

# Parish News

*Kington, Huntington & Titley*

*September 2021*



# SARGEANTS BUSES FOR KINGTON

FROM 3rd September 2020

email: [mike@sargeantsbros.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.kingtonparishes.org.uk)

## CLERGY

**Rev Ben Griffith**      The Vicarage, Church Road, Kington HR5 3AG      01544 230525  
Vicar's email: [vicar@kingtonparishes.org.uk](mailto:vicar@kingtonparishes.org.uk)  
Parish Office email: [office@kingtonparishes.org.uk](mailto:office@kingtonparishes.org.uk)

## ASSISTANT CURATE

**Rev Linda MacDermott**      5 Gravel Hill Drive, Kington, HR5 3AE      01544 239395  
Email: [lindamacdermott@icloud.com](mailto:lindamacdermott@icloud.com)

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

## READER

**Rob MacCurrach**      33 Cutterbach Lane, Kington, HR5 3EH      01544 231848

## CHURCHWARDENS

**Kington**      Miss Ann Edwards      01544 230271  
6 Headbrook, Kington HR5 3DZ  
Mr Rodney Bowdler      01544 231501  
Bridge House, Bridge St, Kington HR5 3DW

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

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

**Kinnerton**      Mrs Ruth Jones:      01547 560207  
Upper House, Kinnerton, Presteigne, LD8 2PE  
Mrs Sue Thompson      01547 560333  
Court Farm, Kinnerton, Presteigne, LD8 2PE

**Titley**      Mr Dick Allford      01544 231052  
Pinecroft, Titley, Kington, HR5 3RL

## MAGAZINE EDITOR

Miss Freda Lymath      [freda@sparkiesofkington.com](mailto:freda@sparkiesofkington.com)  
Arrow Weir House, Kingswood Rd, Kington HR5 3HD      01544 231780

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

## Letter from the Bishop of Hereford

**“We are creatures of habit, especially in matters of faith and worship.”**

September is often the month when refreshed by our summer holidays, we hit the ground running. Given that most of us left full time education a while ago, it is slightly odd that September still feels like a sort of new year. These patterns can become entrenched. We do things habitually, even though the reason we started doing them that way has long since passed. The Mothers Union in my curacy church refused to meet at any other time than 2:00 pm in the afternoon. Given that most were over 80, the reason that they had to leave at 3:00 pm was to pick the children up from school, it all seemed rather curious.

We are creatures of habit, especially in matters of faith and worship. That applies whether we love the BCP or singing modern worship songs. We find what works for us and hold on to it tightly. Words from the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah that God is ‘doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it,’ can cut little ice. But God’s new thing is always rooted in his past dealings with us. He doesn’t change, but our context and culture does. If he encourages us to change, it is not for the sake of novelty, but to ensure that the timeless message of the Gospel can be heard afresh by each new generation. The glory of the church is that it looks very different according to the culture in which it is placed. Our Tanzanian friends have different churches to ours, as do our friends in Nuremberg. Our challenge, as we look forward, is that our church (the Church of England) is by and large perfectly designed to minister to a culture that no longer exists. What we need to become to be the Church that fruitfully ministers to our contemporaries is something else, it is a journey we embark on together. We seek to discern God’s guidance, but it is a road we must travel.

*+Richard*

### Deanery Workshops

**Deanery Preaching Workshop** with Robert MacCurrach.

Starting 8th September "The View from the Pew"

Second meeting 22nd September St Mary's Kington, 7.00-9.00

This workshop is open to anyone who is interested in what goes on in the pulpit. We hope to develop it into a regular meeting to sharpen preaching skills in a small group. Those with experience are welcome to encourage beginners.

**Deanery PCC and Treasurers Workshop** with Chris Smith and Penny Halcrow

Choose either 8th OR 22nd September Pembridge Village Hall 7.00

Anyone interested in this role or how things work in the PCC do join us.

**Living in Love and Faith** with Neil Paterson

14th September Weobley 7.00

"Christian teaching and learning about identity, relationships and marriage."

To register or for further information contact [annetunley@hotmail.com](mailto:annetunley@hotmail.com)

## View from the Vicarage

*Dear Friends*

“And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil,  
And wears man’s smudge and shares man’s smell: the soil  
Is bare now, nor can foot feel being shod.”

These lines from the poem “God’s Grandeur” by the Victorian Jesuit Poet Gerard Manley Hopkins seem remarkably prophetic but equally extremely contemporary following the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published the other week.

International scientists are now confirming that what Hopkins and others foresaw at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution nearly two centuries ago is now demonstrably taking place. Human activity is fundamentally altering the fragile balance which sustains the myriad forms of life which call this planet home. The consequences the scientists conclude are real and discernible and they’re happening now. All of us, of middle age or beyond have noticed for ourselves how the weather patterns of even our benign climate already feel quite different from what we experienced in times past. A cursory glance at the deluge of new reports describing exceptional weather events at home and overseas are surely in themselves sufficient evidence that the global climate is changing demonstrably.

The debate as to how much this change is being driven by human activity and how much by natural cycles seems to me entirely academic. Those who have reached conclusions on either side of the argument are not likely to be swayed by evidence to the contrary, although surely such an august body as the IPCC deserves to be listened to by the whole human family, doesn’t it?

What is surely undeniable is that the evidence that climate change is happening is now overwhelming and that significantly reducing the amount of carbon dioxide that human society emits into the atmosphere has got to make a significant difference. If we want to bequeath a planet capable of sustaining the rich diversity of life we inherited then we need to act together globally and now!

As Christians, we believe that the whole of creation owes its origins and foundations to God, however you interpret Genesis Chapters 1 and 2. Therefore, it surely follows that the Christian response to the issue of climate change is not to leave the resolution of the problem to the politicians, scientists and others who will attend the COP26 Conference in Glasgow at the end of October. We need to commit ourselves to praying earnestly that the decisions taken at the summit will be fully implemented and that all countries will take seriously their own responsibilities to be part of the solution for the sake of all of the inhabitants of this lump of rock hurtling around the Sun.

That is surely, only the beginning of a Christian response because alongside it we need to do whatever we can to reduce our own Carbon footprint. It may seem that whatever each of us can do is so infinitesimal on a global scale that it makes no difference at all. If we all act together, if we accept that as individuals and as communities we all have a vital role to play and if that is replicated in every country and community across the globe then the results would be truly astounding. Climate change is not a problem that we can leave to others, each little change however infinitesimal it might seem can make a big difference and is both a precious gift to the future and a thank offering to God for his generous provision. At the end of the poem with which I begun Manley Hopkins concludes with a vision of hope that,

“there lives the dearest freshness deep down things” “  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.”

As Hopkins discerned God has not abandoned his creation we just need to learn to value it properly. I'd like to conclude with the words of someone who did just that by observing from a perspective offered to very few people, the American Astronaut James Irwin:

*“The earth reminded us of a Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it diminished in size. Finally it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile, so delicate that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart. Seeing this has to change a man, has to make a man appreciate the creation of God and the love of God.”*

If the earth is to remain for future generations the beautiful jewel Irwin describes all of us must do whatever we can to reduce our own carbon footprint and encourage others to do the same. It's a challenge for each and everyone of us as much as it is for the global leaders who'll attend COP26 the question is: are we up for the challenge?

