alternative routes open but you do need to be careful to look at the planned winter maintenance schedule published on the internet.

Another thing to consider is ice. Ice can be a significant problem. If you are living on a boat you really don't want to be caught miles from the nearest water point and place to get rid of toilet waste. The trouble is that a perfectly clear canal when you stop in the evening can be well nigh impassable in the morning and totally impassable on the following morning. The only thing to do is to keep an eye on the weather forecasts and moor where facilities are close if there is a risk of freezing.

Long evenings in a house often mean more time for telly. Telly on a narrow boat is really something that is not to be relied on. Some of you will remember that when you first get a new television you have to go through the installation routine to find the transmitters local to you. This can take several minutes. A quarter of an hour, even. On Theodora the routine for watching TV starts with an important decision. Do we really want to watch it? Second decision. What do we want to watch? This is a branched decision. Do we find out if there is a good program and risk the disappointment of being unable to find a signal or do we go to the trouble of finding a signal and going through the searchy bit on the installation routine and then find that there is nothing to watch. Let's imagine that we decide to set up the box for viewing. First I clamber up and fit the aerial on the special socket on the roof (We absolutely never boat with the aerial fixed because we believe that it looks really scruffy. There are aerials that don't look scruffy but ours does so we don't show it off more than we need to.) Then I look around to see if I can see a house aerial from our mooring. It's good if I can because it gives me a clue as to where it should be pointed. I duly point it in the correct direction and then go and switch on the little box which tells me how strong the signal is. No blue lights means that there might not be a signal strong enough to make the telly work. Three blue lights means that there is sufficient signal to make the telly work faultlessly and at the same time warm up my night time cocoa. This is not a hard and fast rule. We had two blue

lights once and no telly. If the clever circuitry in the television finds stations I go through the electronic programme guide. If I find that there is nothing, simply nothing that either of us wants to watch we are mightily fed up to have gone to all the trouble for nothing.

Now imagine that I take the second decision and look on the Internet to find a must see programme like Grand Designs. I then go through the set up

routine and find that there is not enough signal of the right sort. We are then mightily disappointed. Of such earth shattering decisions in the live aboard life made.

I am sure that you will be reading this with the intention of being treated to an anecdote. Here it is.

In February 2015 we found ourselves on the Stourbridge Extension Canal. That's within a day's cruise of Merryhill, Birmingham about which I could write another anecdote. We moored up on the visitor moorings which, considering the very workaday name of the canal, are surprisingly pleasant. We planned to leave in the morning. The morning dawned bright and fair and very cold. The thin skim of ice which was no problem had thickened to an inch or so. This is not a problem for normal progress but we had to back out to the junction, rotate 90 degrees to port and then head off towards Merryhill. We slowly back out with Margaret steadying the tiller and me with a boat pole breaking the ice around the stern to allow Theodora to make stern way.

You will appreciate that while going backwards Theodora had to break through about a 7 foot width of ice because that is how wide she is. We arrived at the junction taking about ten minutes for the 100 yards and then tried to turn. Turning means breaking a 60 foot width of ice because that's how long Theodora is. The force exerted by the engine and rudder is much less in turning than in moving ahead. Turning was a problem. When there is a problem a solution often presents itself in the form of the kindness of strangers. In this case the strangers were a group of rambles who stopped to watch our antics. I asked for assistance. They accepted the challenge and took a bow line (We carry long ropes and heavy ones so that they can be thrown long distances. They pulled at right angles to the bow to attempt the anticlockwise turn. The attempt failed and we were too far from the bank for me to rig the block and tackle to multiply the force. The next part of the solution involved my walking up and down the gunwale with the boat pole and using it to break the ice along the length of the boat. This all went well until I became a bit blasé about the task and a foot slipped off the rather narrow ledge. This caused gasps of alarm from all but me. I was too busy grabbing more firmly the edge of the roof to prevent myself having an icy ducking. I do hope that I was wearing my life jacket but I really can't remember. It is a decidedly bad idea to fall into an icy canal. I didn't fall in and carried on with the good work. The people on the bank pulled and I stabbed the ice with the pole and Margaret worked the engine back and forth as appropriate and eventually we were around and off towards Merry Hill making rather lovely scrunchy ringing noises as we went.



