

Parish News

Kington, Huntington & Titley

November 2021



SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

FROM 3rd September 2020

email: mike@sargeantsbros.com
Tel : 01544 230481

Mill Street, Kington
Herefordshire
HR5 3AL

HEREFORD 461 via Lyonshall 462 via Eardisley
Journey times vary Kington to Hereford approx 65minutes

Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON

	461	461	461	461	461	461	462	461	461	461	463
Mon-Fri	0645	0720	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1540	1710
Saturday	-	0720	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1540	1710

Returns Railway Station, HEREFORD

	461	461	462	461	461	462	461	461	Sat/Hol	Sch	461	461
Mon-Fri	0748	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1615	1700	1815
Saturday	-	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	-	1700	1815

LLANDRINDOD WELLS

Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON

	461	461	461	461	462	461	461	462	461	461
M-F Coll Days	0600	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810
M-F Coll Hols	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810
Sat	-	0750	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1610	1735	1810

Returns from Railway Station, LLANDRINDOD WELLS

	461	461	461	462	462	461	463	462	461	461
M-F Coll Days	0638	0900	1108	1208	1308	1408	1600	1708	1808	1850
Sat & Coll Hols	-	0900	1108	1208	1308	1408	1605	1708	1808	1850

KNIGHTON Route 41

Departs Mill Street Car Park, KINGTON

M - F	0610	0820	1010	1210	1520	1730
Sat	-	0820	1010	1210	1520	1730

Departs Bus Station, KNIGHTON

M - F	0642	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805
Sat	-	0911	1111	1307	1617	1805

TOWN SERVICE

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

ARROW VIEW

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

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

Also available on www.sargeantsbros.com

THE KINGTON PARISHES



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

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Parish Office email: office@kingtonparishes.org.uk

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Mr Peter Kelly 01544 370266
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Mrs Rosemary Watkins 01544 230174
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St. Mary's, Kington PCC is a registered charity and its number is 1185453

Letter from the Archdeacon of Hereford

November can be a strange time of year with Autumn coming towards its end and the weather turning colder as winter rushes towards us. It is rather an appropriate time to reflect on our own mortality and those who have gone before us in faith. In the church calendar it is punctuated by a period of celebrations and more sombre occasions. It begins however with All Saints Day and this great festival of the church is a time to remember the ordinary men and women of faith who have gone before us and who have set an example for us.

I have always been wary of focussing on saints because by making them special we inadvertently create a category of 'super Christian'. If we go back to the New Testament we discover that a saint is actually quite different.

"To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:..." 1 Corinthians 1:2

For Paul writing his letters to the early church every one of us who is a disciple and follower of Jesus is a saint. We are not called to be superheroes; we are simply called to servants of the Kingdom. This is what a saint is, a man or woman of God called as a disciple of Jesus to be a messenger of good news in the world. In the scriptures the term 'Christian' is a derogatory term used to describe the followers of Jesus, where the writers of the New Testament refer to themselves as followers of 'the way' or saints. Now you may not see yourself as a 'saint' but in God's eyes that is what you are.

The other issue is that over the centuries the idea of saints standing before God and offering prayers on our behalf has permeated our thinking and whilst I believe in the communion of saints I don't think that praying to a named saint is going to help a great deal to improve my prayers! I know some find this idea helpful but it isn't what the bible teaches us about prayer. Instead we are taught that it is the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us when we cannot find the words and that thanks to Jesus we don't need any other mediators between God and us.

As someone commented to me recently the Communion of Saints is much more like a family praying down through the ages, each generation connected by prayer to the next handing on the baton of faith. It isn't difficult to believe this when you sit quietly in some of our ancient churches knowing there has been Christian worship in the place down through the centuries. Our churches can be what the Celtic Christians might have termed thin places where heaven and earth touch. It is a truly mind blowing thought that we are part of an endless family of faith interconnected through Jesus across the centuries.

The liturgical 'saints' are however still worth celebrating because they help to remind us that God takes ordinary men and women like you and I and enables us to attempt extraordinary things for Jesus. Their stories are worth telling to encourage us to see not just what is possible but also what has been done by the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us in faith. According to the writer of Hebrews they now stand in heaven to cheer us on like the crowd at a great sporting event.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,..." Hebrews 12:1

Archdeacon Derek

View from the Vicarage

"Ah yes, I remember it well."

Dear Friends

"We met at nine."

"We met at eight."

"I was on time."

"No, you were late."

"Ah yes, I remember it well."

I'm sure that many of you reading this will remember the musical "Gigi" and the famous song sung by Hermione Gingold and Maurice Chevallier, "I remember it well", of which these are the opening lines. The point of the song is, as is so true of so many people, that according to her; he doesn't remember it well, at all. His memory has dimmed with the passage of time and his recollection of events appears to be a long way from the reality, at least, according to her!

As the longer nights and shorter days of November enfold us, we embark on the season of remembrance. From celebration of the great and particularly the unsung and unremembered heroes of the Christian story; the saints who few, if any of us remember at all, who for one brief moment take centre stage on the month opening All Saints' Day.

I'm confident that all of us can and do recall with thanksgiving the real saints who we've encountered on our own journey of life. I'm equally confident that the vast majority of them don't merit even a footnote in any Hagiography(Dictionary of Saints) but all of them proved by the manner in which they lived their lives the truth of what a saint is.

A saint is not a plaster statue or a perfect human being; not even the ones who Christ chose in his earthly ministry could lay claim to that. A saint is simply a person who does the best that he or she can for the greatest number of people with the purest of motives, namely the glory of God and the betterment of humanity. That doesn't imply that saints are easy people; indeed the pages of the New Testament are littered with examples of how contrary and curmudgeonly some of the greatest saints can prove to be as the two titans Peter and Paul prove over and over again.

It should be no surprise at all that people who live their lives very close to God can prove to be difficult and contentious characters for the rest of us to deal with. Nonetheless, irrespective of that, all of them have an apparent and transparent godliness in their lives which draws others to them like moths to a candle flame and acts as way markers for all of us in our own journey into God.

Some of these heroic individuals we'll remember, others we won't, not because we've misremembered but simply because we never knew them in the first place.

For the vast majority of people in this country that is as true of the experiences of wartime and those gallant souls who toiled with such courage and dedication to bring it to its successful conclusion. For many of us, alive now, the names we read with such honour and pride at each Remembrance Service are merely that names of people we never knew and never met, they may if we're lucky be forbears, perhaps even faces we recognise from old photographs, but apart from that they're merely names. If you are someone who is old enough to remember the dark days of WWII then you are part of a small but precious minority of the population.

Next year, the nation and the Commonwealth will celebrate the first platinum Jubilee in European History. As we do so, the vast majority of Commonwealth citizens will remember no other monarch. All of us born since 1952 have known no other monarch, even if we're old

enough to remember coins with her father and grandfather in circulation.

What does and should unite us all whatever or however we remember whether well or not is a sense of profound gratitude to all and for all of those we remember well or otherwise during this season of remembrance and far more importantly, a renewed commitment and dedication to build a better world, a kinder world, a more compassionate world, a world able to support the needs of the generations to come who will or will not remember us well or otherwise because that is the greatest and most authentic tribute to those giants of the past upon who's shoulders we ourselves have stood. With my love and prayers, as always *Ben.*

LOOKING BACKWARDS

Over the past few months, we've been able to celebrate some wonderful milestones.

On September 19th the new-ish Bishop of Hereford joined us in Kington for a truly moving Eucharist and Confirmation during which Hollie was baptised and confirmed, Colin and Brian were confirmed and Jurate was received into the Church of England, it was a great privilege to journey with our candidates on the road to Confirmation and also witness them promising to follow Christ. Our love and prayers surround them and also the four candidates who were confirmed at Pembridge the following week.

We've also just emerged from Harvest Festivals beginning at Titley on September 17th and concluding at Huntington URC Church on 15th October, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard to ensure that our harvest services really were celebrations in beautifully decorated churches followed by some innovative harvest suppers.

We've also been celebrating with Steph and Ben and Carmen and Jake all of whom were married at Titley on October 2nd. It was a real honour to be able to share their commitment to each other with them.

It was also a great pleasure to be part of Old Radnor's thanksgiving to Ruth for 50 dedicated years playing the organ there. Many, many thanks and congratulations to Ruth and we hope that she enjoys her little thank you gift.

