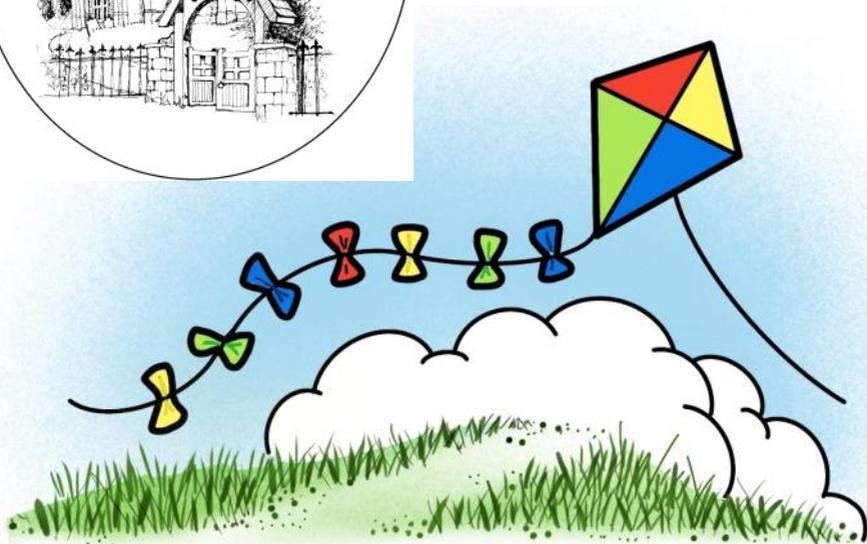


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**JULY & AUGUST 2020 -
50P**

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Hon Treasurer: Mrs Brenda Giles 01905 25709
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St. Martin with St. Peter

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Curate Rev'd Dr Robin Parry 01905 764651

Holy Trinity & St Matthew Ronkswood

Vicar Rev'd Rob Farmer

Associate Priest to the Team:

The Rev'd Canon Stephen Buckley

Readers in the Team:

Mr Mike Bunclark

Team Administrator:

Rebecca Caskie: Team Office, St Martins Church,
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email: worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com

*For enquiries about Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Marriages and Blessings,
please contact the Team Administrator as above.*

The Team Office is closed until further notice.

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Coronavirus 2020

The July & August edition of this magazine comes as we cautiously leave lockdown but recognising that the virus is still very much with us. The magazine remains an important means of communication in these challenging times and will continue in its new format. There is the prospect of a return to hard copy in the Autumn to complement this format. As ever all contributions, particularly of encouraging news or interest, will be gratefully received. Read on! *Editor*

Letter from the Vicarage

June 2020



Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing? I hope and pray that you are all fit and well and not feeling too anxious about the easing of lockdown. Maybe you are in the group of people, I have spoken to over the last few months, who have grown completely bored by it all and are just impatient for it to be over and done with and for life to get back to normal as it were.

Normal life. Can you remember what that felt like?!!!

I wonder what are you looking forward to most, as restrictions ease? Is it being able to meet up with family and friends freely again, without having to think about who is in what “bubble”, and who does or doesn’t live with whom? Is it being able to patronise your local pub or frequent your favourite cafe? Or maybe you have already been enjoying going shopping on the High Street once more.

It’s a bit like the scene in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* where the Queen’s magic is losing it’s grip, and the thaw is beginning to set in and the eternal winter is suddenly giving way to springtime, so clearly there are similar signs all around us of the easing of lockdown. I noticed in Tesco this week, that Costa coffee was reopen, for take away orders, and of course the road outside my study is getting busier again.

Are you now thinking about where you might go on holiday, planning a ‘stay-cation’ or even watching the briefings to see when we might be able to travel abroad without the need for a quarantine period on your return?

Continued.....

I wonder, what have you missed during this season of lockdown and what are the positive things that have come about, for you, because of it? Less traffic and pollution? A slower, more relaxed pace of life maybe; greater opportunities to encounter the beauty of the natural world in spring time, with the wildlife that surrounds us feeling that little bit more courageous, being that little bit more willing to poke their noses out into the world; the opportunity to actually meet and greet neighbours on your street where previously neither of you had actually stood still long enough to do more than just say hello before moving on with your day.

And I wonder, are there things that you have let go of, or found a different way of doing which means that you will not go back to them again, even once the restrictions are fully lifted, and we have a proven vaccine and/or more effective drugs and treatments?

In last month's letter I wrote to you about reading the book of psalms, and in particular psalms of lament such as psalm 22 - the one that begins, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me", and I suggested you might want to express your feelings to God by writing your own psalm.

There are of course different types of psalm within the 150 psalms that make up the book of psalms: there are psalms of lament but also psalms that express great joy and praise of God. Psalm 150 reads like this:

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Continued.....

Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

I wonder as you reflect on the period of lockdown whether you have managed to find ways in which God has blessed you through it, and whether you might be able to turn your appreciation of those blessings into a psalm of praise to God. It needn't be the wholehearted paean of praise that psalm 150 is. I suspect that if we were being honest with ourselves, and with God, we wouldn't be able to manage that at the moment, but I hope that for most of us the lockdown period hasn't been complete doom and gloom but that you have managed to find some positives from the situation, and that those remind you of the blessings that God, even in lockdown still endues us with.

Remember, it is okay, not to be okay and if you need someone to talk to then give me a call.

Stay safe everyone. Every blessing,

Andy

Bishop John has announced that he will be pleased to institute the Revd Peter Hart as Team Rector of the Worcester South East Team Ministry (with responsibility for Worcester St Martin with St Peter) at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 1 September 2020.
Details of the service will be decided nearer the time.

Coronavirus - Covid-19

Places of worship have been given permission to re-open for private prayer and now for public worship but this is dependent upon the local situation and being able to keep everybody safe while observing social distancing, and that depends on how much the building allows.

**For the time being, St Philip and St James Church
Whittington will be open on Sunday afternoons between
2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. for private prayer**

Please see Diocesan guidance on next page

The Worcester South East Team of clergy continue to work on ways of serving the needs of our parishes.

The Team Office at St Martin's is closed to visitors but can still be reached by phone and email, see inside cover page.

For Pastoral Support please contact Revd Andy Stand on
01905 358150 or andy.stand@sky.com

LIVE ON-LINE VIDEO SERVICES

For all churches in the South East Team



We are continuing to meet for worship using the zoom app downloadable from the zoom.us website: The way of accessing Zoom meetings has changed and you will need to use the password to join the worship, and will also need to join a 'waiting room' to be admitted to the meeting. To join any of the services please email the contact person who will send you a link:

For Sunday services or midweek Eucharist:

email andy.stand@sky.com

For Morning Prayer or Stations and Compline:

email mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk

For Monday or Saturday Prayer meetings:

email joanhazz@gmail.com

SERVICE PATTERN MIDWEEK

Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday at 8.30am

Compline: Monday to Friday at 8.30pm

Midweek Eucharist: Wednesday at 10am

SUNDAYS Morning Worship: Sundays at 10am



You are welcome to come and pray in this church.

We are following government guidance to ensure it is as safe as possible for you to do so. Please:



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Formal Guidance from the Diocese for reopening
St Philip and St James Whittington for private prayer
on Sundays from 2.30 to 3.30 pm. *Further information on
re-opening for public worship will given as it becomes available*

Much Celebration as Caroline Mayfield reaches the big “0” during Lockdown!



Caroline says:

“A huge thank to you all for your delightful birthday cards and gift. The Phlox plants are going to fill two gaps in the flower beds and will be a constant reminder of you at Whittington. We had planned to have a large party, which had all been booked in advance late last year – but then lockdown arrived!

Instead I have had a lovely birthday spread over several days with two socially distanced garden lunches with our elder son’s family and our daughter and family. This has included 2 birthday cakes, balloons, banners and the likes!! And this all finished off yesterday with a ‘Zoom’ gathering (organised by our youngest grandchild) where we were able to chat to all the family again including our younger son and his wife and the only grandson who had not been able to visit.

And I’ve got the T-shirt! ‘My 80th birthday, the one where I celebrated in Lockdown 2020’

Thank you all“

From the Parish Register
June 15th 2020
Funeral and Burial
Jane Tibbutt SRN



Most of our comforts grow up between our crosses. -
Edward Young

Another Bird Quiz for you

This one by description without the help of photographs!

Answers next month



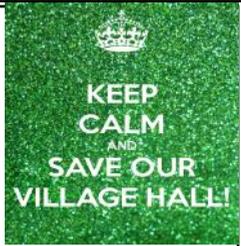
1. Look out, get out of the way.....
2. They are always out of breath.....
3. Moan, Moan, Moan.....
4. Musician on the beach.....
5. Alarm call for pussy cat.....
6. Cowardly carpenters tool.....
7. High Flyer.....
8. Sad and small.....
9. American and hairless.....
10. Thievin'.....
11. First sign of spring.....
12. Fashionable collar in the past.....
13. Putting the flags up.....
14. Rhymes with a spring month.....
15. Talk with a pebble.....
16. Done when eating.....
17. This one is very fast.....
18. Tied up.....
19. Throw over a bed.....
20. Crimson Beginning.....

Seagull

- A father was at the beach with his children when his four-year-old
- son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where
- a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?"
- "He died and went to heaven," the father replied.
- The boy thought a moment and then asked: "Why did God throw him
- back down?"

Whittington Community Hall

Replacing the old Village Hall



Considerable progress has been made towards building the new community hall and the letting of a contract for this purpose. A preferred contractor has been selected and the contract is in the final stages of determination.