With my love and prayers as ever

*Ben.*

## September Highlights in the Kington Parishes

### Friday, September 17th: Harvest Festival at Titley

We begin our harvest festivals this year with a Thanksgiving Service at St. Peter's Church Titley followed by a harvest supper in the Village Hall.

### Sunday September 19th Confirmation Eucharist

Please join us to welcome our Bishop and support our candidates making this important commitment in their lives.

## Sunday September 26th: Herefordshire Council Civic Service

Due to Coronavirus this has been over a year in the planning but I'm delighted that the Herefordshire Council Civic Service will be taking place at St. Mary's Church Kington on Sunday September 26th. I'm deeply grateful to Councillor Sebastian Bowen Chairman of Herefordshire Council for paying us this great honour of asking us to host his civic service. Please help us to show the best that Kington can be.

## Coronavirus Update

Following announcements both from the UK and Welsh Government's and the Church's Recovery Group we have been enabled to return our public worship to something much closer to that we enjoyed before the Covid-19 Pandemic. Congregational singing is now permitted and the wearing of face coverings is now optional in England. We've been maintaining a middle ground of continuing to follow social distancing; if people adhere to a 2 metres or 6' 6" distance then the possibilities of contracting Covid-19 are largely eliminated, wherever possible this is what we are endeavouring to achieve. Please help us to ensure that everybody is kept safe when worshipping with us.



## Praying the alphabet



We have been watching our garden grow extravagantly throughout August. I've always thought gardens are a great metaphor for prayer. When we pray we are watering faith and hope into peoples' lives and shining the light/sun of Christ on their day to day lives.

This month our focus is the letter D. Our first thought was to pray for the dying. Death is something we all have to face and we need to know where we are going. It takes away a lot of the fear. What about digger drivers, dragon flies, doctors, disappointed people, Denmark, dads and daughters.

If you are actually enjoying this little focus on prayer and would rather dig deeper, may I suggest you look at this web site: <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 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, 29th August: Trinity XIII: Green**  
*Deuteronomy4: 1,2,6-9 Psalm15 James1:17-end Mark7: 1-8,14,21-23*  
 10.00am: Group Eucharist: Titley

**Sunday, 5th September: Trinity XIV: Green**  
*Isaiah35:4-7a Psalm 146 James2:1-10 Mark7: 24-end*  
 8.30am: Holy Eucharist: Titley  
 10.00am: \*Holy Eucharist: Kington  
 11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Kinnerton  
 6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Old Radnor

**Sunday, 12th September: Trinity XV: Green**  
*Isaiah50:4-9a Psalm 116 :1-8 James3: 1-12 Mark8: 27-end*  
 8.30am: Holy Eucharist(BCP): Huntington  
 10.00am: Holy Eucharist: Kington  
 11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Old Radnor  
 6.00pm: Evensong: Kinnerton

**Sunday, 19th September: Trinity VII: Red/Green**  
 10.00am: \*Group Eucharist & Confirmations: Kington  
*(For readings, please see service booklet)*

**Sunday, 26h September: Trinity XVII: Green**  
 11.00am: \*Herefordshire Council Civic Service: Kington  
*(For readings , please see service booklet)*

*Numbers11:4-6,10-16,24-29 Psalm19: 7-end James5:13-end Mark9: 38-end*  
 11.30am: Holy Eucharist: Old Radnor  
 6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Huntington  
 6.00pm: Evening Prayer: Kinnerton

\* services live-streamed

## St. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGTON



Yes, greater normality is happening. It was good to see an increased number in St. Mary's yesterday, August 15th. Yes we had prayer and hymn books, yes we could sing and yes we had coffee and fellowship time following the service. Hurrah.!

Currently we are planning for the Family Activity Day on August 24th, a day when we hope to welcome families to join in the fun and look ahead to a regular Messy Church occasion being slotted into our calendar.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this Parish News the roof work will be completed. We thank you for your patience over past weeks , especially in the parking area.

We shall host a Confirmation Service on September 19th and this affords an opportunity for us to welcome Bishop Richard to St. Mary's.

There are other special events in September which we feel sure Ben will have referred to elsewhere.

It seems that we can look forward to a busy month, meantime may we say we hope to see more of our former congregation returning and we are delighted to welcome newcomers who join us for worship and fellowship,

Covid has not gone away so take care and remain vigilant.  
 Best wishes to you all. *Ann Edwards and Rodney Bowdler*

### A Letter Received

I was handed a letter the other day addressed thus:  
 F.A.O. The Churchwardens, St. Mary's Church, St. MARY'S CHURCHYARD, Kington.  
 It contained information about new, ultrafast broadband network to transform connectivity in the area .

I guess its use in the area of the address given is highly improbable or if not then modern technology is even more clever than I thought!  
*Ann Edwards*

### HARVEST FESTIVAL 2021

Yes we intend to celebrate Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 3rd at 11.00a.m. and we plan to have a Harvest Lunch but one with a difference to make sure we are following Covid Rules in force at the time.



We plan to offer a plated, covered Ploughman's Lunch together with drinks, following the service. We hope that you will wish to share this time together but

- A) You must book your meal by Saturday, September 25th at the latest please by signing the list which will be in church on September 12th and 19th or by telephoning 01544 230271 or by sending an email to a.edwards.1836@gmail.com (*I would prefer a telephone call to an email if possible please*). Numbers this year will be limited so book early to avoid disappointment
- B) A Ploughman's Meal will cost £6.00 each.
- C) Please tell us of any special dietary needs

We hope very much that you will want to join us for this "Harvest Lunch With a Difference"

Perhaps by 2022 we shall be able to return safely to our traditional St. Mary's Harvest Lunch with its fine array of home-made salads and puddings.

If you have any queries please do get in touch.

*Ann Edwards*

### Community Shop

A HUGE thank you to all those who supported our recent spell in the Community Shop. To all those who made such generous donations of items for sale. To those who acted as shop assistants, and to those who spent more than a penny in there! A special mention to Debbie, Michael and Deborah who helped to set it all up, as well as covering the majority of shifts.

The good news is that we raised around £2,000 for use in promoting music at St Mary's. What a brilliant result!!

*Philip*

### Plants for Good

Thank you all who have donated plants to the stall, or seedlings to grow on. Thanks to those who have supported the stall in Cutterbach Lane and bought plants and vegetables from our Locally Kington stall. Since April Plants for Good has raised £800. £300 has been given to the UNHCR Yemen's children and £500 to St Mary's.

Thank you ALL

*Trish MacCurrach*

### Message of Thanks

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for all the cards, messages, flowers, and donations to St Michael's Hospice following the death of my dear husband Bob. Everyone has been so kind to me, and a special thanks to our vicar Ben for his support and care during this sad time.

*Iris Williams*

### Message from the Editor

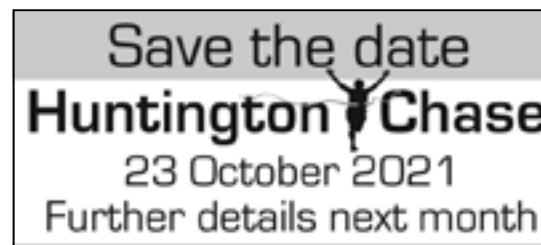
Things are gradually returning to pre-Covid normality, and I will be pleased to advertise any meeting or event in the future. Just send it to me by the 15th of the month before the event is due to take place. Contact details on page 3.