Apart from all of that, surely if it's possible, the highlight of the past months was the Herefordshire Council Civic Service held in Kington on 26th September and I'd like to quote from the letter I received from Councillor Sebastian Bowen.

"Thank you so much for your outstanding efforts regarding my Civic Service held in your beautiful parish Church of St. Mary's Kington. The service was a joy and was very much enjoyed by the whole congregation. I have had very fulsome congratulations and thanks on the service you produced. I was very proud to be there as Chairman of Herefordshire Council and it was a very special day indeed. Please give my heartfelt thanks to all concerned in the Service, in particular the organist, the choir, the verger, the thurifer, the church wardens, the coffee staff and anyone else involved in this remarkable day."

I can only echo Sebastian's thanks and add my own. I think we can safely conclude that we did Kington and the Gospel proud and you can't ask more than that can you? *Ben.*

LOOKING FORWARDS

Following on from such a jam-packed couple of months, most of November is relatively quiet as we prepare for the excitement of Advent and Christmas, you'll notice some changes in the Service rota as we endeavour to give each Church it's special services. The first change is Sunday, 28th November which this year is Advent Sunday when we invite everyone to join us for the beautiful Advent Carol Service a truly moving introduction to the season. Please do watch the website, the pew sheets, this publication and social media for up to date details.

With my love and prayers as always *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/UCho108zE6VUpNGQAmmfA9OA>

Sunday, October 31st: 4th before Advent: Green
Wisdom3:1-9 Psalm 24:1-6 Revelation21:1-6a John11: 32-44
10.00am: Group Eucharist at Kinnerton:

Sunday, 7th November: 3rd before Advent : Green/Red
Jonah: 1-5,10 Psalm62 5-end Hebrews9 24-end Mark1 14-20
8.30am: Holy Eucharist: Titley
10.00am: *Holy Eucharist: Kington
11.30am: Holy Eucharis and Baptism: Old Radnor

Sunday, 13th November Remembrance (2nd before Advent) Green/Red
Daniel12:1-3 Psalm16 Hebrews10: 11-14, 19-25 Mark13: 1-8
8.30am: Holy Eucharist (BCP): Huntington
10:15am: Remembrance Service Titley
10.30am: Remembrance Service and Eucharist Old Radnor
6.00pm: Remembrance Service: Kinnerton

Sunday, 21st November: Christ the King: Red/Green
Daniel7: 9,10,13/14 Psalm 93 Revelation1: 4b-8 John18:33-37
8:30am Holy Eucharist Kinnerton
10.00am: *Holy Eucharist Kington
10:00am Holy Eucharist Titley
5:00pm Iona Service Kington
6:00pm Junior Radnor Old Radnor

Sunday, 28h November: ADVENT Sunday: Purple
Jeremiah33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-9 1Thessalonians3: 9-13 Luke 21:25-36
8:30am Holy Eucharist Kinnerton
10:00am Holy Eucharist Huntington
11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Old Radnor
6.00pm: Advent Carol Service: Kington

* services live-streamed

St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON

Harvest Festival

We rejoice that, in these still strange times, we celebrated Harvest at St. Mary's. on October 3rd.

Our thanks go to Gill, Lesley and the team of flower arrangers, as once again the Church reflected the spirit of Harvest. The splendid God given colours of the season gave maximum pleasure to us all.

Our thanks go to those who donated Harvest gifts which were organised and presented by our Sacristan, Eileen, her deputy, Beverley and sold by Malcolm, raising £113 for WaterAid.

Our thanks go too to the Rev. Ben Griffith, to our Organist and Choir Master, Phillip Sell and to the Choir themselves for leading us in a service which certainly helped us to reflect on how God certainly does crown the year with his goodness.

Following the service we united for a very different Harvest lunch from that usually enjoyed at St. Mary's. Thank you to all who stayed for the "new type lunch", a ploughman's. Thank you to those who helped on both Saturday and Sunday to put together attractive plates of food. Yes, we know, we missed the puddings! Sorry.

Grateful thanks to all who helped on Friday, particularly Beverley and Malcolm, who ferried tables from the Parish House, set them out and in so doing helped us to realise what a useful space we shall have when the re-ordering takes place, in, we hope, the not too distant future. Our thanks too, to Paul, who helped set everything back in place following the meal.

As a result of being able to celebrate Harvest we were able to send £249 to Water Aid, this being made up of the proceeds from the Sales Table and the balance from the "lunch tickets" when expenses had been paid.

Again, our grateful thanks to all who contributed to this special time together.

"For the fruits of His creation"

and for a fellowship time.

"Thanks be to God".

Ann & Rodney.

Coffee Rota at St Mary's

Because of a rise in covid and the fact that social distancing is more difficult in the coffee area, we have suspended serving coffee for at least two weeks, i.e October 17th and 24th

I am including a rota for November and early December and will let those on duty know if the "no coffee time" has to be extended into November.

Nov. 7th	Mrs M. Cooke & Mrs J. Price.
Nov. 14th	Mr. & Mrs J. Halcrow.
Nov. 21st	Mrs B. Thompson & Mrs M. Gilling.
Nov. 28th	Mrs C. Robinson & Mrs J. Reid.
Dec. 5th	Mrs E. Roche & Stephen Lacey.
Dec. 12th	Mrs M. Cooke & Mrs J. Price.

If you have any queries about this please contact me.



Ann Edwards.



The Community Shop.

This is St. Mary's first Fundraising event for many months so please support the Friends of St. Mary's who will be running the shop from November 27th for one week. We plan to have some Christmas themed items for sale.

We look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like to arrange collection of items, or have any queries, please contact Rod Symondson on (01544) 231998

Goodbyes and Thanks

When our move away from Kington finally happened in June, albeit then at relatively short notice, I was very aware I had not said my good-byes and thank yous in the way I had originally intended. Now, 4 months later and after many delays, having recovered from the move itself, John's fall which left him virtually immobile for 3-4 weeks, and the joy of the birth of our first grandchild and her Baptism last weekend, I want to put that right.

We came to Kington from "down south" with the purpose of doing B&B, and this job kept us pretty busy and without much time left over to really integrate into our new community. But from the very outset the welcome I received at St Mary's provided the friends and links into Kington that were a very major part of our lives in the nearly 14 years we were there. There are too many people to mention by name, but I hope they know who they are, and we thank you. We also must mention the friendship and understanding given to John by Ben and Father Simon. As a southerner who had never lived north of London, I came to appreciate the sense of community in Kington, people being assessed on who they were (as opposed to other criteria), and the wealth of talent and energy many living there bring to Kington – plus of course the blessing of the stunning countryside.

So why leave? Sadly as we got older the 4-5 hour drive involved, to be with family or our oldest friends, was becoming a challenge that was not going to get easier as we aged. Still searching to buy in Sussex, we are temporarily in Berkshire, where it has been a joy to be near our new grandchild. But it is the friendship, fellowship and worship at St Mary's that is one of the things I now miss – but thanks to the continuing live stream I can now join you most Sundays, and it is so good to see the ongoing evolving of worship and life there.

Our love and very best wishes to you all,

Jill (and John) Paton Walsh.

Kington Community Lunch

**12.30pm
Wednesday
17th November**



If you would like a hot meal and company please join us at the Parish House.

ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS

Harvest Festival Service at United Reformed Church, Huntington:

A good attendance made this year's Harvest Festival a joyous thanksgiving. Rob MacCurragh presided and the first lesson was given by Joel, who emphasised that despite all the ills that beset us, the message was of eternal hope. Matthew's Gospel reading told us not to be anxious and trust in the Lord. Steven Gilling accompanied the singing of harvest favourites "We plough the fields and scatter" and the moving "How great Thou art". Prayers were said for the farming, fishing and forestry communities and thanks given for the bounty of the Earth. After the service, friendship was extended over tea and biscuits. The occasion was shared with St Thomas a Becket Church, who will reciprocate with hosting the carol service.

Peter Kelly



Huntington Village Hall – Curry Night:

The popular Curry Night will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 20th November. If you would like further information please contact Pippa Lloyd on 01544 370692.

Advent Soup Kitchen Advent Fridays from 10:30 - Place de Marines, Kington

St Thomas a Becket will again be running the fantastic soup kitchen in the Place de Marines during Advent this year. Starting on Friday 26th November, and the following three Fridays between 10:30 - 13:00, we will be serving hot soup and a roll either to eat around the kotlich fire or (with a lid) to take home and enjoy.