Thoughts for Lent

*Blessed is the one whose transgression, is forgiven,
whose sin, is covered, and to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity.*

That's the first verse of a psalm I read aloud in the porch of Walton East Church one winter morning, having more or less carried my bike through snow drifts for two miles, only to find the church locked and no footprints on the path. It was a memorable occasion because this pure white snow had indeed, as the psalm said, covered all the sin. The whole wicked old world was transfigured, wearing a cloak whiter than Persil, as the saying goes. So anyway, I rang the bell (from outside on that little church) and read Morning Prayer before returning home. But Psalm 32 has always remained one of my favourites and is specially appropriate for the season of Lent, for its first verse suggests three common sorts of sin for me to reflect upon:

Transgression, Missing the Mark, and Bias.

Transgression was the first sin we read of in the Bible. This was a case of scrumping! Eve disobediently stole a forbidden fruit and she and Adam shared it. They were tempted by the serpent and failed to say no.

To deal with such transgression or deliberate wrong doing (what the old prayer book calls presumptuous sin) we have to learn firmly to say NO! An old lady I knew when I was a little boy used to tell me that it takes *a live dog to swim against the stream*, hence these verses, which might be sung to the tune of 'Twinkle, twinkle little star' :-

Live dogs swim against the flow, dead dogs downstream drifting go,
When we're tempted to join in things that smack of crime or sin,
like a live dog, let us show we can swim by saying NO!

Easy 'tis to go along with the crowd in doing wrong,
mindlessly to wave and shout, never mind what it's about,
One day they *hosanna* cry, and the next it's *crucify*.

Easy 'tis t'accept a dare, act as if we didn't care,
frightened that we might lose face, risking danger and disgrace
Dead dogs, drifting, can't refuse; Live dogs use their power to choose.

Easy 'tis to float downstream in a dead dog's idle dream,
let the current bear us on, bored to death, all vigour gone,
sucked complacently below, all because we won't say NO!

Jesus fought his fight alone: Stones to bread? An earthly throne?
When he came our life to share, he said NO! to Devil's dare.
Let us likewise face the foe, swim with Christ and answer NO!

Transgression has to be repented and forgiven by Christ who resisted temptation for us in the wilderness.

Missing the Mark is something we can only partly deal with by practising. When I was doing my square bashing during National Service (nearly 60 years ago!) I had to take my turn along with all the other conscripts at firing a Bren gun, which is a lightweight machine gun. The difficulty, I

discovered, was to keep the wretched thing steady, and I well remember the scornful comment of the sergeant in charge as he tried to decide which of the holes in other men's targets were actually the result of my gun's "dancing about like a g..... on a string!" (The epithet he used is now considered politically incorrect.) But practice does make for perfection, or at least it usually results in some improvement. It is said that the Roman Emperor Domitian could shoot four arrows between the spread fingers of a man's hand. And there's the story of William Tell, of course who, to save his and his son's lives, had to fire a crossbow shot to split an apple placed on the boy's head. Wow!

Missing the Mark, is when what we mean to be a good deed somehow turns out wrong and has to be covered, just as the snow covers everything in pure whiteness.

The third sort of sin I'm thinking about is what I call iniquity. When in a Family Service one Lent some years ago, we acted out these ideas, we used a wood, the special heavy roundish ball you use when playing bowls. I vaguely seem to remember Bunty bowling one down the aisle for us! But such a wood has a built in bias, and we noticed that it naturally turned aside before ending its run. Several of the few children present tried this as well for themselves. (And they also had fun trying out transgression, doing a bit of scrumping by climbing over a fence to pinch apples from the Family Service tree. And then they had a go at what turned out to be missing the mark, firing plastic sucker-tipped arrows at the apple painted on William Tell's hardboard son's head. The poor lad would have been shot dead many times over!)

But as I understand it iniquity, like that wood that Bunty bowled for us, is not really under our control. It's like a bias built into our DNA. so that we simply can't of our own strength go straight. No blame is imputed to us for that. And the only remedy is to Repent in Lent, handing everything over to Jesus Christ who has dealt with it, as St Paul wrote, by nailing it to the Cross, the whole lot of it.

Denis Parry

Dog Biscuits

We have a new dog - well, not exactly new as she is an eight year old Staffie who previously lived in a one bedroom flat near the M25 - and I have made her some bone shaped dog biscuits using the following recipe which we used many years ago for our cocker spaniels.

These are Garlic & Herb flavoured but we have also varied the recipe to make Carrot & Coriander and Apple & Cinnamon. They are all very healthy with no added salt, artificial flavourings or colourings, and dogs love them.