*Editor*

## ST THOMAS à BECKET, HUNTINGTON CHURCH NEWS



### Summer Honey:

Following the rapid sale of the spring honey, there is a new supply of summer honey for sale in church in 1lb and 1/2 lb jars. Unfortunately, the harvest was not as good as it has been in previous years. This is due to all three colonies of bees swarming numerous times during the very warm spell after the cold/wet spring and the hives were depleted of thousands of bees. In addition, the new Queens in two hives have not started laying successfully and so bee numbers have not built up again.



However, there is still plenty of jam and chutney for sale, which is very popular and this will be regularly topped up over the coming months. All money raised from the sale of these items goes into church funds.

*Susan Maiden*

	<p><b>Memorial Service for Mary Whittall</b> at <b>Huntington United Reform Church</b> on <b>Saturday 11th September at 2pm</b></p>	
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### Miss Mary Whittall – Age at Death 92

Mary was a stalwart of Huntington United Reformed Church for many years. She lived at Bollingham but when at home came to Church at Huntington. She went to University in Cardiff where she gained her degree. She taught French at John Beddoes School in Presteigne and became Deputy Head Teacher. She retired after 35 years and moved to Kington where she became very involved with a large number of organizations and was presented with the Kington Civic Award. She was an Elder at Huntington taking over as Secretary from her Auntie Edith. She was Superintendent of the Sunday School, organised the Anniversary, the Annual outing to the seaside as well as the Christmas Party. She represented Huntington at County meetings and on the Midlands Synod of which she was Chairman for one year. She also represented Huntington for the Churches together in Kington and was Chairman in 2018. Unfortunately, her eyesight began to fail in 2016 and she was registered as severely sight impaired. However, she was not one for giving up and battled on. She resigned as Secretary just three weeks before she died, having complete 64 years in the post. She had a generous, kind and strong personality; she was greatly respected not only in Huntington but over a very wide area and will be sorely missed.

*Joan Morgan*

*I was recently asked to print some copies of the article below as a pamphlet for Huntington URC, and I found it so interesting that I asked permission to publish it in the Parish News. I'm pleased to say that permission was given, so here it is. If anyone has memories of the school or old photographs of the school that could be scanned and included in future issues I would be very pleased to print them.*

Editor

## **Goff's Endowed School, Huntington, Kington, Herefordshire 1791-1953**

### **A Short History**

Huntington United Reformed Church is still known to many local people as the Huntington School, for so it was until 1953. The school was founded by Edward Goff (or Gough), the son of a local farm labourer. Edward Goff was born in 1735 in a small cottage almost on the site of the present building.

The family were very poor and could not afford to send Edward to school. He grew up neither being able to read or write. We know that he was taught the bible by an aunt, and he remained a devout Christian until the end of his life.

Like his father he worked on the land until, at the age of 25, Edward knew that he wanted something more from life. He took the decision to seek his fortune in the wider world.

Inconceivable to modern thinking Edward walked the 150 miles to London where he was fortunate to find employment as a coal heaver for a merchant on the banks of the Thames. His wage was twelve shillings each week. Edward impressed his master with his industry, honesty, and sobriety. So much so that Edward was given the role of managing the retail part of the trade: under his influence the business prospered and greatly increased.

Edward eventually became the sole proprietor of the business. Through his own efforts he had taught himself to read and sign his name. However, he remained very conscious of his lack of education and was concerned for others who might also lack the opportunity for schooling. Edward was not a wealthy man, although living simply, and never married.

In 1792 he established a school and a house near his birthplace. He set up a trust fund for the upkeep of a teacher *"for the benefit of the poor children of Huntington"*. He stipulated that the teacher must be a Christian who would teach the children during the week and preach the Gospel on the Sabbath day.

Edward Goff died in the June of 1813. At his own request Edward was buried in an unmarked grave in Hay Churchyard. In his will he left money to endow several schools along the Welsh border.

In 1804 a Congregational church fellowship was formed in the dual purpose building of Goff's School. In 1821 the single storey extension was added by the Church and Congregation. The arrangement of the headmaster of the school also being the minister of the church continued until 1861.

In that year the impending Education Act decreed that no ordained minister could be in charge of a government school. The building continued to serve its dual role until the school was finally closed in 1953.

In 1988 the income from the Goff Trust was inadequate to maintain the buildings — the Trustees decided to sell the school house and retain two rooms for the use of the church and Sunday School. Some of the sale proceeds were also used to build the present toilet facilities and the vestry.

The Church continues to hold regular weekly acts of worship and occasionally the children of the local community are taught in the Sunday School. Small grants from the Edward Goff's Trust are still made to local children to assist in the purchase of books when undertaking further education.

Visitors will be interested to notice the pews which also served as school desks in years gone by. The holes in the back were for the ink wells which had to be collected and put away on Friday evenings and replaced on Monday mornings ready for lessons to begin.

Many of the incumbents at Huntington served long ministries as will be seen from the Ministers' board above the partitions and the memorial tablets on the walls.

Gradually, over the years, through the efforts of the trustees and the Church fellowship, and with memorial gifts, the former school room now looks more like a church and less like a classroom. However, there are still members present who still remember it as it was in former days. They can also remember tales of school day pranks and the long walks to and from the Huntington School.

### **H Art 2021 – 4th September – 12th September**

Once again H Art is running with venues around Herefordshire County. St Michael's Hall in Ewyas Harold is hosting 15 artists collectively known as Artivariouscrafts Group.

Our group of artists include:- Angela Thoo; Black Cat Glass Designs; Barbara Bromhead-Wragg; Carey Godwin; Firedrake Jewellery - Chris Helm; Crispin Thornton Jones; David Morton; Jessica Benjamin; Miriam Vincent; Pauline Elliott; Sarah Adby; Tim Bray; Marion Butler and Lorna Hollom; Bill Rolls

The media covers:- Basketwork; Felt; Ceramics; Fused Glass; Jewellery; Metalwork; Painting; Photography; Print Making and Textiles.

Check our website for details: - <https://artivariouscrafts.wordpress.com>

The opening times each day are 11am to 5pm

We will be serving refreshments, light lunches, cakes.

For parking there is a small car park at the venue. If this is full, drive past the venue, following the signs for the recreation ground, where there is space to park

## The Problems of Dog Mess In Kington

I have been asked by a reader of the Parish News to make a plea for all dog owners to clean up after their dog. As a dog owner myself, I am well aware of the problems of taking your dog for a walk and the need to deal with any excrement if they “perform” whilst on the walk. It often seems a long way between “bins to put it in” and it is not a pleasant occupation. However, it is much more unpleasant to have to pick your way through piles of dog mess along the lanes and pathways of Kington. Several new signs have been put out around Kington and everyone is reminded to be a responsible dog owner and not allow them to foul our pavements and footpaths.

*Editor*



## A Word from St. Hugh's

We've had perfect weather for the nesting birds in Myndlasses Wood, especially during the time of freshly hatched chicks. The migratory birds all arrived earlier than normal which meant that our routine monitoring and recording of those using nest boxes began late April.

For most of the breeding season it was trouble free, and once again we are able to forward data to the BTO. This is used to aid research into the rapid decline of some species of birds and to “understand their habitats and how different interactions might effect them”.

Some people might ask us, “What is the connection between managing a somewhat time consuming woodland and living a life under Benedictine Vows?” Attached to our Vow of Stability we have several Statutes, and one in particular makes it clear that we are “To address and apply an environmentally sustainable way of life which engages with our current environmental crisis”.