We will also be selling locally made cakes, jam, chutneys and wreaths in aid of St Mary's Kington and St Thomas a Becket Huntington. Please come along and support our churches.

Fiona Shone



Saturday 13 November, 7.30pm. Music in New Radnor

John Kirkpatrick

John Kirkpatrick has been dancing, singing, and playing his way around the English folk scene since joining Hammersmith Morris Men at the tender age of twelve. Displaying a rare skill on a variety of push-pull squeezeboxes, he has been fully professional for over 50 years and can be heard on myriad recordings from the Albion Band through to Steeleye Span. In 2021 he was awarded an MBE for his services to folk music.

New Radnor Community Hall, Hall Lane, New Radnor, Powys, LD8 2SW.

Pre-booking essential. Doors will open before 7pm for a 7.30 start, to avoid queues at the door. Tickets £12 / £3 from 01544 350268

Welsh covid-safe rules will apply and we ask you to wear face masks



More Vehicular Tales from the Summer of 1964

After completing my studies in Durham, apart from a bicycle, I used my trusty 500cc AJS motor cycle. However, the rugby injury sustained and mentioned in my last article made it difficult to ride. A friend came to my rescue and sold me a 1934 two door Morris 8 saloon for the princely sum of 30/-. I nicknamed it my 30bob job!

He had taken the car to the local scrap yard previously, and was offered £3 scrap value. However, as the yard was full, they could not take the vehicle for at least three weeks. I asked why he was scrapping the car. He replied that some teeth were missing from the crown wheel (a vital part of the driving mechanism located on the rear axle) also the M.O.T expired in two months.

I drove the car home very slowly with horrible clunking noises coming from the rear axle. I had seen the same Morris 8 model parked up on bales of straw in a neighbour's garden. I asked Chris, the owner, about the state of that car, now being used as a chicken house. He told me that the engine had blown up. I asked him about the crown wheel and pinion- no damage there! He said, if I could remove the item, I could have it. I happily gave him 10/- (50p). There was one slight snag, the near side of the car was very close to the hedge. Undaunted I returned home and collected my tool kit. Putting on my mother's ex-Women's Land army great coat, I threw myself into the prickly, thorny hedge and set about the task of removing the crown wheel and pinion.

Two hours later I returned home with the precious second- hand part. It took me less than half an hour to remove and replace the broken crown wheel and pinion.

The Morris 8 had three months unexpired road licence, and in those days, this could be transferred to the new owner. After completing the necessary documentation and insuring the vehicle, I was ready for the road.

My first trip to Chipping Sodbury was an absolute nightmare! It was almost impossible to steer the car in a straight line. It would suddenly veer to the right or left without notice! Drastic action was required with great care. With trepidation I called a friend from Chipping Sodbury who was a mechanical genius. He always reminded me of the Professor in the Rupert Bear cartoons.

I explained the erratic steering as I drove the car on its first drive as the new owner. He found a screwdriver and scraped away some mud on the right and left side of the front axle at the point where the front leaf springs were attached. "Here is your problem" he said. "Someone has taken out the wedges that tilt the axle forward and put them back in the wrong way round, making the axle tilt backwards". He explained the problem in simple terms - Imagine trying to ride a bicycle with the front forks tilting the wrong way round. Out with the tool kit, and after a little grovelling around in the gravel, the wedges were refitted in their correct position. I went on my way happy and grateful for my friend's advice.

The car performed beautifully for the rest of the summer vacation and I sold it to my brother in law, who needed a car, for £8, the total cost of my three months ownership and worth every penny of the outlay.

The next step of my training began at Queen's College, Birmingham, starting in October 1964. A year later, I purchased Jane Austin Mk III, a 1932 Austin 7 saloon, reg no PJ 4181 for £25.

Tony Jardine

The Wanderings (both Physical and Mental) of an Itinerant Organist

Kington Baptist Church installed its pipe organ in the autumn of 1956 to replace its harmonium. The Methodist, Dr Donald Soper defined a harmonium as "an ill wind which nobody blows any good". As a 16 year old with a couple of associated board exams under my belt it was a case of "being in the right place at the right time", and I was bowled over by this new sound, and soon started playing for part of the Sunday morning service. In about 1963 this included Huntington evening services. In those days Huntington boasted a Rector, Rev Chignell, (Pre Ben by 8), a Peoples' Warden and a Vicars' Warden (This distinction between wardens always seemed a bit adversarial To me!)

I have been a member of the British Institute of Organ Studies for a number of years; it awards Historic Organ Certificates to instruments of merit. These are graded at three levels, similar to large country houses. The Old Radnor organ case, circa 1540, is the oldest in the country, awarded a rare Grade 1 and is depicted on all BIOS letter heads and literature (as shown here).

NW Herefordshire has many old organs and to date we have graded six. The initial one in Byford Church saw the 36th National Ploughing Championships in 1986. I still prize an exotic 4-page A4 order of service prepared by the Society of Ploughmen. An old plough was carried into church by ploughing champions, some from Canada, during a roof-raising singing of "All people that on earth do dwell".

In 1975 I obtained my ARCO. At that time the college stood in the shadow of the Royal Albert Hall, an ornate building standing on the circular Kensington Gore. From the organ hall on the third floor I could look down on the Prominaders in sleeping bags on the pavement queuing for the front places on the last night.

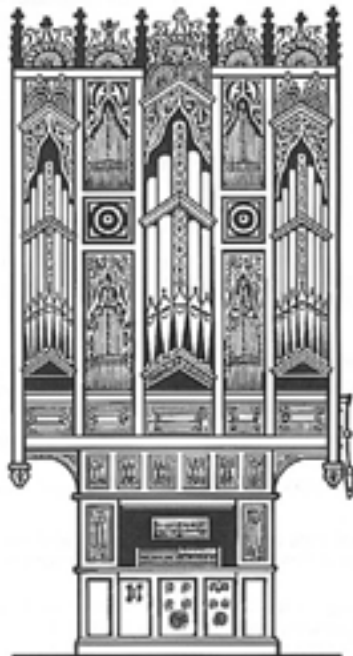
I have encountered electronic organs in two remarkable places. The Makin organ in the gallery of Shobdon church has massive speakers and innumerable stops. Playing in its wedding cake like surroundings, with ornate shaped white seats with light blue decoration is a surreal experience.

In contrast, the very basic electronic at Monnington runs on batteries in a Jacobean furnished church without electricity. Here Owen Glendower, the last crowned Welsh Prince of Wales sought refuge with his daughter Margaret, wife of Roger Monnington and is said to be buried by the Church porch.

Titley's late 19th Century organ by Hereford Builder Ingram is a smaller version of the later Weobley Ingram.

The Kington organ has not qualified for HOC status, despite its excellent specification, because of its mixed history. Straight, flat pedal boards, as at Lyonshall, are a good indicator of age, but Kington's radiating and concave pedal board is indicative of more recent renovation.

Stephen Gilling



ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS

Remembrance Sunday.

There will be a service of remembrance at Titley at 10am on Sunday 14th November. This will be followed by the laying of a wreath at the War Memorial at 11am. If you can't attend the service please do come to the memorial at 10.45am to join in the act of remembrance.



Congratulations.

On Saturday 2nd October we didn't just have one wedding in Titley we had two!! We all send our warmest congratulations to Ben & Steph and Jake & Carmin and wish them all the best for their future lives together.

Kington & District Operatic Society

We're back!

Rehearsals every Friday at St Mary's Church at 7.30pm.

Come and join us – we'll be singing all sorts – G&S, Songs from the Shows, Carols!

Please contact Lynne on 01544 267253
or owensmoor@tiscali.co.uk

Pear Chutney.

Win Dowdeswell has been making some of her famous Pear Chutney and has some to sell on behalf of Church funds. If you would like a jar or two please give her a ring on 01544 267342.

Christmas Wreaths.

Win is also taking orders for the beautiful Christmas Wreaths which she makes. If you would like to reserve one please give her a ring and place your order. These are always very popular so don't leave it too late!

Carol Service.