Ingredients (makes about 20 large biscuits or 40 small)

500 gms SR flour 25gms bran 60 gms Stork 40 gms milk powder 1 cup milk
1 egg
1/2 teasp garlic granules 1/4 cup dried herbs

Method

Rub the fat into the flour, then mix everything together and knead together until smooth. Roll out to about 1 cm thick then cut out with a (preferably) bone shaped biscuit cutter. Bake for about 50mins at 150deg C. Cool on a rack then store in a tin for up to two weeks.

Freda



ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS

Condolences.

We send our condolences to the family of Sally Parkes who died recently. Sally used to live at The Old Vicarage in Titley and her "Colourful Character" will be sadly missed.

Services for March.

Sunday 7th and 21st both at 8.30am and they will be services of Holy Communion.

Magazine Fees

Can I please remind you that the fee for the Parish Magazines are due. It is only £6 for the year. Please let Pam Peek have your subscription, but if it is easier, let Dick have it.

Lockdown.

As I write this the government will hopefully be giving us the pathway out of lockdown. Please give it some thought as to what we as a village can do to come together when it is safe to do so.

Phone number amendment

Please note that the phone number in last month's magazine for the paraffin heaters that Alan Taylor is offering for free should read 01544 230569 - the last number was cut off. (Sorry - my mistake. Ed.) Dick

A Country Bobby

I never wanted to become a Police Officer. Growing up on the outskirts of Shrewsbury as a lad I spent all my time on a small mixed farm helping out there and always thought that I wanted to be a head herdsman on a dairy farm. Then came another outbreak of foot and mouth and I decided I'd better look for a job which may be a little more secure. My uncle was a police officer so suggested I try for that. I filled out the application form and joined the West Mercia Police Cadets in 1976. This was like being in a Army Camp with PT and drill being the order of the day. I had never been so fit "and thin"!!!

When I became the ripe old age of Eighteen and a half I automatically became a police officer without having to fill out any further application forms or interviews. I was posted to Hereford City as you never served in the town where you lived. At this time I was single and lived on in the police station in single quarters. In March 1980 I was called into the Superintendent's office. In those days you only were in the office for two reasons: a telling off or a posting. I racked my brains and could not think that I had done anything wrong that week and was told that I was going to be posted to Kington. The Superintendent said "I think you will be the ideal officer for this posting". He asked me if I had any questions, only one was my reply "Where's Kington?".

I came up the following Sunday to meet the sergeant and to be shown where I was going to live. I had parked the police marina in the Sergeants drive and on reversing out managed to hit the courthouse wall damaging the wing of the car. I was automatically banned from driving police vehicles for 6 weeks but that was good as in those 6 weeks I walked around Kington and got to know all the shopkeepers, publicans and a lot of the Kington residents. I was told that if I didn't like Kington the Superintendent would consider letting me go back to Hereford after



6months and as they say the rest is history. When I first came to Kington there was a Sergeant and 10 constables. How times have changed!!

I could fill the whole of the Parish Magazine with stories of my time in Kington but will share one with you. I was asked to go and see a lady who lived on Brillley Mountain but was warned about her rather nasty little terrier dog. On arrival at the cottage I went to open the wicket gate at the same time as this dog ran round from the back garden. The dog started to pull at my trousers through the gate. The lady then popped her head through an upstairs window and shouted "Kick his balls officer" I started to open the gate and took aim to give this dog a boot up the backside when the lady shouted out "Not those the ones on the lawn"!!

I was one of the first Family Liaison Officers in West Mercia, a role which I found very rewarding. The ability to be able to assist families at their most troubled time is a privilege. I have been involved in murders, fatal road accidents but the most demanding case I was involved in was the 7/7 London bombings when Herefordshire had the only double death in that tragedy. My work as a deputy coroners officer also helped me greatly in this role. The one thing which helped these families was their sense of humour. I was the butt of many a joke but that did not matter as it was a release for these families trying to come to terms with what they had to deal with. I was told by the Met Police that if I put our petrol account book which showed which police force I was from and with the West Mercia crest on the dashboard of our hire car I could park anywhere in London. Wrong. I managed to get 3 parking tickets and even got towed away once.