We find ourselves continually challenged by the fact that in the beginning God viewed the creation and saw that it was good, indeed very good. We guess how He might gaze upon the natural world at this moment in time?

Twenty years ago Myndlasses Wood, when surveyed, didn't record any Pied Flycatchers nesting. Now there are regularly a dozen pairs raising young. Recording data is an inspired privilege, counting numbers of eggs, hatched chicks and the growth of tiny wing feathers. A tight cluster of freshly hatched chicks is a moment to behold!

To be eye witnesses of God's Creation and to recognise the effects of gently restoring a small woodland habitat is the connection between why our lives as Benedictines are lived as endeavouring to be good stewards of the natural world. The presence of the Myndlasses Pied Flycatchers give us hope and inspiration.

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*

## What's On at the Cathedral

**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

### EVENTS

*Booking is required for all events via the cathedral website. If you are not able to access the website, please call 01432 374200 and someone will be able to assist with your booking.*

**Wednesday 1 September, 10am Summer Family Workshop – Sensory Journey**  
Join us as we take a sensory journey around the cathedral – this workshop may be suitable for children and young people with additional needs or those who may benefit from a more relaxed visit to the cathedral. £2.50 per participating child

**Saturday 4 September and Wed 29 September 10am, 12noon or 2pm Open Gardens**  
Book onto one of three sessions to explore the Chapter House, Cloister, Canon's, Dean's and the Bishop's garden. Visitors can explore at their own leisure with our team of volunteer garden guides on hand to answer any questions. Tickets £5, booking essential via the cathedral website

**Tuesday 7 September, 1.15pm Lunchtime Organ Recital – Laurence John (Exeter Cathedral)**  
Free with a retiring collection – booking strongly advised

**Tuesday 7 September, 7pm Scientists in the Nuremberg Chronicle Lecture**  
In this lecture, The Revd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer will talk about the structure of The Nuremberg Chronicle, the nature of the woodcuts and also some of the scientific and medical characters which appear within it. Event takes place in College Hall, tickets £8

**Tuesday 14 September, 1.15pm Lunchtime Organ Recital – Jonathan Allsopp (Southwell Minster)** Free with a retiring collection – booking strongly advised

**Tuesday 14 September, 3pm – 4.30pm From Hell to the Stars – the 700th anniversary of Dante's death**  
Canon Chris Pullin will be hosting an afternoon sharing his passion for Dante. In 'From Hell to the Stars' will speak about his life and thought, with time to reflect using images of people and places Dante knew while enjoying the music of his day and age. Tickets cost £7

**Saturday 18 September, 10am, 12noon or 2pm Heritage Open Days**  
We will be celebrating Heritage Open Day's 2021 theme of 'Edible England' with a series of delectable flora and food inspired activities held in our beautiful Cloisters. Events are free, booking essential

**Tuesday 21 September, 1.15pm Lunchtime Organ Recital – Emily India Evans (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge)** Free with a retiring collection – booking strongly advised

**Tuesday 28 September, 1.15pm Lunchtime Organ Recital – Peter Dyke Audience Requests**  
Free with a retiring collection – booking strongly advised

## Not a Proper Gardener (Part 10)

Last month I remarked on the dearth of wasps and of cabbage white butterflies, a little prematurely as it transpired, at least, so far as the butterflies were concerned, for now the air is alive with the pretty fluttering things, desperately trying to get into the cages which are protecting the brassicas. Indeed, I feel almost sorry for them and would plant a cabbage outside specially for them, but that the pigeons would quickly make short work of it. So they will simply have to make do with nasturtiums. But as for the wasps, well, I've seen only about half a dozen; so the plums may yet remain intact. I suppose a Queen didn't survive the winter locally, so we've no nest nearby. Usually we have plenty, and although we may consider them a nuisance, God saw that they were good, a thought which inspired this poem. I called it



### 'Integrity'.

I watched a wasp,  
a wicked black and yellow stripy thing,  
with sharp and vicious sting,  
attack and corner and decapitate  
a butterfly, whose delicate white wing  
from head and thorax quickly severed,  
soon ceased its fluttering.

O deed unkind, I thought, to kill  
a creature of such innocence and beauty!

But then I called to mind  
the caterpillars which infest  
and decimate my cabbage patch:  
O good wasp, thou art truly blest  
to rid me of this common garden pest!

Which set me wondering

Where was the good God saw  
in nature red like this of tooth and claw?  
Perhaps before the Fall it was not so:  
wasp lived in harmony with butterfly  
and cabbages were left alone to grow?

She sucked no nectar from that flower,  
her white-winged image to pollute;  
nor did the wasp,  
who ravages my orchard plums,  
taste the forbidden fruit,  
which turns so quickly sour.

So they remain as if unfallen, good,  
innocent in integrity, amoral,  
to whom, for shame,  
I have no business to apportion blame,  
with whom, no right to quarrel!

Anyway, everything in the garden is enjoying this changeable weather and growing like mad, and we are harvesting the fruits of our labour. On August 1st I enjoyed the first of our James Grieve apples; and the first tomatoes, from both the greenhouse and the hanging baskets, are at last beginning to ripen; a bit late this year perhaps. To hasten that process we are now presenting the plants with banana skins as these become available. They give off a gas, ethylene (sometimes now called ethene)  $C_2H_4$ . This encourages ripening, so that last year almost every one of our greenhouse tomatoes eventually ripened. The Duncan cabbages are just finished and we have Golden Acre ready to follow on. Some of our courgettes are becoming marrows, and we've a few turnips and carrots, salads, butternut squashes nearly ready, and delicious mini-cucumbers from the growhouse. The soft fruit

harvest has been and still is excellent. One seems not often to come across loganberries, yet they are such an easy crop to grow, and so reliably productive. Ours thrive on 4ft trellis, and are now twenty years old, and they've never yet let us down.

The chirpy sparrows I wrote of last month took no notice of the gadget I put up to keep them away from the runner beans, so we shall have hardly any crop; but the dwarf French beans, The Prince, are making up for that by providing a good harvest. But the wild life in the garden has been enriched by an O-sotame baby robin, and a hedgehog. The latter turns up at dusk every day to feed on the calci-worms which Emma puts out for her or him, as s/he refuses to eat proper hedgehog food (Mr or Mrs Tiggy-Winkle? How can you tell which? Beware those sharp spines!). Of course, hedgehogs, sadly being much in decline, are very much to be encouraged, and, Alleluia! They eat slugs!

Last month I quoted Flanders and Swan: "In July the sun is hot, is it shining, no it's not," and we had a heatwave, though thankfully nothing like that being endured by some countries today. So I'll end with this: "August, cold and dank and wet brings more rain than any yet." Well, it's not doing too badly so far. Just wait for September!

Happy gardening



Denis Parry

## Flicks in the Sticks

We are excited to announce that we will be restarting Flicks at Brilley Village Hall on September 2nd.



### Summerland (Cert 12) September 2nd 7.30.p.m.

While World War II rages across the channel, reclusive writer Alice lives a solitary life on the seaside cliffs of Southern England. One day, she opens her front door to find she has been assigned a young London evacuee named Frank to look after. Initially resistant, Alice is gradually won over by Frank's innocent curiosity and the two realise they have more in common than she had assumed. As the painful past opens up a brighter future, this tells an intensely emotional story of love's endurance in trying times.

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](mailto: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](http://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.