Just a note for your diary. Our village carol service will take place at 6pm on Friday 17th December. The children will play a great part of this service and for the grown ups there will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Dick

Not a Proper Gardener (Part 12)

I have just returned from the potting shed where I have been sowing sweet pea seeds, 5 to a five inch pot, carefully spaced. I have soaked the seeds overnight to hasten germination; it makes them swell up a bit. It's an act of faith, of course, doing this, just as everything seems to be dying off, to anticipate new life by looking forward to the flowering of beautiful, sweetly scented flowers and, as always, just in time for my parent's wedding day, 6th June. There were 31 seeds in the packet, so I have 6 pots of hopefulness, indeed of resurrection. And when you think about it, nature, creation, is full of signs of that. Like most living animals I die into sleep each night and wake to life each morning. Trees and hibernating creatures seem to die in winter, but spring brings them back to life. Resurrection seems to be built into the very nature of things and we see it all the time in the natural world and in the garden.

And what about the garden? Well, there's plenty still to be done out there, tidying up and looking after winter salads and storing the Adam's Pearmain, Herefordshire Russets and Fiesta apples, all of which are best eaten in the New Year. In general we've had excellent results once again, a lovely lot of cooking apples and pears, the best quinces ever, plenty of greens, and a fair crop of beans in spite of the sparrows, who seemed eventually to get fed up with pecking at the flowers. It's good that the cockers Emma's been putting out at the gate have been taken more readily this year and are all gone now. Our tomatoes did very well, excellent red and yellow ones mainly from the greenhouse, and pounds and pounds of little ones from the hanging baskets in the end. Lots of these we have ripened off on the windowsill, then frozen and bottled. And the mini-cucumbers were plentiful and tasty – quite different from the large plastic-wrapped ones one buys from the shops. We've eaten them sliced up with bread and butter, pepper and vinegar for tea day after day. But on the debit side we've been discovered by a squirrel who's had all the cob nuts, and a nasty black cat who hunts the birds. There were never many wasps, but the white butterflies did arrive in strength eventually (frustrated thanks to netting). And the birds who nested in the drawing room chimney are annoyed that we've had it swept. We now have to find someone to put a netting cowl on it. Emma forbids me, in my dotage, to climb up there myself.

Other wild life has been good to see. Emma's bird feeding has paid off, and she has also now had two hedgehogs visiting at dusk most days, only a few butterflies (apart from cabbage



whites) in spite of our nettle bed, buddleias etc. but plenty of bees and other pollinators.

When you listen to the news and see and hear what's happening to our beautiful planet it's easy to feel despair and to say, with that chap in Dad's Army, "We're all doomed, doomed."

But working in the garden can give us hope, and for me November brings that home:-

Hope in November

November nights nibble away progressively, the edges of each day, funnelling all being into a cold, damp greyness of unseeing, which justifiably one might suppose to presage gloom of endless night.

In vain a waking tortoiseshell dances across the windowpane with fluttering temerity, beguiled by central heating, unaware of winter's cold severity.

But where there's life there's hope: it, 'springs eternal in the human breast,' says Alexander Pope. And Jeremiah buys a field, storing the deeds of confidence away, all duly signed and sealed against that Day.

So birds house-hunting seek a place to nest, while buds on trees already start to swell, whose leaves but lately fell. And nut trees sport their embryonic catkins, which brighter days suggest.

And winter jasmine's thousand golden suns, honouring one in whose bright image they were made, defy days darkening and short, which lengthening nights intrepidly invade. All this despite dense fogs and hail and sleet and snow and freezing rain, as if the winter should prevail for ever, and spring never come again.

But there's a deeper magic in the air of which all nature seems to be instinctively aware: an anchored hope, leaving no room for doubt, that light cannot be comprehended, nor finally put out.

For at the winter solstice, viewed as yet as through the wrong end of a telescope, the funnel that is autumn is reversed, to trumpet forth Word of a Greater Light; darkness has done its worst, all is renewed, November hope has banished fears of endless night.

Happy gardening

Denis Parry

Quince Jelly

Denis and Emma very kindly shared some of their bountiful crop of Quinces with us this year and we used about half of them to make several jars of Quince Jelly, so as I had this space left in the magazine I decided to write about it.

Quinces have quite tough outer skins as well as being much harder than apples, so to avoid a lot of hard work I decided to just cut off the stems and put the whole fruits into the preserving pan, covered them with water and simmered them for about an hour. By this time they were quite soft so I mashed them with a potato masher and put the contents of the pan into a jelly bag (made from old net curtains many years ago) and suspended the bag over the Kenwood bowl from a cup-hook screwed into a handy beam in the kitchen.

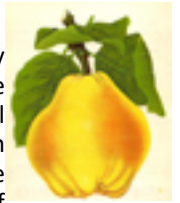
I know you're not supposed to squeeze the bag, but I can never resist the temptation, so I did so and got about 5 pints of juice. I use the formula: 1 pint juice to 1 pound of sugar, so I added 5lbs of sugar and about 3 tablespoons of lemon juice to be on the safe side.

After some more boiling and testing for set, the jelly was made and it just had to be bottled and labelled.

Quince Jelly has a wonderful sharp, fruity taste and is equally good with cold meat as well as using it like jam. We always use some in the bottom of Bakewell tarts before covering with Mincemeat and topping with almond flavoured sponge - very good.

The rest of the Quinces we will use to make Mango, Quince and Apple chutney which goes very well with curries.

Freda



What's On at the Cathedral

DAILY EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to join any of the acts of worship that take place at the cathedral. Services are normally held at the following times:

Monday – Saturday

8 am – Morning Prayer

11.15 am – Eucharist (8.30 am on a Saturday)

5.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

Sunday

8 am – Holy Communion

10 am – Cathedral Eucharist (this service is also live streamed)

11.30 am – Morning Prayer

3.30 pm – Evening Prayer or Evensong

EXHIBITIONS

Lost & Found Exhibition

Monday 26 July to Friday 31 December, Mon – Sat, 10am – 5pm

Why have things gone missing from the Cathedral over the years? The latest exhibition in the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library follows the story of things lost but later found and of some special things lost but not found... yet!

Admission charges apply

Journey To Your Centre – The Art of Meditation

Thursday 7 October – Wednesday 3 November (normal cathedral opening hours)

Bath based visual artist, Stephen Magrath, explores the practice of stilling in order to experience the presence of God's love within. Located in the North Transept, the exhibition will consist of eight different artworks which can provoke contemplation and reflection.

Free entry

EVENTS

Monday 1 November, 7pm The Hereford Medieval Statutes Lecture

The cathedral's medieval statutes are a fascinating insight into the life and working of the cathedral in the 13th century and reveal much information about the ups and downs of everyday life here once we read between the lines. Canon Chris Pullin will use them to paint a picture of cathedral life at the time of Bishop Aigueblanche.

Tickets cost £8, available to buy online: www.herefordcathedral.org/events

Tuesday 2 November, 5.30pm

Evensong Faure Requiem for All Souls

Wednesday 10 – Sunday 14 November Remembrance Garden for Royal British Legion

The garden will be located in the Lady Arbour Garden and open to visit during normal cathedral opening hours.

Friday 19 & 26 November, 3 & 10 December, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Meet the Patriarchs and their Wives - an Advent course led by Revd Dr Maureen Palmer

In this course (which lasts four sessions) we shall examine the lives of the three Patriarchs,

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and in the last session the role of the wives of the Patriarchs, Sarah and Hagar, Rebekah and Leah and Rachael. Each brings hope to the 'chosen people' as the advent candles do for us today.

Tickets cost £8 per session and can be purchased from the Cathedral Library (01432 374 225/6)

Saturday 20 November, 7.30 pm

Hereford Choral Society: Mozart Requiem & Haydn Paukenmesse

"Mozart died writing this" is arguably the least helpful reference to this hugely popular work, intriguingly left unfinished at his death on 5 December 1791. Its enduring appeal makes Mozart's Requiem one of the outstanding works in the choral repertoire. It is paired with Haydn's Paukenmesse, composed in 1796. Known for its dramatic use of timpani, it is one of the most popular of Haydn's fourteen masses.