I retired in October 2007 but went straight back as Police Community Support Officer. This was like going back 30years for me as paperwork was down to a minimum and I could "walk and talk". I had time to visit the schools and forge excellent links with the children and also the time to visit all the older folk to give them reassurance and deal with any quality of life problems. I eventually "hung up my helmet" in April 2018 having completed 41years service. Would I join the police again? "Yes". Would I want to serve the community of Kington again. Definitely "Yes". It was such a privilege to have helped the people of the Kington and surrounding areas and I hope that by doing so made it a better place to live.

Dick Allford

KINGTON TOURIST GROUP.

Greetings to readers of The Parish News. Because of coronavirus restrictions we have been unable to open and have a live presence in the town over the past year but we have dealt with postal enquiries and messages left on the answering machine. We hope very much that we shall be able to open again soon, even if for limited times. Our biggest problem is being able to social distance within the premises or more realistically not being able to social distance. I also have to rely on volunteers to staff the office.

We are going ahead with updating and printing our Stay Kington leaflet in the hope that soon we can welcome visitors to the town and also a revised version of our Eating Out and Tea Room leaflets. Much depends on what the Prime Minister has to say on February 22nd hopefully following his "map" we shall be able to look more positively to the future. I should like to thank those who have taken the window for display purposes since lockdown and would ask those to whom it has been offered for 2021 and who have not yet replied, to do so as soon as possible to ensure that it is in constant use.

Thank you, too, to those who have entered their premises in the leaflets currently being compiled for printing and to Margaret, Patsy and Sparkies for their work with these. I hope that by the time the April Parish News goes to print I shall be able to give positive news about our future plans.

Ann Edwards.

Tales from the Chalk Face: (2) More Than a Teacher

Towards the end of my time at the Prince of Wales School, our first son, David was born. By then, we had moved from our very small flat in Winchmore Hill to a bigger flat in a Victorian house in Plaistow, East London, which was fairly close to where Deb's family lived. This meant her mum was on hand to help out during the day with baby care duties.

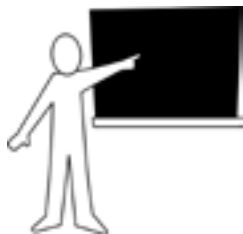
However, I was still travelling to POW each day. This meant getting up around 6:30, making a dash to get ready for the bus which, fortunately, stopped outside our flat. Then on to the Central Line at Stratford to take the tube to Liverpool Street and a train out to Enfield Lock station and a brisk walk to the school.

I was usually among the first to arrive and the last to leave the school and seldom arrived home before 7pm. Which was ok at first, but as the school year moved on and the winter set in, it became increasingly difficult to get up in the dark, get out in the snow, manage to cross London and get to Enfield lock. That prompted me to find a job closer to our flat. I applied for a class teacher / head of music post at Hartley Junior School in East Ham. The school was one of those huge triple decker Victorian red brick buildings. The junior school occupied the top two floors, and the infant school the ground floor. At each corner of the enormous building was an octagonal shaped tower with eight flights of stairs. Each tower topped with leaded domed roof. I was the only candidate for the post, and it was a strange interview. I reported to the school office and was ushered up the stairs to the Head Teacher's office. It was at the very top of the stair case in the octagonal shaped office, with windows on six sides...a good look out point, rather like an eagle's eerie. I was shown into the room and Mr Rootsie, the Head said, "Ah, Mr Sell I presume!" He asked me to sit and then proceeded to say, "I don't want a music teacher here, but my staff do. Tell me why I should appoint you". I did my best to explain what I had to offer and at the end of the ten-minute interview he said, "Ok. I'll take you on at the start of next term." He then buzzed for the Secretary, who was in the office below, to give me a cup of tea and show me around the school- and so, my second adventure began.

The children at Hartley School were from an amazing variety of countries. Many children were there as a result of the Idi Amin attacks on the people of Uganda, and there were children from places such as Somalia, Jamaica, India, Pakistan, Turkey and China. There were all sorts of languages being spoken. The majority of children were from the Asian continent and were either Muslim or Sheikh. As the school did not have a uniform, most of the girls wore their traditional saris and Indian dress. Many of the Indian boys wore a 'top knot'- a small turban. A number of the younger children had very little English, and didn't speak it at home, and often, their mothers in particular, didn't speak any English at all. So communication between school/home was often a difficult process.