### Future dates at Brilley Village Hall:

7th October: Nomadland (cert 12A)

23rd October: Live theatre. Pentabus present the Jacaranda Tree

4th November: Supernova (Cert 15)

2nd December: Knives Out (Cert 12A)

## More Tales of Narrowboat Theodora - Doings at Bath and its environs

Bradford upon Avon 30th March 2008

Relaxation seems to have taken over during the past few days as we have been doing the tourist thing for a bit. Nearly forgot to mention, though, that a lock gate ate the wooden handle to the nice brass tiller. It was not a particularly well made handle but it was our own and we had a passing affection for it. The handle was wrested back from the water in which it was floating and was kept in the hope that it could be repaired. In the mean time the steerer got a cold hand, brass being a much better thermal conductor than wood.

Anyway on down to Bradford on Avon a most lovely town of steep hills and Bath stone. We moored right next to the mediaeval tithe barn and said goodbye to Andrew and Jilly. A day there looking at the wonders of the town and getting tired knees walking up and down lots of steep streets and we got over the loss.

One of the things that we try to discipline ourselves to do is to do chores before boating. The chore that I came up with was to sort out the tiller handle. It soon became evident that the old handle was injured beyond all hope of repair so I walked up to the boatyard to see if they had the wherewithal to turn me another. That was a vain hope but they did direct me to a place that fitted out shops. They had not a lathe but they knew a man who had. That man could not oblige for a day or two so the shopfitters' boss knocked up a jury rig and we said that we would pick the proper one up on the way back from bath.

You will understand that I was walking about Bradford upon Avon carrying a very shiny length of two inch diameter brass tubing which was part of the tiller into which the wooden handle fits. As I was passing the trip boat, "Barbara McLellan" a nice man popped up and asked me why I was carrying a tiller. I explained the problem and he said "I'll make you a handle. I only live a few minutes walk away." I spent a cheery hour in his company while he turned me a beautiful new handle, complete with recess for the whipping. The man's name is Roger and he would accept neither gift nor payment. What a nice man! (And we still have the handle which reminds me of Roger.)

We set off Bathwards with the beautiful new tiller handle, not yet whipped. Those who know the Kennet and Avon will not need to be told how beautiful it is. For those who don't know: It is very beautiful. Two lovely decorated Bath stone aqueducts, miles of peaceful lock free canal and wonderful moorings above the Bath Locks with views over the city. As I said we were doing the tourist thing so we did not arrive at Bath on the same day that we left Bradford. We moored overnight close to Claverton Pumping Station and I spent a happy couple of hours being told all about the history of the water powered pumps. Those who know me will appreciate how much I would enjoy that.

We left Claverton with the tiller handle oiled by Margaret and whipped by me and, therefore, complete in every respect. The whipcord was salvaged from the broken handle and served very well. I had already secured the handle in the brass tube with a nice countersunk brass screw and filed it smooth.

At Bath we walked around the city and visited the Assembly Rooms and the Royal Crescent and William Herschel's house and looked around us. As promised by an Austrian Guidebook when describing the Tyrol our eyes "fairly started out of our heads with a superfluity of sublimities!" There is nothing like Georgian architecture.

We are now on our way back towards Reading and have reached Bradford again. We were an hour late for the church service that we intended to attend but we heard the bells of another church which was a good slog up the hill and reached that in time for the closing bars of the first hymn. We had not seen a paper or listened to the radio and had completely forgotten about the

clock change. Used the bicycles today to visit a couple of National Trust Properties. Both bikes are significantly older than we are. They are very old but they are very good and we enjoyed pedalling down the towpath with me calling "Ting" as we approached behind walkers. Margaret got embarrassed so she sent me out the next day to buy two bicycle bells.  
More later.

## Machinery!

Above Wire Lock 4th April 2008

Before I forget I must tell you a few totals from the spreadsheet of the trip. I know that you will find these statistics completely absorbing as do I.

So far, since we left Thurmaston we have done:

272 locks

296.8 statute miles

The engine has been running for 190.7 hours

Isn't that exciting?

There are (is?) a number of other statistics that I could quote but I would not like you to get too worked up.

Talking of which, we visited Crofton Pumping Station yesterday. Now that is exciting. It pumps water up to the summit level of the Kennett and Avon and it is the oldest working beam engine in the world still doing the job for which it was built. We had the most wonderful visit and were the only people there for much of the time. We had not been wandering about for long when Nigel, the warden, found us. The flies were coming out of hibernation and dying on the window sills. They annoy Nigel and his wife, Maxine, when they die because it makes the place look messy and uncared for. Messy and uncared for is certainly what Crofton Pumping Station is not and so dead flies are not to be tolerated. I did not see any flies, dead or alive, so Nigel must have finished that job and was keen to show that which he loves second best out of all the world (Maxine, I assume, is his first best beloved): his beam engines. They are each the size of a house and they are very beautiful. When they are working I am sure that they are a kinetic poem and symphony of sotto voce sounds. Nigel says that they are quite quiet. All this hugeness to produce twice the power of the diesel engine in Theodora. The wonderful thing is that you can see the workings of each part and, seeing, you can understand it, given time. I have not had an internet connection for a few days so I cannot check but I am sure that a search will give you more details.

A coincidence is that I know of another Nigel who has worked at Crofton. Our nearest miller, Nigel Moon who runs the windmill at Whissendine, told me that he worked at the Pumping Station while he was at university. Which reminds me that I must send him a postcard...

So that is all I can write for the moment being overcome with emotion thinking about those beautiful engines and being conscience stricken with the need to write the postcard.

I cannot imagine why I haven't got a photograph of Crofton pumping station but here is one of Claverton. More next month...

Nick





## Kington WI

In July members went to the Burton Hotel for afternoon tea, and enjoyed meeting again in person after such a long gap.

Our next meeting will be a planning meeting on 8th September at 2.30pm in Markwick Hall. If the venue has to be changed we will let everybody know. Do come along and discuss our plans for next year.

*Margaret Cooke*

## Jam Jars

If anyone needs clean jars for jams or pickle please tel 230683

*Irene Phillips*

### **Kington Art and Craft Market.**

**Saturday 18th September 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines.**

Kington Saturday Arts and Crafts Market is open again on Saturday 18th September 2021 from 9:30 - 4:00 p.m. at Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines . Once again, we are delighted to present a wide range of beautiful, hand-made cards, gifts and crafts to suit all tastes, ages and budgets. All stalls feature genuinely handcrafted products, including:

Cards for all occasions      Alpaca products      Handcrafted ironware

Potter      Woodturner      Artist      Weavers

Felting      Papercrafts      Knitted and crocheted garments

Hand crafted jewellery      Sewn products      Plus a range of different crafts

With summer turning to Autumn, and the evenings drawing in, why not treat yourself to something new and beautiful for your home? 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 delighted to support local artists and craftspeople. We have something for everyone: the perfect hunting ground for all your gift and home decor needs . . . or for making an early start on the Christmas shopping!

### **Kington Walking Festival**

Are you taking part in the Kington Walking Festival? Do you know people who are? Why not add a visit to the Kington Craft Market to your walking programme for the day?

Find us at Kington Market Hall and Place de Marines

Saturday 18th September 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome!