Tickets cost £10 – £25 and can be purchased via herefordchoralsociety.org

Sunday 28 November, 3.30pm

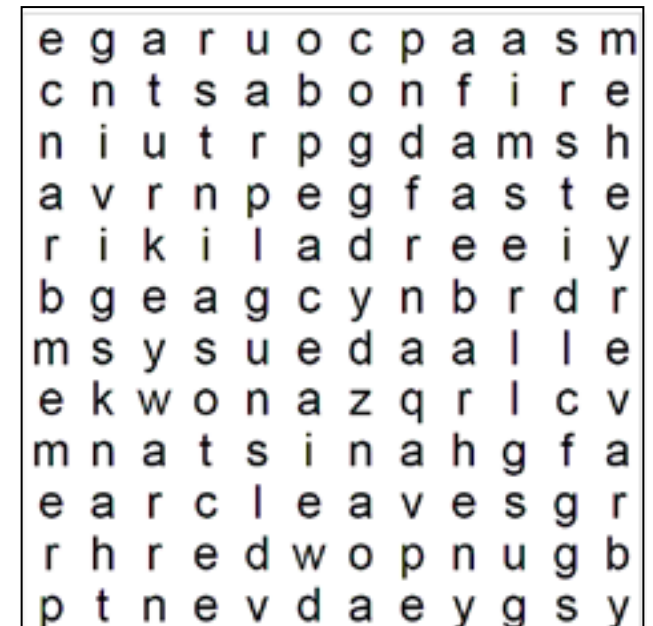
Advent Carol Service

Please note that tickets are required for this service and will be available to request from 1 November via the Cathedral Office and herefordcathedral.org

November Wordsearch

November is a sad month, tinged with memories of loved ones lost in wars. We remember their courage with Remembrance Services and poppies. The leaves are nearly all gone, as nature prepares for her winter's sleep. Bonfires burn in memory of the 'Guy', and in America they give Thanksgiving for the bounty of the year. The Christian church remembers its Saints, and looks forward to the joyful return of Christ the King. The church year ends; and also begins: Advent is nearly upon us as we wait for a special Baby...

poppies
remembrance
courage
bravery
flanders
dead
guns
war
peace
afghanistan
iraq
thanksgiving
turkey
all
saints
advent
leaves
sadness
angel



Kington Museum & History Centre AGM
will take place
at
5pm on
30th November
at
the Burton Hotel

Jam Jars



If you need any jars for jam or pickles tel Irene tel 230683

Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley Village Hall

4th November: Supernova (cert 15) 7.30.p.m.

Concert pianist Sam (Colin Firth) and novelist Tusker (Stanley Tucci), partners for 20 years, are travelling into the Lake District in their trusty camper van to visit friends, family and places from their past. Since Tusker's diagnosis of early-onset dementia two years previously, they are all too aware that their time together is precious. Subtle, moving and believable, the movie rests on two low-key but masterful performances.

2nd December: Knives Out (cert 12A) 7.30.p.m

When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is found dead at his estate just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) is mysteriously enlisted to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harlan's untimely death.

Although the government has removed all restrictions on indoor activities, we will still be restricting numbers. We therefore ask that people pre-book their tickets by emailing fionaritchie54@gmail.com or telephone 01544 327227. (Tickets can be paid for on the door and are still only £5). Or you can book online at www.artsalive.co.uk

We also ask that people are considerate of others and wear face masks on entry and when leaving or moving around the building.

Don't forget to bring your own refreshments. Doors open at 7pm.

KINGTON GIVES THANKS CHANGE OF DATE

We have recently learnt that the commemorative bench will not be ready for installation in the churchyard at St Mary's by 6th November. We have therefore postponed the date of the Kington Gives Thanks Service to;

Saturday 11th December 2021 at 10.30.am

I hope to have posters with further details available by mid November.

Kay Birchley 01544 230 718, Kington.PPG.Chair@gmail.com

IN TOUCH – News from Kington Medical Practice Issue no 1 November 2021

Welcome to the first issue of our monthly PPG (Patient Participation Group) news sheet, which replaces our quarterly newsletter.

The PPG recently met “mask to mask” with Dr McCaffrey and April Jones, the Practice Manager, to discuss the many changes/adaptations/challenges that General Practices are currently dealing with. For instance as more is learnt about the corona viruses and the covid pandemic, new ways of managing the care and treatment of patients, and of preventing infection by vaccination and behavioural change are evolving. These developments are not happening in a vacuum, but in the context of significant changes being made nationally in the ways that General Practices operate. For example patients may not be aware that the CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) of Herefordshire and Worcestershire have merged. CCGs commission services from Medical Practices and allocate the funding to pay for these services. Whilst there are core services that all General Practices must provide, other services may be shared between all the Practices in the Primary Care Network e.g. Casey Ord, our social prescriber, works in all the Practices in the North West Herefordshire Network.

Many of these changes are positive. However they do present the PPG with the challenge of informing patients about what is happening and why. We feel that a monthly format will enable us to respond to queries from patients more quickly and effectively. We hope to include a section entitled “Questions Patients Ask” in each news sheet. Please address your questions to me either by leaving a note:

FAO Kay Birchley at reception, or by email; Kington.PPG.Chair@gmail.com

Update from the Practice

Thank you to everyone who attended our Flu vaccination clinic held on the 2nd October, we vaccinated 1659 patients on the day! If you are eligible and are not yet vaccinated, a follow up clinic for those who couldn't attend our first clinic and for those aged 50-64 will be arranged following confirmation of deliveries of further vaccine, invitations will be sent. Seasonal influenza and COVID-19 viruses have the potential to add substantially to the winter pressures usually faced by the NHS, particularly if infection waves from both viruses coincide, it is therefore important that if you are eligible to have a flu vaccine this season that you get vaccinated.

We are pleased to welcome back Dr Ayesha Rahim to the clinical team. Dr Rahim is currently working 6 sessions a week remotely, which has proved very popular, and 2 sessions per week Face to Face at the surgery. The Practice has 5 Doctors, Dr Silvana McCaffrey, Dr Daryl Mohammed, Dr Obi Ohakanu, Dr Sola Orebiyi and Dr Ayesha Rahim. Providing a total of 30 sessions per week equating to 420 patient appointments, included in these 30 sessions are 3 sessions used to provide care to the patients in the three local care homes.

While things appear to be returning to 'normal' in the public domain, General Practice is still faced with the pressures of Covid-19. While we understand patients may find our new way of working frustrating, the changes to how we operate are essential to keep our vulnerable patients and staff safe and will enable us to continue to care for unwell patients who need priority review.

We thank everyone for their continued support and understanding.

Kay Birchley

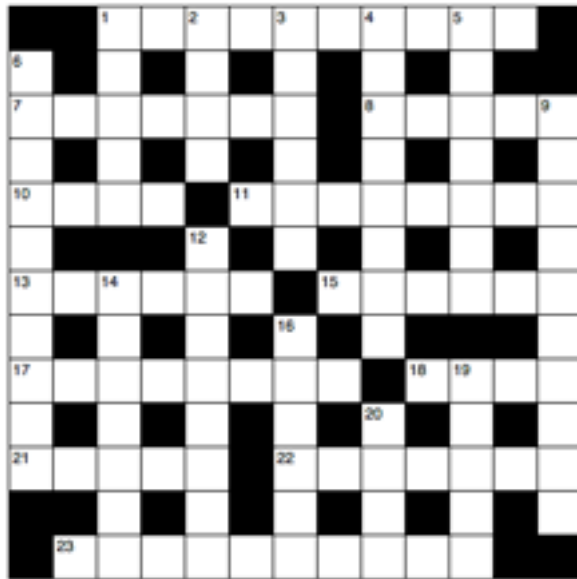
November Crossword

Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her —' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across



Answers to October Crossword ACROSS: 1. Bartholomew. 9. Evil one. 10. Adore. 11. Ran. 13. Oreb. 16. Zinc. 17. Entail. 18. Hung. 20. Lehi. 21. Joshua. 22. Pity. 23. Wide. 25. Age. 28. Alarm. 29. Partake. 30. Sennacherib.
DOWN: 2. Alive. 3. Took. 4. Over. 5. Onan. 6. Emotive. 7. Jehoshaphat. 8. Melchizedek. 12. A light. 14. Beg. 15. Strong. 19. Not have. 20. Law. 24. Iraqi. 25. Amen. 26. Epic. 27. Free.

Reader Writes

I recently had the experience of queueing all the way up to the filling station forecourt only to have it close in my face. No problem for me; only a change to already flexible plans. But think of the teacher and the nurse and the farmer who need fuel to do their jobs, and these are jobs that affect all of us. None the less, I enjoyed the library notice saying "Please note: The Apocalyptic Fiction section has been moved to Current Affairs". We are all tied in to a global highly geared and tuned market economy where every ounce of slack is squeezed (or misappropriated) for profit.