I started at the school in April, two thirds of the way through the school year. All the classes had a teacher, and I was to be just a music teacher for the first term. Then, the following term, I would be responsible for a class too. I was given the room at the top of tower two as an office, it was next to the water tank, and VERY noisy at times. I also had a music room based on floor three, in which I took each of the 12 classes for music sessions each week. I was able to set up a choir, recorder groups and a little band. To my delight I was pleased to learn that many children were receiving tuition from the music service staff which had its base in another building on the same site. It was called the Newham Academy of Music. It is where Deborah had learned to play the violin as a child and where she had first joined an orchestra. Several of her old teachers, including Mr Roskelly and Mr Toll, were still there.

The choir at the school came on well, and so Mr Rootsie agreed we could take part in the big music event of the year. NEWHAM GOES TO TOWN, when school choirs and instrumentalists



went en masse to perform at the Royal Albert Hall. We practised the chosen songs for weeks. Then, the time finally came for the day of performance. We all clambered in to the bus on what was a terrible hot day. All the schools were asked to get their children to dress in white tops and black bottoms. The accompanying staff were also asked to dress in the same way. So I decided to wear my newly purchased dress suit, dress shirt and black bow tie. It was so hot on the coach and coaches didn't have air con in those days. Several of the children were feeling unwell as we journeyed across London. Then Craig came up along the coach to me and said, "Mr Sell, I think I am going to be"... And, before he said it, he was - straight into my lap!! We cleaned me up as best we could. The rest of the day I felt very uncomfortable in my stiff, smelly clothing. But it was a wonderful experience being there with hundreds of young performers, and hearing Mr Roskelly play the Elgar cello concerto with the youth orchestra.

Over my time at the school I got to know many of the families well, and gained a reputation for being quite helpful. Quite often a mother would come along at the end of the day and ask me to help her with filling in a form, writing a letter, explaining something or getting a grant sorted out. One mother was pregnant and her husband was working away. I helped her get maternity allowance, and a grant to buy a pram. A few months later, she arrived at my classroom door one lunch time, looking a bit puffed out after climbing the stairs. She panted out in an agitated voice: "Mr Sell, I have my baby!" I said, "Yes, I know, we filled the forms in didn't we!" "No, Mr Sell, I have my baby!" "Yes", I said, "No", she said. "I have my baby NOW!". At which point her waters broke!! From my limited experience, I knew that things were imminent. So I got her laid down on the floor and sent a runner to the office. We called an ambulance, but it was all a bit too late! She gave birth in my classroom. But it was all tidied up before the children came back from lunch!

There was a time during the second summer when many of the children were feeling unwell during the day. They had a high temperature, felt sick and had diarrhoea. This went on for a few weeks. In the end, Mr Rootsie called in the Health Board team. After a thorough investigation, they found the problem had occurred because of a dead pigeon in the water tank that supplied all of the hand basins in the junior and infant schools. Consequently, the water tank was removed and only fresh mains water went into them after that.

When the school day finished at 3:30pm, the teachers of the classes on floor two had about an hour to tidy up, mark the books, put up displays of children's work and prepare for the next day. Then those teachers had to leave and hand over the classroom to the ISLAMIC school which ran from 4:30-6:30pm. Many of our children attended that school, I did feel rather sorry for them. They spent a lot of time learning each day, but many of those were highly motivated to learn. They had high ambitions. Once I asked my class what the children wanted to do when they left school...most of the Asian children wanted to be lawyers, doctors, pharmacists and other professionals and to go to university. The others had very different aspirations.

I learned a lot at that school. I learned that there's much more to being a teacher, than just teaching. I was a social worker, health advisor, translator, family support worker and much more. But, most of all, I learned that children can, with the right help and opportunities, be what ever they want to be. The job of the teacher is to make sure that every child is given the chance to be the best they can be.

(To be continued) Philip Sell



Not a (proper) Gardener (Part 5)

I am writing this on February 5th. The morning dawned like a November day with quite a thick fog creeping up from the river. Eventually it cleared, giving us a glimpse of the sun, but by the afternoon the weather had turned wet and rather dismal, and not a breath of wind.



Generally speaking during this pandemic we are pretty busy in the mornings with work and various responsibilities, so that it is in the afternoons, and in my case after a postprandial forty winks, that I tend to continue the pruning and tidying up which have been our main occupation in the garden over the winter months.