### **Christmas is Coming!**

Dates for the Craft Market from now until Christmas are:

Saturday 16th October

Saturday 20th and 27th November (Christmas Markets)

Saturday 11th and 18th December (Christmas Markets)

Everyone welcome!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Anna King - AK Crafts [anna@akcrafts.co.uk](mailto:anna@akcrafts.co.uk) 07977 978676

## *Reader Writes*

The junior minister, the very junior minister, buzzed her secretary for a strong coffee; he'd learned quickly exactly how she liked it, well, needed it. She flicked through the daily newspapers before tackling her box. Nice to turn to the opinion section of the Guardian without raising eyebrows or startling her farming constituency. But she happily admitted and it was plain to see that she was a practising Christian, from a chapel family, and naturally held liberal views on things like climate, environment and the social issues of the day. Well, thank God, she thought, I am not working for that smirking Home Secretary and have to take ethically unpalatable measures to solve the refugee crisis. Is it a "crisis" or more a perennial catastrophe?

She hardly noticed the coffee arriving. Is that really the shameful scale of the messy fallout of our world? 25 million refugees and 50 million displaced persons. Okay, it's an official issue because it fuelled Vote Leave to Brexit victory, and people continue to feel threatened by energetic and skilled East Europeans or by self-disciplined asylum seekers. Secretly, especially considering the department she was in, she thought it pathetic to deploy naval vessels to repel flotillas of "illegals" crossing the Channel in rubber boats. No useful point in distinguishing between refugees of the many conflicts from those driven by economic destitution, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa.

She chucked the newspaper on the other side of the desk; must get on with the box. But I do need these things to be sorted, she thought. I won't think of colonialism, but my generation has every right to point to the ruination of consumerism. Nor will I think of wars, although we have fuelled or even set alight the conflagration of the Middle East. Then when it comes to the climate crisis, oh yes, we are certainly up to our necks in complicity. And I really might threaten to vomit if I hear another minister talking about 'getting back to normal'. No! The green economy screams for support. Perhaps I'll cross to the Green party and sit with Caroline Lucas; no, come on, get to work!

Her box soon revealed the reality of her responsibilities, and indeed the responsibilities of every citizen. Refugees are pleading with us for help; including maybe a million Afghan refugees. Do we off-shore them on prison ships? Or pay faceless contractors to create hostile borders? Will you catch me being anti-asylum for political credit? No, again! But yes, I'll argue passionately for fulfilling our promise on overseas aid; and I'll energetically fight for international cooperation to provide better choices than leaving your family, your home and your country with nothing but a phone and a rucksack.

As a Christian, she thought (coffee at last bringing clarity and focus), I will stand up for justice and compassion. All those chapel evenings; they counted for a lot. Maybe I should advertise an office prayer meeting to throw these challenges before our great God. Didn't Jesus say that after loving the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, "the second commandment is like it; you shall love your neighbour as yourself." Welcome Afghani sister, Welcome brother Eritrean, I am so sorry for your great and cruel losses; I'll love you practically, my neighbour, however I can.

*Robert MacCurrach*



# KINGTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



**Next Meeting**  
**7.30pm Thursday 16th September**

## Unusual Vegetables part 1

with Kevin Alolviti  
 venue MASONIC HALL.  
 New members and visitors welcome



Charity shop goods needed on Wed 15th September 2021 please D W Phillips

## September Wordsearch

### The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Kingdom Root  
 Heaven Let  
 Good Grow  
 See Together  
 Field Harvest

Sleeping Bundles  
 Grain Barn  
 Weeds Burned  
 Enemy  
 Servants

Master  
 Sow  
 Gather  
 Reap



## Lockdown Lodge: More Epic Journeys in a pre-war Austin7

I left the RAF on 30th September 1963 and arrived in Durham two days later to start a one year pre-theological course at the Bernard Gilpin Society .

Jane Mk II was handed over for use and safe keeping to good friends in Chipping Sodbury. In the meantime, I had purchased an Austin 7 Ruby from Alan Horne (a fellow service man) for £10.

I arrived safely in Durham and set up a syndicate selling shares in the car. I kept the major shareholding of £4 and split £2 shares three ways to fellow students. In return three of us had priority use of the vehicle for travelling, with local use on a voluntary basis.

For my first two terms I lodged in the Cathedral Close off the Bailey with ample parking. All went well until a fellow student, who was a commercial artist, painted a boar's head (our college mascot) on each door. One day I received a note asking me to remove the Austin 7 reg EGF 733 as it was lowering the tone of the Close! A good start to one's career!

Towards the end of Michaelmas Term, the dynamo ceased to function. Help! I would be stranded in Durham! Fortunately, I was able to purchase a dynamo over the counter from a local motor factor for £5. After fitting the dynamo, we set the ignition timing in an unorthodox manner. Two fellow students pushed the car along the Bailey, while another sat in the car at the controls, and I sat on the front offside wing with the side bonnet raised adjusting the distribution and locking it down when the engine burst into life.

At the end of term, I set off for home dropping off one shareholder at Sutton Coldfield and a second at Alcester. At first the car was very sluggish and it took us three quarters of an hour to get to Middlesbrough. Only another 290 miles to go then suddenly the engine had a new lease of life and it burst into action. I dropped off my passengers and arrived home safely at Old Sodbury a weary traveller.

During my vacation I manged a trip from Old Sodbury to Tangmere to visit Sonia the first of many journeys.

Still vivid in the memory is the return trip to Durham. A dense fog blanketed the whole country a real pea souper. It took us 2 hours to travel from one side of Doncaster to the other. Cars were crashed on the road side, in ditches and on the roundabouts. We survived travelling at low speed. The brakes on the Austin 7 were notorious. It also helped having a front windscreen that opened. I had left home at 8:30am arriving with my passengers at 10:30 thankful to have arrived safely.

The return journey at the end of term passed without incident. I was very lucky as a student to be welcomed back into the shop where I had worked as a shop assistant cum errand boy before joining the RAF.

At weekends I drove down to Tangmere to stay with Sonia and family. Returning to Old Sodbury, one Sunday evening in poor weather, the lights on the Austin were very dim. I managed to follow in the slip stream of a modern car for some 60 miles. It seemed fairly obvious that the driver did not know the road, as he slowed down at every bend and road junction. This suited me as I was able to keep up with him. I believe today they call the practice tailgating. The driver eventually turned off the main road by which time I was on familiar territory. I arrived home safely after a nerve-wracking journey. I sold the car to a scrap-dealer for £10 - a fact that I later lived to regret.

*Tony Jardine*



## Tales from the Chalk Face (7) Ancient and Modern

On my second day at Chrishall (etc) School, I had a visit from another local headteacher. He arrived unannounced on his pop-pop motor bike and announced that he had been commissioned by the Diocese to be my mentor! He imparted lots of useful information and then invited me to visit his own school the following week. It was 8 miles away in the beautiful historic town of Saffron Walden.



On arriving at St Mary's school, in the enchanting Castle Street, I was immediately struck by its picturesque position. As you can tell from the address, the school was in the environs of an old castle, indeed, one of its boundary walls was



the outer wall of the castle. The head's office faced the wonderful St Mary's church, with a stone spire higher than any other church in the diocese. The church was built by the same people who had built Kings' College, Cambridge and shared many of the same extravagant architectural features: fan vaulting, lofty nave, huge windows, amazing stained glass and the most tremendous pipe organ which was played from a high stone gallery under the towering chancel arch. The church is one of the finest in the country and had, at the time of forming the diocese, been considered as the possible cathedral setting for the diocese, but, eventually they settled on Chelmsford.