With the hugely and globally important COP26 starting, it is tempting to say that gas shortages, HGV driver disappearances and even empty shelves in the Coop, are a timely warning that we need to change, both society and economy, and do it urgently. Climate breakdown, hardly mentioned in the PM's party conference speech, isn't just one important sector of government business competing with all the others. Rather, society and economy are inseparably marooned on the same creaking ice-flow called changing climate. Our predicament was recently laid bare by a report from ActionAid that showed that the many global carbon offset solutions were either incompatible or wouldn't fit into the size of our one planet. You can't plant forests, restore peat and grow extra food on the same precious acre.

I was very proud to see Kington XR activists causing trouble in London in September; their role is vital for all of us, and today's primary school children will grow up to honour them. But frustration with Government isn't the main point; governments mirror society, and not enough of us are making those vital step by step changes in lifestyle, diet, travel and work, which will give governments the authority to make the structural changes we need. All eyes will be on COP26, and many activists and NGOs will be there urging on the vital business of planet-saving commitments. But the same responsibility lies with you and me to make the changes within our reach.

Climate Justice by Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland, gathers stories, especially of women, from around the world of these often small but inspiring changes that can save our planet. A spiritual take on this towering problem often comes down to the issue of justice. Whether it is drought driven economic migration from sub-Saharan Africa or refugees from land and water wars in the middle east, our own consumer economies are implicated. Whether we call it climate justice or generational justice, we stand accused of making the earth uninhabitable for generations hence.

It is sobering to see how often the word justice crops up in the bible; the prophets warned that injustice spelled disaster for Israel and Judah. And so it turned out. The prophet Micah puts it simply: "what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." As others have said, we must be guided by hope and not by fear notwithstanding formidable challenges. And thrillingly and reassuringly, cooperation and working together can change the whole landscape of hope; the pandemic has shown us that. A final piece of reassurance: nothing is beyond redemption with God.

Robert MacCurrach

A Word from St Hugh's October 2021

St Hugh's has been blessed with the provision of resources through God's generosity in order to assist us in fulfilling our Vows and the Statutes associated with them.

For the past 20 years Myndlasses Wood has provided us with the unique silence and solitude that has been so important in stimulating our spiritual wellbeing. At the same time opportunity has been given to increase the bio-diversity of a small woodland which is so important and fulfilling with the current environment challenges we all face.

However, as we've gradually become older, lessening energy levels have made managing the wood more difficult. With prayerful planning we feel there is the need to consider the future of Myndlasses Wood, and if possible find new ownership which will provide the necessary management and practical skills required to continue to nurture habitats for the many species, including the migratory Pied Flycatchers.

'Letting go' is often extremely difficult! We all have to face up to the challenges and changes that are encountered throughout life. For us the Wood has become a powerful spiritual and emotional attachment. We are confident though that the void will soon be filled, and that St Hugh's will be given another spiritual responsibility. Or just to be given more time to "be" than to "do". We have discovered in times past not to be afraid to let go.

You may feel very secure in the pond that you are in, but if you never venture out of it, you will never know that there is such a thing as an ocean, a sea. Holding onto something that is good for you now, may be the very reason why you don't have something better." C. JoyBell. C

Word from St Hughs. November 2021

This month we are celebrating the privilege and joy of sharing this year's results for the Nest Box Recordings in Myndlasses Wood. More details have been sent to the British Trust for Ornithology.

Species.	Nest Boxes Used.	Hatched /Fledged.	Deserted/Predation.	Eggs not Hatched
PIED FLYCATCHER	15.	64.	4.	13.
BLUE TIT.	8.	48.	1.	4.
GREAT TIT	2.	11.	0.	0.
COAL TIT.	1.	8.	0.	0.
NUTHATCH	1.			

Having close encounters with birds nesting in boxes and recording their journey through the breeding season is for us a spiritual inspiration.

Most of us probably realise all Blue Tits nests are the same, but the significant differences between the different species of nests is vast! And the mystery of how, for example, a Pied Flycatcher, building its nest for the very first time, manages a perfect replica of all Pied Flycatchers nests is unfathomable and awesome.

In contrast the Nuthatch, when using a nest box, makes it virtually impossible for us to record the inner activities. Observing them at nest building time presents us with plenty of entertainment. The first sign they are interested in a particular box is the continuous tapping from the inside - which will go on for a good week. Occasionally they attempt to make the entrance larger from the outside. Then "mudding up" takes place to make the entrance smaller!

The reason we are unable to record the inner activities of the Nuthatch is revealed at the end of the season when all the young have left the nest. The inspection doors are sealed with dried mud, but with great gentleness, the work of the "master plasterer" is revealed. The top of the entrance is precisely lined with mud and tapers along any slight defects that might let in wet weather. Nesting material consists of tiny chips of wood two or three inches deep with little or no lining. Undoubtedly their skill lies in foundational work.

Encounters with the natural world gifts us with something greater than ourselves, and presents us with the knowledge that we are part of God's Creation. The rewards are immense if we tend and care for it.

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

Peter and Pauline Swain. Tel. 01544 230999 Mobile 07890 877916

Email: pandpswain@gmail.com

Intermediate Sudoku

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

Easy Sudoku

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

Praying the alphabet



We have reached the 6th month of our praying the alphabet I hope you have found this stimulating and have thought up some good ideas of your own. In November we will be praying the letter F.

We are starting with food banks. We shouldn't need them, as a rich western country. Without them many people would be in serious trouble. Then try praying for your friends, the fishing industry, France, frightened people, firemen and football teams. See how many of your own ideas you can come up with.

If you are really enjoying this focus on prayer do look at this web site for more ideas <https://www.24-7prayer.com/helpmepray>

If you want someone to pray for you or with you contact:
Rev Ben 01544 230525 Rev Linda 01544239395 or Trish01544231848

KINGTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Next Meeting
7.30pm Thursday 18th November

Getting the best from your plants
with formative or hard pruning
speaker IAN SADLER

venue MASONIC HALL.
New members and visitors welcome



The Annual Lunch on Sunday 5th December Burton Hotel 12.30 for 1pm
Names and numbers Please by November meeting
D W Phillips 230683

Kington Arts and Crafts Market

Two Christmas Market Dates in November!

on

Saturday 20th November 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

and

Saturday 27th November 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

at

Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines.

We are gearing up for Christmas with extra dates in November and December – perfect for all your Christmas shopping and seasonal decoration needs!

Would you like to finish your Christmas shopping before the crowds build? Get ahead with your Christmas preparations? Then look no further than Kington Arts and Crafts Saturday Christmas Markets! We are delighted to invite you and your family to visit our Christmas Markets, to be held at Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines in Kington on Saturday 20th November from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Saturday 27th November also from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We shall be presenting a wide range of beautiful, hand-made cards, gifts and crafts, with the festive season clearly in mind. All stalls feature genuinely handcrafted products, including:

Cards for all occasions	Potter	Handcrafted ironware	Alpaca products	
Woodturner	Artist	Felting	Papercrafts	Knitted and crocheted garments
Wax melts	Sewn products	Range of different crafts		

You're sure to find lots of ideas, plenty of inspiration and a genuinely individual selection of original items at Kington Craft Market. We are proud to support local artists and craftspeople and we have something for everyone: the perfect hunting ground for all your Christmas gift and décor needs!

Find us at Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines
Everyone welcome! Saturday 18th December 9:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Poor old Ethelbert, coming into our neck of the woods hoping to marry Ayelfrytha, the beautiful daughter of King Offa, and getting his head chopped off for his pains!

Some years ago I joined a little pilgrimage, led by Dean Michael Tavinor, when a few of us walked, mainly by footpaths, the five miles from the little church at Marden, to Hereford Cathedral where, in 2007, a sort of miniature rotunda had been created, wrapped round a pillar in the retro-quire, sited where Ethelbert's original shrine was thought to have been. It's a beautiful memorial, decorated with scenes from legends about this saintly king.



Marden, you see, is where the assassination took place, arranged by Offa or, possibly by his wife Cynefritha, for some political reason, perhaps to do with King Offa's greed in forcefully annexing the lands of other rulers, such as Ethelbert's in Essex perhaps, something at which he was a dab hand, for he more or less united England and, as in Kington we are well aware, built an enormous and extensive dyke as fortification against the Welsh (this year, incidentally, celebrating the 50th anniversary of its designation as a public footpath.)