So this afternoon, I put on my boots and sallied forth, first into the little greenhouse to give the salads and the broad beans a bit of TLC while rain pattered overhead, and then, when that eased off, I simply wandered around enjoying the wet garden where his feet pass, as we sing in a popular hymn. And that's just how it felt, almost like a new morning. It was as if the whole garden, like some huge hibernating creature, was beginning to stir in its sleep and was taking in a deep breath or two. There was a definite feeling of change in the air, a sort of turning to a new direction. Just as the Church marks the end of the Christmas season at Candlemas on 2nd February and begins to look towards Lent (by derivation that word means Spring) so the whole Garden was thinking about waking up. True, there had been plenty of signs of hope seen in the wonderful masses of snowdrops both in gardens and hedgerows, not to mention on that bank just to the north west corner of the church. And crocus, daffodils, hellebores, catkins and so many shrubs have valiantly, like John the Baptist, been preparing the way; but now I felt the arrival of Spring was becoming imminent.

So I've got itchy fingers. It's time to be deciding on what seeds I need to buy and to think seriously about the best place and time to start sowing them, while bearing in mind crop rotation. Space is limited, so perhaps no potatoes this year, or just a few planted in large pots like we do for the annual Titley fête competition, enough for an occasional new potato treat. Dare I try red-flowered runner beans this year? We have so many house sparrows which love to peck at the flowers, and it's very difficult to net such tall and vigorous growth. And I want to grow sugar-snap peas and French beans. Brassicas must include golden acre cabbages, and this year I mean to grow some turnips. I wish I had room for a bed of asparagus, but thankfully we can obtain from Martin that treat locally grown. Carrots, beetroot, and perhaps a row of parsnips, which need sowing soon because they take so long to germinate. Perhaps I'll make some newspaper pots for them to start with. And, of course, we need plenty of salads. And I must sow tomato seed in the propagator, including Golden Sunrise, a favourite of ours. Well there's enough to start with. Itchy fingers!

Meanwhile we continue to tidy up and use our electric shredder, dig in compost, feed the fruits with potash, enjoy eating kale and leeks and some salads protected from frost. And of course, frozen beans, bottled fruit and apples. And the new cider will soon be ready for drinking.

Of course, permafrost and snow and the Beast from the East might yet put a spanner in the works and send the whole garden back to sleep for a month or more. Who knows? A few years ago on Easter Sunday I turned up at Huntington to take the early service and discovered four inches of snow waiting for me. In fact I believe we are more likely to have snow at Easter than at Christmas. But anyway, the days are getting longer and the coming of spring and summer will happen whatever.

Denis Parry

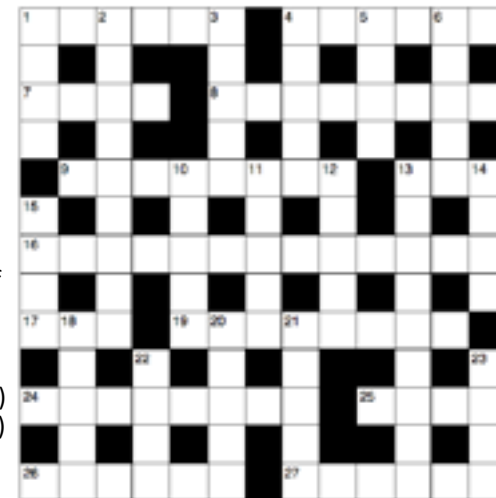
March Crossword

Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (8)
 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (8)
 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
 6 To put forth (5)
 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel'(Genesis 25:26) (5)
 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha'srequest (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times thatyou know me' (Luke22:34) (4)
 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
 22 Does (anag.) (4)
 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this(Genesis 41:19) (4)



Answers to last month's crossword

ACROSS:8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord. DOWN:1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

My early experience of Kington

Angela and I were initially surprised how quickly the Kington folk came to know us. However, it did not take long to realise that we were probably the only newcomers to the town in that year 1958. We must have appeared very young to many. The first day of moving into Oakengates in Hergest Road, our neighbour, Miss Frances Smith – French and German teacher and Senior Mistress at Lady Hawkins' School (nicknamed 'Messerschmitt') – kindly knocked at the door to introduce herself. Angela, heavily pregnant, with me at her side, warmly welcomed Miss Smith on the doorstep: she requested if it was possible to speak to our parents as she wanted to meet the new member of staff!