As I entered the school building for the first time, I knew that was where I would be going next! I went home and told Deborah. There I was, just a couple of weeks into my first headship, I was already eyeing up the next! Sure enough, some five years later, I was appointed as head, and so another adventure began,

The school had, like Chrishall, been through some very difficult times. I cannot discuss those here. Suffice it to say that the Local Authority told me that they had been trying for years to move things forward, to improve standards and to liven up the school after its problems. But things were stuck! They told me they didn't believe any member of staff should be saved, and that I should replace them all as soon as possible. Not the most welcome mandate for a new head.

Over the next few years, a number of staff were replaced. Sometimes it wasn't easy, and involved many hours of negotiations with unions and diocesan and local authority staff. Those who remained rallied round and we formed a very effective team. Standards rose incredibly. SAT results rocketed and the school became one of the highest performing in the county. The school developed a very high reputation. Consequently, we were invited to become a partner school with Cambridge University, and a teacher training base. We did some ground breaking work in maths; teaching by ability, groups of children drawn from across different year groups. We introduced termly target setting for all pupils, and performance reviews led by subject co-ordinators. Because of these, and other innovations, we were invited to become a research base by King's College London. Several

of our subject leaders were sent to solve problems in other schools.

We did a lot to change the environment of the school. We created a rose and lavender garden at the front of the school. We built flower planters and veg boxes for each of the 8 classes. The PTA helped with that, and I formed a gardening club to help maintain them. We built a huge adventure playground in the shape of a pirate ship. We introduced peripatetic instrumental lessons for Juniors, and I formed a choir. The school was repainted inside and out, and as numbers grew, we added two new classrooms. The school entrance was remodelled and new offices added at the front of the building. (more about that next time!)

I should have told you that the school had in its grounds the second largest collection of saffron crocuses in the town. The flower from which the town took its name. The flower stamens had been harvested since medieval times, and had made the town a very rich and prosperous place.

One day, the Rector (Who was Chair of Governors) came in rather flustered and asked what I was doing the next morning. I said, "I would be here in school, of course!". He asked if I could do him a huge favour. Before I agreed, I wanted to know what it was. He told me that a film crew had been filming in town all week. They were making a documentary about the town. They had filmed at the grass maze, the old houses, the parquetry (designs in the plaster work) of the mediaeval houses, at Audley End (stately home), the Museum, the castle and that day, they had filmed in the church, comparing it with the architecture at King's College. They wanted someone to demonstrate the organ in the church, and both the organist and his two deputies had declined. "PLEASE, PLEASE will you do it?" he begged. I told him I didn't think I was up to it, and I tried all I could to wriggle out of it. But, in the end I gave in, as he said it only meant playing a hymn or something, and it wouldn't take long. Once I had agreed, he then told me I had to be there at 7:30am...so it could be recorded without too much traffic or human noise interfering with the broadcast. Grrr!! That meant me leaving home by 6:45, and getting up at 5:45am. I don't like early mornings- never have- but hey, it was helping him out!

When I arrived at the church that morning there were around twelve in the crew; producers, sound technician, make-up artists, lighting engineers, etc. I was duly prepared ready to film. The producer wanted me to demonstrate the mighty power of that organ. Building up from very soft, through the pipe work of its 5 Manuals (keyboards) and ending with a fanfare demonstrating the Trumpets en Charade (huge, powerful silver trumpets sticking out from a separate section of the organ at the side of the enormous church). No wonder the others had declined! Well, I did my best!! At the end, after about 2 hours of filming, I went back to school, exhausted!



As I arrived, I was rather dismayed, and somewhat bemused to see a large group of Japanese tourists lying face down on the pathway into the school. They were emitting Japanese noises of excitement and taking close up photographs of the aforementioned saffron crocuses. The school secretary explained, they had been sent over by the museum

staff. It appeared that all the crocuses at the museum had died, as an over-zealous gardener had sprayed the lawns in which they were growing with weedkiller and, so, we now had the LARGEST collection in town!!

That evening, I returned home to Royston with lots to tell. The phone rang, it was the Rector thanking me for what I had done. He said the film crew were very happy with the results, and it was to be broadcast on Anglia TV the following week. However, Miss Gibson, the old lady who lived next to the church, was not so happy. She had complained about being woken early, and having her tea cups rattle for around two hours that morning, because of the noise of the organ!!

(to be continued) *Philip Sell*

## PUBLIC JUICE PRESSING DAYS

# Bring Out Your Apples!

## Saturday 25th September

### Kington Market Hall

### 10am to 3pm in Place De Marines

Bring washed apples & clean containers  
 Take away your own delicious juice  
 Help others & taste the difference!  
 For small amounts - up to a couple sacks  
 If you've a lot of fruit - borrow the kit  
 For use at home or community events



Kington Local Environment & Energy Network (KLEEN) - [www.kingtonkleen.org.uk](http://www.kingtonkleen.org.uk)

Contact: Jon Cooke 01544 231977 or 07776 236823 email: [kingtonkleen@gmail.com](mailto:kingtonkleen@gmail.com)

### Kington & District Community Shop Organisations in September

4th - 11th	KADOS (Kington Amateur Dramatics & Operatic Society)
11th - 18th	CLOSED
18th - 25th	Kington Horticultural Society

Donated goods are welcome; if possible by arrangement with the group, but in any case, best delivered on their first Saturday.

## ST PETER'S CHURCH TITLEY NEWS

### Village Picnic.

The sun shone on Saturday 14th August which is usually our village fete day. As there was no fete this year we felt it important to try and get together as a village. A lot of people brought their picnic to the Stagg Meadow and it was lovely to meet all the new people who have moved into the village. The sound of children playing and enjoying themselves was a lovely sound to hear after all the months of being "locked down"



Many thanks to everyone who helped to organise this marvellous event.

### Harvest Festival.

This year's Harvest Festival takes place in the church at 7pm on Friday 17th September. Following the service we are having a Harvest Supper in the village hall. If you cannot get to the church please do come to the supper. Again this will be a great opportunity for all the village to come together.

*Dick*



### Kington Trefoil Guild

are holding their annual

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

on

### FRIDAY 24th SEPT 10-12

at

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### Bingo

With reference to Bingo at the Football Club, I have decided after a lot of debating not to organise the Wednesday night bingo. I have been doing it now for around 20 years. During this time, we have supported clubs, village halls, churches, and schools, raising a lot of much needed funds.

I wish to thank the football club committee for all their support, John Powell for the latter years of calling and, of course, my supporters who turned up week after week. We have had some good times with lots of laughs and memories for me to hold.

I am holding £120 of funds. This will be donated to our local hospice  
 Thank you one and all. Love from Rita

## Along Offa's Dyke. July 25th-30th 1960 (61 years ago!) continued from last month

Thursday: 8 o'clock, first signs of life! We obtained more milk. The farmer would not accept more than 5 shillings for a dozen eggs, four pints of milk and some potatoes. Breakfast was late – porridge, egg and bacon, b&b with marmalade. The eggs were free range which, the farmer assured us, were much tastier than those produced in the deep litter sheds. We walked to Yew Tree farm where we stopped to ask whether we might obtain bread anywhere. The farmer's wife let us have two large loaves (called small by her) – a very friendly couple.