Legend has it that where the decapitation took place, a spring of water gushed up to form the well where Marden church now stands. You can visit it today, which is why our little pilgrimage started there. And that's where there began the journey of Ethelbert's corpse for internment. It appears that Offa's conscience troubled him, and he repented of this deed, probably founding the original Marden church as well as other sacred buildings, including a monastery at St Alban's. The journey to Hereford was by ox-cart, and apparently the corpse's head rolled off onto the ground as they went along the bumpy road. It was retrieved by a blind man, whose sight was instantly restored! The head ended up in Westminster Abbey where it became a much venerated relic until the Dissolution.

The Cathedral's original dedication was to Ethelbert, and his shrine, which has not survived, became an important attraction for pilgrimage until eclipsed by that of Thomas Cantilupe several hundred years later, and it's interesting to reflect that one of the pilgrim routes probably passed near here. There are several bits of what we might call Ethelberterie remaining in and about the cathedral for those who care to search, but the modern little sort of rotunda is inscribed with words from St Luke's Gospel which seem to be particularly relevant for us during this time of pandemic:



Jesus said, all who want to be followers of me must renounce self. Day after day they must take up their cross and follow me. That cross may be as light as a mask or as heavy as some physical or mental disability, or shaped like a zimmer frame – or even a troubled conscience like Offa's; and I've always been so glad that St Luke added the word Daily, or as here, Day after day. "New every morning is the love." One day at a time makes it much more manageable, doesn't it?

Denis Parry

Tales from the Chalk Face (9): A Beacon on the hill

In the Autumn Term 1998 I spotted an advert in the Times Educational Supplement which really stood out. It was a quarter page advert saying they were looking for a new leader for their school, Archbishop Benson C/E Primary School, Truro. From what I recall, the advert described the school as a beacon on the hill, a citadel of faith and a centre of excellence. Surprisingly, the appointment was from 1 September 1999- almost a whole year away!!

We had a chat at home about the pros and cons of moving to Cornwall. I talked to some of my close colleagues. They thought it would be a very interesting job, but cautioned that there might not be enough for me to do. They said I was an innovator, not a maintainer. Never the less, after much consideration, I decided to apply. I was shortlisted. The selection process spanned two days, and included a series of three interviews with a small panel of governors looking at finance, curriculum and ethos. Also, taking an assembly (watched by staff, parents and governors). In the evening, each candidate had to give a presentation to an invited audience of local head teachers, LA and diocesan staff, clergy from the cathedral, the whole staff body and parents selected by ballot. In all around 80 people. I seem to recall some written tasks too. All that on day 1! Day 2 was the formal interviews in the Bishop's Room at Diocesan House. After my interview, I walked down to Truro to get some lunch and then later to the station to get the train back home that afternoon.

As I waited for my train back to Paddington, I saw the Diocesan Director of Education and the Chair of Governors running along the opposite platform, then up the stairs, over the bridge and down towards me. I realised instantly that they wouldn't be doing that unless they wanted me. And they did!! They offered me the job there and then on platform 3. So, as soon as I arrived back home in Royston late that night, I was able to tell everyone that we were on the move. However, it was a long lead in to the start of the job. The Governing Body had advertised so early as they anticipated not being able to appoint a suitable person in the first round. In which case, this allowed time to re-advertise in the Spring, and possibly again in the summer term. One of the conditions the governors agreed to was that I would be able to complete my Master of Education degree at Cambridge University. I had been working on that for two years by that time. In fact, not only did they agree, they offered to pay the fees and travel cost for my monthly tutorials at the School of Education and meetings at my college, Corpus Christi. Very generous I thought!!

The school was the largest church school in the diocese, having around 450 children. There is no church secondary school. The school is named after the first Bishop of Truro, Edward White Benson, who went on to be Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883, having been in Truro since 1877. During his time in Truro, he designed the first 9 Lessons and Carols Service, the format now so universally loved, and made famous by Kings College, Cambridge, which took place in the temporary cathedral building. A very large tin hut!

There was great excitement about our move. But, lots to organise. However, we did have lots of time to get ready for it. We spent the Easter holiday 1999 looking for a place to live. We viewed a large number of properties in and around Truro. As we were to see 5/6 a day, we devised a point scoring system to evaluate and record our views. After each visit, we all rated the house according to location, garden, suitability, layout etc. After viewing many houses, two farms and an old pub we all agreed on a lovely 5 bedroomed house on the east side of Truro within walking distance of the school. The house was empty and had just been totally refurbished by a local builder. He was keen to get us in as soon as possible. So, things moved fast and Deborah and the boys moved down to Cornwall in early July. I stayed on in Royston until the end of my contracted time at the end of August.



That summer was a crazy time in Cornwall, as it was the year of the total solar eclipse. Streams of people came down as it was reported that it would be the best place in the UK to experience the phenomenon. When the day came, we all went into the front garden and, as the time ran close, it got darker and darker until it was as black as the depths of night. The birds stopped singing, the temperature dropped and the street lights came on in the middle of the afternoon. Just for a moment it seemed the world stood still. Then a slither of sun light broke from the cover of the moon and night crept back into day.

Archbishop Benson School was very highly regarded in the area. A school unlike any I had worked in before. They were the best at everything! The school had been founded 22 years previously under a very charismatic and strong head. He was a hard act to follow. But I could see there were things to be done that would make the school even better.

The school already had a good tradition in music. There were several competent pianists on the staff, so I didn't get a chance to do much. However, I found that that one of our friends from teacher training college was now in charge of the County Music Service. I arranged a meeting at school with him and we soon increased the range of instrumental lessons available to include flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, brass, recorder and guitar. Over time the numbers of children learning to play an instrument grew to well over 100 and we formed several bands, orchestras and wind groups. We staged huge concerts and took part in the local music festivals. Of course, I formed a choir. A great school choir, in which children sang beautifully in parts.

The school was built on former farm land on the hill overlooking Truro- four fields, I believe. Some of the original hedge rows still survived separating the infant and junior play areas. There was a wide selection of established trees and, in particular some mimosa trees which lined the staff car park. The parking plot nearest the entrance was reserved for the head. This was denoted by a huge HM painted in that parking bay. Head Master! I was the Head Teacher- but it was now MY spot!

The local authority had passed the control over grounds maintenance to the management of the school. But, as it was a huge site, things had got a bit out of control. Very early in my tenure, I set up, with the help of the PTA, regular Saturday gatherings of pupils, parents and governors to weed the flower beds, unblock the gutters, trim the bushes, and to weed and plant up the flower beds. These sessions became known as BENSONS for BEDS! We were featured at work in the local papers, who latched on to the name, as well as the idea. Each session ended with soup and a Cornish pasty supplied by the PTA.

As in my other jobs, I was keen to establish a Christmas show. The school always had a carol service for the Juniors at the parish church (240 children and their parents) and a Nativity play in school for the infants (180 children and their parents). We added a Christmas panto for the juniors and established a drama club after school to get it rehearsed. All the classes in the junior school had a part in the performance too. As time went by, they got more and more spectacular. We raised money to buy a stackable stage, install stage lighting and a good sound system.

When the County Music Service sold their headquarters, I arranged with my friend that we could house the lovely grand piano that had been in the building. It was a great asset as our school hall could accommodate all of our 450 children and 60 staff for school assemblies, and the children sang very heartily. We also hosted the weekly Three Spires Choir rehearsals, Truro Choral Society and the Cornwall Junior Stings orchestra. All of which benefitted from the louder piano.

When it came to my first Christmas as Headteacher of Archbishop Benson School, I was forced to realise that I could no longer send an individual card to every child. So, I sent one to each class – sixteen in all. The same number as the class I originally had at Chrishall. How things had moved on! (to be continued)

Philip Sell

More Tales of Narrowboat Theodora Radio Controlled Tourists 27th April 2008

A reasonable amount of the time since the last episode was spent messing about on the Wey. There are lots of boats on the way and some of them are called things like "Wey Out" or "That's the Wey" or even "Weyt a Minute". Some of you know how fond I am of puns so we will say no more of that. I am sure that a comical boat name is nice but doesn't the comedy go flat quite quickly?

The main excitement of the Wey is that the locks have very large paddles (called sluices if you are on the Thames). This makes the boat difficult to control when going up so you are strongly advised to tie up securely and draw the paddles slowly. A couple of locks showed us what must and could be done. The locks are designed for 14 foot by 72 foot barges and the mooring bollards did not suit sixty foot Theodora who went into a sulk and threw herself about a bit. A kindly word and an extra line sorted out her emotional state: sternline made very fast to the little peg at the tail of the lock (This stops her surging forwards and smashing into the top gate.), centre line leading ahead to the bollard next to the bow (This stops her surging back and destroying rudder etc on the bottom gate.) and headline from the T stud on the bow at right angles to the boat to the bollard which has the centre line attached (This prevents the dear boat from charging sideways into the opposite lock wall.). Once all this is done it is fun to open up the paddles as fast as you can wind them and watch the boat shoot up as if in a lift. This has the further bonus of worrying the locals who don't do it this way but are properly cautious with the paddles. Oh yes. I wouldn't open the paddles fast if there was another boat in the lock with us. That really would cause alarm and despondency.