Back in those early years the town was brimming with family businesses, everyone knowing each other with the majority related to one another. As we started bringing up a young family, Angela's white Italian style perambulator and the family's Afghan Hound – kennel name 'Lady Natasha of Hergest' – became part of the townscape. Our status was elevated when one of our children mentioned to his friends that we had a colour television: he was of course being truthful, but the programmes were black and white and it was the casing of the set that was coloured.

Memories of my first day at school still resonate. I was assigned a mixed class of fourteen year olds. At registration I became aware of the identical male Whittall triplets from Eardisley. I had prepared a questionnaire for each pupil to complete as a way of getting to know them, as a basis for discussion, and to assist me in compiling the requisite details in the Class Register. Pupils had to enter their names, addresses and dates of birth. I included the names of villages within the catchment area on the duplicated form to assist with spelling; and in an attempt not to embarrass any pupil who may experience difficulty in writing certain months correctly, I explained that dates of birth should be recorded by use of numerals. As an example, the current date 09.09.1958 was written in chalk on the blackboard. That evening, furnished with these completed forms, I entered in black ink the pupils' names and details alphabetically in the new register, only to fail to complete the task. The Whittall lads had numerically miscalculated their birth month, so much so that according to their completed questionnaires three months separated their individual dates of birth. I had a lot to learn.

But what about this: I remember using this approach – entering the class of eleven year olds for the first time, producing a large framed 'picture' with the reverse side towards the class. I emphasised that it represented a most important person – but who? A host of anticipated responses resulted. Eventually I turned the mirror to face the class: they were naturally attracted to their own image – yes, a most important person, and the theme of the lesson. Anyone remember this ploy?

But I hope no one remembers this calamity: I was asked to prepare a lesson in Geography at the directive of a School Inspector. My selected topic: Cloud Formation. Preparation was sound. I photographed various cloud formations and produced slides for the projector. I obtained a time-lapse film illustrating how cloud formations occurred. Each pupil would have an illustrated chart showing various cloud formations which had to be identified from a list provided, and an opportunity to indicate the predicted weather conditions of each formation. My comprehensive preparation seemed fool proof. The day and the Inspector arrived. The initial five minutes went

according to plan, but it did not last. The slide projector bulb fused and I didn't possess a spare bulb. The film reel overheated and had to be abandoned. The Inspector made arrangements for a further visit. The joys of teaching!

Allan Lloyd

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday, sometimes known as Mother's Day, is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday and usually falls in the second half of March or early April. This was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptized or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

Traditionally, people observed a fast during Lent. Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. During the Lent fast, people did not eat from sweet, rich foods or meat. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering Sunday and many people prepared a Simnel cake to eat with their family on this day.

A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, Simnel cakes are decorated with 11 or 12 balls of marzipan, representing the 11 disciples and, sometimes, Jesus Christ. One legend says that the cake was named after Lambert Simnel who worked in the kitchens of Henry VII of England sometime around the year 1500.

A Word from St Hugh's

On rare occasions we hear the twit twoos of a male and female Tawny Owl calling to each other through the darkness and silence of the night. It is a thrilling, mysterious sound, and no, we are not in our wood. We are in-fact stirring from sleep in our cottage in readiness for the day. Purity of silence permits the twit and the twoos not to get lost in the conflict of other sounds.

St Benedict, in his Rule for life in the Monastery, begins with the word Listen. His teaching is for the monks to listen to the many ways God might speak to them.

When all around us is hushed and the fever of life is still, it is a lot easier to hear with clarity the hoot of an owl. Likewise it is more conducive to be open to God's Spiritual Presence in the silence.

St Benedict though is encouraging us in a more profound way of spiritual listening, whilst all the noises of daily living activities and distractions surround us within community life. To have within oneself a sense of stillness, inner peace and an appreciation of silence amidst our busyness, it then becomes an enabling way that frees us for attentive listening to those around us. It might even stop us imposing ourselves on others, and equally important our spiritual antenna is more alive to the presence of God.

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*



AgeUK Knitting Project

Below are given the instructions for making tiny knitted or crochet hats that Age UK and innocent drinks are combining in a fundraising project in aid of AgeUK. For every smoothie bottle sold with a woolly hat, innocent give 25p to the fund. I have given instructions for two very simple hats, but they can be any shape such as animal heads, flowers, cakes etc - as long as the size of the opening allows it to fit onto the smoothie.