Now a steep climb up Pen Offa and a spattering of rain. We fought our way through thick undergrowth to a quarry just beyond it. Still some rain, and lunch, a meal with a difference – boiled eggs squashed between slices of bread, dates, honey and assorted dried fruits. Morris obtained a little butter from an isolated house nearby. Along Evenjobb Hill the Dyke is more or less non-existent, so we went down a track to the village, hoping that the post office was also a store. Fortunately this proved to be the case, so at about 3.30pm



we were busy buying much food and refreshing ourselves with squash, ices etc. We also replenished our stock of chocolate and set off back up the hill to pick up the Dyke where it reappeared. We were all greatly astonished and impressed by Radford's remarkably energetic ascent of this hill, attributed by him to the Lukozade he had imbibed.

We walked on to Burfa Farm where we could find nobody but an aged crone with a black cat (a witch, no doubt!) so we went on to Barland Farm instead. Here we called at the wrong house, that of a Colonel Fuller. There we were greeted by several bright young folk dressed for tennis: roars of laughter, was it Bob-a-job week? They did not possess much land, but we were welcome to use Stitchington Cottage for the night. This was about a mile up a valley which had been ploughed and planted by the Forestry Commission. We fought our way through this, stopping now and again to gather wild raspberries which were very plentiful, and eventually we reached the empty cottage which was almost grown over with bracken and brambles, but which, on examination, was found to be dry and in a fairly good state of repair. It was now half past five. We beat our way through to the door and stooped under the honeysuckle to enter. There were two rooms down and two up. We then spent half an hour looking for the well, finding it at last by referring to our map, which showed the beginning of a stream at the bottom corner of the garden. The water looked clear and clean enough, but we used tablets to be on the safe side. An ash tree provided wood, and the overgrown garden yielded gooseberries, black currants and raspberries a-plenty. We used our little stove, as cooking on the range would have been difficult – Cheese dreams, baked beans, individual pies, b&b honey and a splendid brew of tea using dried milk and sterilized water!

Soon a good fire was roaring up the chimney beside the old bread oven and all was very snug and cosy in our little kitchen with its swept flagstone floor. Ollie and Morris washed up and cut bracken for the bedroom floor, while Denis went with Slay and Radford by a circuitous route to Barland Farm for a dozen eggs and some milk. At the farm Radford quickly made friends with a couple of sheepdogs, one of whom, we were told, was elderly, almost blind and liable to snap. At 10.30 it was time for cocoa (milk and sterilized water) prayers, and bed on a thick mat of bracken in the inner room.

Friday: 7.30am Duet for two razors. Downstairs as the spirit moved for breakfast which included stewed fruit from the garden previously picked by Slay. The bracken was thrown out, the bedding aired, and the fire, which had dried all our towels, was allowed to burn out. So, at 10.45 we were on our way via Barland Farm where we talked with the farmer who was checking his sheep. The dogs were both now at work, and the old one appeared to be showing the ropes to the younger one. Then began our most gruelling day, for the route took us right up and over Burfa, a hill fort, down the far side, over a valley and then up steeply again. It was terribly overgrown. We fought and battered our way up and over the banks at the top, and then, unable to find any path through the plantations of young conifers on the south side, descended by repeatedly allowing ourselves to fall backwards through the thickest undergrowth ever: young conifers, bracken, rosebay, brambles and briers, all matted tightly together on a gradient that dropped us almost 400ft in 150yds. At the bottom we found the Hindwell Brook, winding its way through the valley pastures, and we had a quick swim.



The wind was quite chilly here, so we climbed up the foot of Herrock Hill before lunching – oxtail soup, boiled eggs, cheese b&b honey, Riveta. After lunch we had a steep climb, rising 600ft to 1226ft. So steep was the slope that one's face was frequently no more than two feet from the ground, yet the Dyke was quite well defined even here, though covered with bracken. We were rewarded at the top by another splendid view back over the valley to Burfa and beyond – lovely sunny weather, cool up here with light clouds high above. However, time was pressing, so we continued on our way and said goodbye to the Dyke as it turned eastwards along Rushock Hill, while we followed a track towards Kington. Slay, who had earlier been forging ahead.....



Here, an abrupt end, since the last page is missing; apart, that is, from this picture of our last breakfast on Saturday morning near Kington where we disbanded after a wonderful few days taken from the start of the summer holidays. Such a happy time, such friendly and generous farmers along the way. Thanks, Michael Oldroyd, alias Ollie (RIP) for organising this and for taking the photos. Denis Parry



## September Crossword

### Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)  
 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)  
 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)  
 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)  
 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)  
 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)  
 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)  
 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)  
 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)  
 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)      23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)  
 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)  
 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)



### Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)  
 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)  
 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)  
 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)      6 Of the Muslim faith (7)  
 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)      8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)  
 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)      15 CIA char (anag.) (7)  
 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)  
 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)  
 20 Episcopal headwear (5)  
 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

### Answers to August Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Amazed. 4, Others. 8, Peter. 9, Zebedee. 10, Accuser. 11, Endue. 12, Scripture. 17, Shrub. 19, Abashed. 21, Foolish. 22, Upset. 23, Loathe. 24, Lesser.  
 DOWN: 1, Appeal. 2, Attacks. 3, Earns. 5, Tableau. 6, Ended. 7, Shekel. 9, Zarephath. 13, Rubbish. 14, Ephesus. 15, Useful. 16, Editor. 18, Rhoda. 20, Abuse.



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

### Intermediate Sudoku

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

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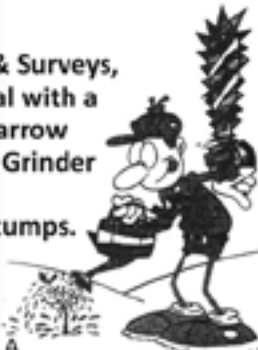
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## Forthcoming Events

Thurs 2 Sept	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley Village Hall
Sat 4 Sept		Start of H-Art week in Kington and surrounding areas Start of KADOS week in Kington Community Shop
Wed 8 Sept	2.30pm	Kington WI meeting at Markwick Hall
	7pm	Preaching workshop at St Mary's church, Kington
	7pm	PCC & Treasurers Workshop at Pembridge Village Hall
Sat 11 Sept	2pm	Memorial Service for Mary Whittall at Huntington URC
Tues 14 Sept	7pm	Deanery workshop at Weobley
Wed 15 Sept		Cut off date for October Parish News
Sat 18	9.30 -4	Art & Craft Market at Market Hall, Kington Start of Kington Hort Society week in Kington Community Shop
Sun 19 Sept	10am	Confirmation at St Mary's church, Kington
Wed 22 Sept	7pm	Preaching workshop at St Mary's church, Kington
Fri 24 Sept	10-12	Macmillan Coffee Morning at 40 Headbrook
Sat 25 Sept	10-3	Apple Pressing in Place de Marines, Kington
Sun 26 Sept	11am	Herefordshire Council Civic Service at St Mary's, Kington
Sun 3 Oct	11am	Harvest Festival & Ploughman's Lunch at St Mary's church, Kington
Thurs 7 Oct	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks at Brilley Village Hall
Sat 23 Oct		Huntington Chase (more details next month)
	7.30pm	Live Theatre at Brilley Village Hall



### **MATERIAL FOR THE OCTOBER 2021 PARISH NEWS**

by

**15th SEPTEMBER please**

to

The Parish News Editor

Arrow Weir House, Kingswood Road, Kington HR5 3HD

**or email: [freda@sparkiesofkington.com](mailto:freda@sparkiesofkington.com)**

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

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