We were joined for a day just above Pyrford Lock by Angela and Brian who live Friern Barnet with Nadia a very large Labrador. Nadia, somewhat against her will, came too. Nadia is getting on in dog years and has a little middle aged spread. Nadia is not a dog who naturally likes boats. Her general approach to boats is with four legs straightened and angled backwards with the four paws attached to the legs pushing up little piles of dust as she is persuaded towards the boat. I knew from experience that this was the case so I advised the cunning plan of passing towel under her belly and chest and lifting her like loading a horse on to a ship with a sling. Nadia disapproved of this tactic and showed what she thought of it with a vigorous wriggle which set us thinking again. The dear dog has nothing against people and is positively disinclined to bite them so the plan was adopted for one human at the stern and one at the head and lift whatever bits of canine seemed structurally capable of taking the weight. She arrived on the boat somewhat dignity challenged but otherwise all right. By lunch time poor Nadia seemed resigned to the fact that she was to be summarily hauled about at the whim of those who must be obeyed and had a nice time.

Apart from the fact that we had a really nice time with good friends there was an interesting interchange between an unknown personage on the bank and me:

"Was that boat owned by David Horsburgh", he called.

"I don't know," bawled I, "but the last owner was Nick Collie and he has gone to drive boats for rich people in Greece."

I could not pursue the conversation because we were travelling in opposite directions and the river was too shallow at the edges to get alongside. Later I looked up the details of previous owners in the file. David Horsburgh was indeed a previous owner, being the last but one. I will never know who the man on the bank was so will not be able to discover more from that source about Theodora's history.

The weather during this day was as good as it could be. Bright sun and blue sky with fluffy clouds. You know the sort of thing. Except that is for the last half hour before mooring up at

Pyrford again. We had an April shower of significant intensity. "There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." The large golfing umbrella was good, though.

Oh, yes. Margaret and I spent a happy day at Wisley, the RHS headquarters. Beautiful gardens and many early spring flowers. We spent about 90 minutes walking there and 30 minutes walking back. We did not have an OS map for that small part of our long trip. We have them for everywhere else but the canal guide said that it was a short distance so we risked it and set off across the most incredibly clipped and landscaped golf (golf to the locals) course that you could imagine. Even the gorse was standing to attention. The public footpath across the golf course wound around the bunkers and greens and we lost our sense of direction. At the T junction the smart notice, having warned us that the golf club could not be responsible for our safety if we stepped of the public footpath, directed us to the right and omitted any direction to the left. Being law abiding citizens and not wishing to have a small dimply ball lodged in our ear, we followed the arrow to the right. This was a bad decision and accounted for the extra hour's walking. (No wonder I am losing weight this trip!) However on our roundabout way we passed the most wonderful Victorian watermill, each window with an over arch in alternating blue and red brick and very tastefully converted into dwellings for the slightly less great but, I am sure, very good.

Back down the Wey to the Thames and the relaxing experience of having locks worked for us by friendly lock keepers except, that is, for Cookham where we arrived after the lock keeper had gone off for the night. The locks on the Thames in this area are hydraulic and have electric motors to power the pumps. Cookham lock is like this except for after hours when the pumps are human powered. That meant me. I wound up the bottom sluices to drain the lock: one hundred and sixty turns of the wheel. I waited for five minutes while the lock drained. I opened the huge gates: two hundred turns of the fourteen inch diameter wheel. I closed the bottom sluices while Margaret drove the boat into the chamber: only eighty turns of the wheel. I closed the bottom gates: two hundred turns, and then staggered to the top gates to repeat the process to fill the lock and let Theodora out again. Then I was tired and thinner than before. Didn't mention that the run up Cliveden Reach to get to Cookham is spectacularly lovely.

We had the great pleasure of a visit from sister Victoria and my mother on Thursday 24th. They did not arrive until about four o'clock so we had time to do a few jobs. We found the ideal mooring right next to Henley Bridge and brought Theodora alongside in fine style. I was wearing my rather fetching wide brimmed Australian leather hat, which was wonderful for keeping the torrential rain of the morning from running down my neck. I removed said hat because it was getting in the way while I handled the mooring ropes. The hat has a string to prevent its loss in winds. The string caught under my glasses. My glasses fell to the deck and landed close to the edge where they paused for a second before gently dropping into the water. "Bother!" I said, and "Blow!". Two nice men saw the alarm on my face and suggested the use of a magnet. I had no idea if my glasses are magnetic or not so I got out the trusty Sea Searcher which promptly attached itself to the side of the boat. Various dippings fished up something which looked rather disgusting but was magnetic so I assumed that it was a rust misshapen lump of iron and returned



it with due ceremony to Father Thames. No glasses, though.

There were two courses of action: a) use my old glasses until the opticians could make and post me a new pair, b) enter the water and fish about with the hands hoping to find them that way. She who ought to be obeyed favoured a) I favoured b). b) was the adopted plan. Getting into the river is easy. All you have to do is let gravity take over. Getting out again is more difficult. Theodora's kit labelled "Apparatus for retrieving glasses from the Thames" contains a five foot length of ladder cut from the old wormy one that used to be at Bank House. It was placed over the side, pushed to the bottom and lashed in place. I changed into fewer clothes, in fact sufficient only to prevent arrest, marked the side of the quay with a piece of chalk to indicate where the glasses were seen sinking, moved Theodora forward a little so that I could get at the place, moored her up securely so that passing boats did not cause her to mow me down and gingerly climbed in gasping as the cool water reached places that cool water should not be allowed to reach. I then patted around blindly hoping to find them. In less than a minute: success. No one more surprised than me.

A hot shower and all was fine. Ready to receive the guests. The guests has a good time. At least they said they did, but then I come from a polite family.

What's all this about radio controlled tourists, then? Well, just back down the river we had stopped at Windsor and Windsor is just across the river from Eton. We decided to do the tourist thing and look at the college. We were rewarded with a sighting of scholars in tail coats and masters not in tail coats. Essential to the education of a young gentleman is a tail coat. On the way back we sighted a large and burly man talking Russian into a microphone. Not the KGB as you might think but a tour guide with a string of tourists with radio receivers behind him, older ones leading and the more independent young trailing a little. Surreal.

Bye bye

Nick



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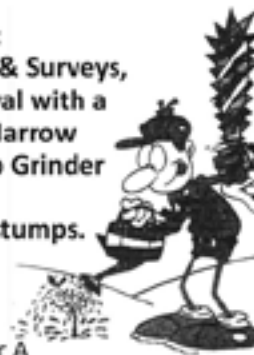
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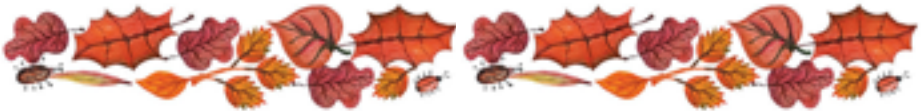
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Forthcoming Events

Sat 30 Oct		Quiz Night at Huntington Village Hall
Thurs 4 Nov	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley Village Hall
Sat 13 Nov	7.30pm	Music in New Radnor
Mon 15 Nov		Cut-off date for December Parish News
Wed 17 Nov	12.30	Community Lunch at the Parish House
Thurs 18 Nov	7.30pm	Kington Horticultural Society meeting at Masonic Hall, Headbrook
Sat 20 Nov	9.30 - 3pm	Art & Craft Market at Kington Market Hall Curry Night at Huntington Village Hall
Fri 26 Nov	10.30 - 1pm	Advent Soup Kitchen at Place de Marines
Sat 27 Nov	9.00 9.30 - 3pm	Start of Fiends of St Mary's week at the Community Shop Art & Craft Market at Kington Market Hall
Sat 30 Nov	5pm	Kington Museum AGM at the Burton Hotel



MATERIAL FOR THE DECEMBER 2021 PARISH NEWS

by

15th NOVEMBER 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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