The website www.ageuk.org.uk/bigknit has more details and lots of pictures of different examples. Finished hats can be taken to any Age UK shop - our nearest is Tenbury Wells - or they can be sent to Age UK, The Big Knit, Fruit Towers, 342 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5BU. The closing date is 1 October 2021.



Get your knit on!

The Big Knit

Grab your needles and help us be there for older people who are most in need.

The Big Knit is our partnership with innocent drinks, where we ask knitters of all abilities to knit (or crochet!) little woolly hats. These hats are then placed on to smoothie bottles in shops, and for every smoothie sold, innocent makes a donation to Age UK.

To find out more and to get our range of knitting patterns, please visit www.ageuk.org.uk/bigknit

Once your hats are ready, you can drop them at your nearest local Age UK or send them to us at Age UK, The Big Knit, Fruit Towers, 342 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5BU. The closing date for hats is 1 October 2021.

Instructions for a simple knitted striped hat

Yarn: Blue and white DK; 4mm needles
 Cast on 31 sts in blue
 Knit two rows (garter st)
 Change to white and beginning with a knit row continue in st st as follows
 2 rows white, 2 rows blue, 2 rows white, 2 rows blue, 2 rows white, 2 rows blue.
 Continue in blue
 Next row: k2tog to last st, k1 (16sts)
 Next row: purl
 Next row: k2tog to end (8sts)
 Cut the yarn leaving approx 10cm length. Thread this through a sewing needle and bring through stitches and pull up to tighten. Use a sewing needle to join side seams. Make a pompom in blue and white and sew securely to top of the hat.

Instructions for a simple crochet hat

Double knit yarn; 3.5mm crochet hook
 Using the magic loop technique make 6dc into the ring. Join with a ss.
 Round 1: ch1 make 2dc in each dc from the previous round. Join with ss (12sts)
 Round 2: ch1 , *1 dc, 2dc in next dc, repeat from * to end of the round. Join with ss (18sts)
 Round 3: ch1 *1 dc in next 2 dcs, 2dc in next dc, repeat from * to the end of the round. Join with ss (24sts)
 Round 4: ch1, 1 dc, in each dc to the end of the round. Join with ss.
 Repeat round 4, 4 more times.
 Fasten off and sew in ends
 Make a red pompom and sew to the top.

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It is thought that stroking a cat could reduce the level of stress-related hormones in the blood. Reducing stress is known to help protect against heart disease, by lowering blood pressure and reducing the heart rate. Which sounds purr-fect...

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

Intermediate Sudoku

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

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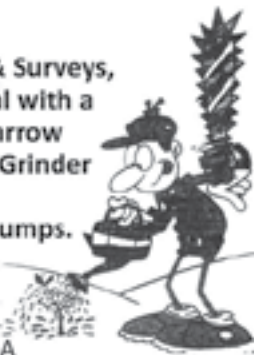
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It is run on a voluntary basis by Mrs Pat Prior Age Concern withdrew any day support in Kington, those attending left unsupported.

The Multi Purpose Centre, held for many years at Markwick Close were left without a place to go during refurbishment. Then used the St John Centre to continue to run their group which is no longer. Their members have now joined our XYZ friendship group.

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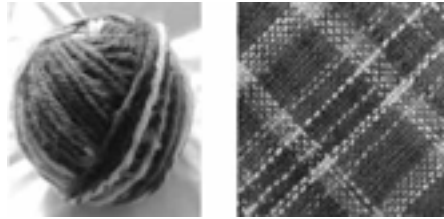


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... and finally

Hereafter

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am - in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement - I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"



Finding the right solution

An engineer, a manager, and a programmer were driving down a steep mountain road when the brakes failed. They managed to stop the car by running it against the embankment. Shaken by their narrow escape from death, they got out. The manager said, "We need to organise a committee, have meetings, exchange ideas, and then develop a solution."

The engineer said, "No that never works. I will take apart the brake system, isolate the problem and correct it." The programmer said, "You are both wrong. First we need to push the car back up the hill, get back in, and see if it happens again."

Palm Sunday visit

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby stayed home from church with a baby-sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him. Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and he shows up!"

Shoes

A timid clergyman went into a shoe shop to try on some shoes. "Try those – they are just right for you," decreed the very superior sales assistant. The minister struggled to get the shoes fastened, but failed. The assistant frowned and looked down. "Well, no wonder. Try pulling the tongue out."

"Well, theyth sthlll feelth a bith tighth."

Parish Pump

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