The Parish Council is preparing to consult with all households in the Parish before securing a Public Works Loan.

Whilst the impact of the Coronavirus on all our lives has slowed the process down it is still intended to proceed with the new building as quickly as possible.

The 'Whittington Project' is regarded by the senior management team at **Wychavon District Council** as a '**Flagship Project**'.



Whittington Parish Council

Parish Council business has continued throughout the lockdown. Regular Parish Council meetings have been held through the use of Zoom. You can still join us; to do so email the Parish Council Clerk at whittingtonpc@live.co.uk and you will be given instructions on how to join the meeting.

Stay safe!

Your Parish Council.

www.whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk

facebook.com/whittingtonpc (or search @whittingtonpc)

Email: whittingtonpc@live.co.uk

Whittington CE Primary School



After Lockdown - wider reopening.

From the Headteacher, Gary Richards

When I last wrote about our Primary School we were averaging 13 pupils each day. Since wider reopening on 8th June that number has increased to over 60 pupils. Whilst we are nowhere near our capacity of 210 pupils, it is a big step in the right direction.

The biggest change we had to make, before we admitted more pupils, was to the fabric of the building. We have 7 classrooms and each of these had to become self contained. Routes around the school were marked out; specific entrances were allotted for each group; and staggered start and end times organized, so that parents and pupils did not need to congregate. Alongside these measures, we ordered personal protective equipment for all the staff; arranged Covid 19 training; and met staff virtually to discuss how these measures would work in practice.

Once everything was prepared we held our breath, in anticipation of the first day of wider reopening. When the day came, everything ran smoothly. Parents are used to social distancing and the queues outside the school were orderly. The children appeared un-phased at returning to school after an absence of nearly three months. They chatted to friends that they had either not seen at all or communicated with virtually. They sat at their desks and got on with their work, as they would on any other school day. The only visible difference was the size of the group, which was half the normal class size. The seating arrangements were different: two metres separating each pupil.

The children have now been back for over two weeks and we have all settled into a new routine. The weather has been (mostly) kind, which means that the children spend a lot of their time outside. Forest School is a really popular activity which allows children to relax, learn and interact with the natural environment. *Continues.....*

More traditional English and maths lessons continue with children in school completing the same work as their classmates still at home: this is important to avoid too much of a gap opening up between pupils in the same class.

What comes next? Whilst we have no guidance yet, it seems sensible to attempt to get all of our pupils back to school in September. Children need the structure of school and staff will be working hard to support all of our pupils as they emerge from lockdown. We also need to remember that Covid 19 is still in our communities, so will have to mitigate the likelihood of spreading the virus within our school through careful planning over the summer.



Love, Learn, Achieve



They were trying to remember when they had last left the house.

Coronavirus:

For the first time in history, we can help save the human race by lying in front of the TV and doing nothing. Let's not mess this one up!

Careless?

Husband and I went grocery shopping with masks, got home, took off masks, wrong husband! Stay alert people!

There's a small change in one of our adverts this month - we've heard from Jude Maund that she's now running her Zumba Fitness classes online. See ad on page 22 for details.

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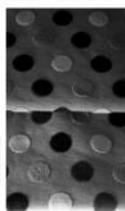
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St Christopher - patron saint of motorists

The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death – this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular. When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!

Looking back to full Lockdown - Gulls again

Contributed by Maggie McMurray as a follow up to one last summer

Worcester is in lockdown
The gulls have gone away
We're hiding from the virus
Which came from Wuhan way.

Our restaurants have all closed down
The takeaways have gone
No wasted food is on the ground
For gulls to feed upon.



The gulls have all flown back to sea
To feed on fish so fresh
No chance of catching viruses
From their delicious flesh.

That is of course assuming
That they have learned from us
That eating fish that is not cooked
Will make them sick like us.

So now at night on Weston pier
You'll see a rosy glow
The gulls have lit their barbecues
Because of what they know!

Now a fond memory it seems as the Gulls are back in force!

A POEM FOR JULY

*FROM "THE LADY OF SHALOTT
BY ALFRED LORD TENNYSON*

'On either side the river lie
Long fields of barley and of rye,
That clothe the world and meet the sky;
And thro' the field the road runs by
To many tower'd Camelot;
And up and down the people go,
Gazing where the lilies blow
Round an island there below,
The island of Shalott.'

The **NHS** – bearing one another’s burdens

“Save the NHS” was the slogan chosen by the British government when the coronavirus began to spread. Meant to evoke public compassion, and compliance with emergency regulations, it sounded as though the NHS was an endangered species. In fact it was the public themselves whose lives were in jeopardy; the National Health Service existed solely for their benefit. The slogan did manage to stir gratitude for a service which had been taken for granted, as well as appreciation of its 1.5+ million staff, many of whom were now putting their own lives at greater risk.

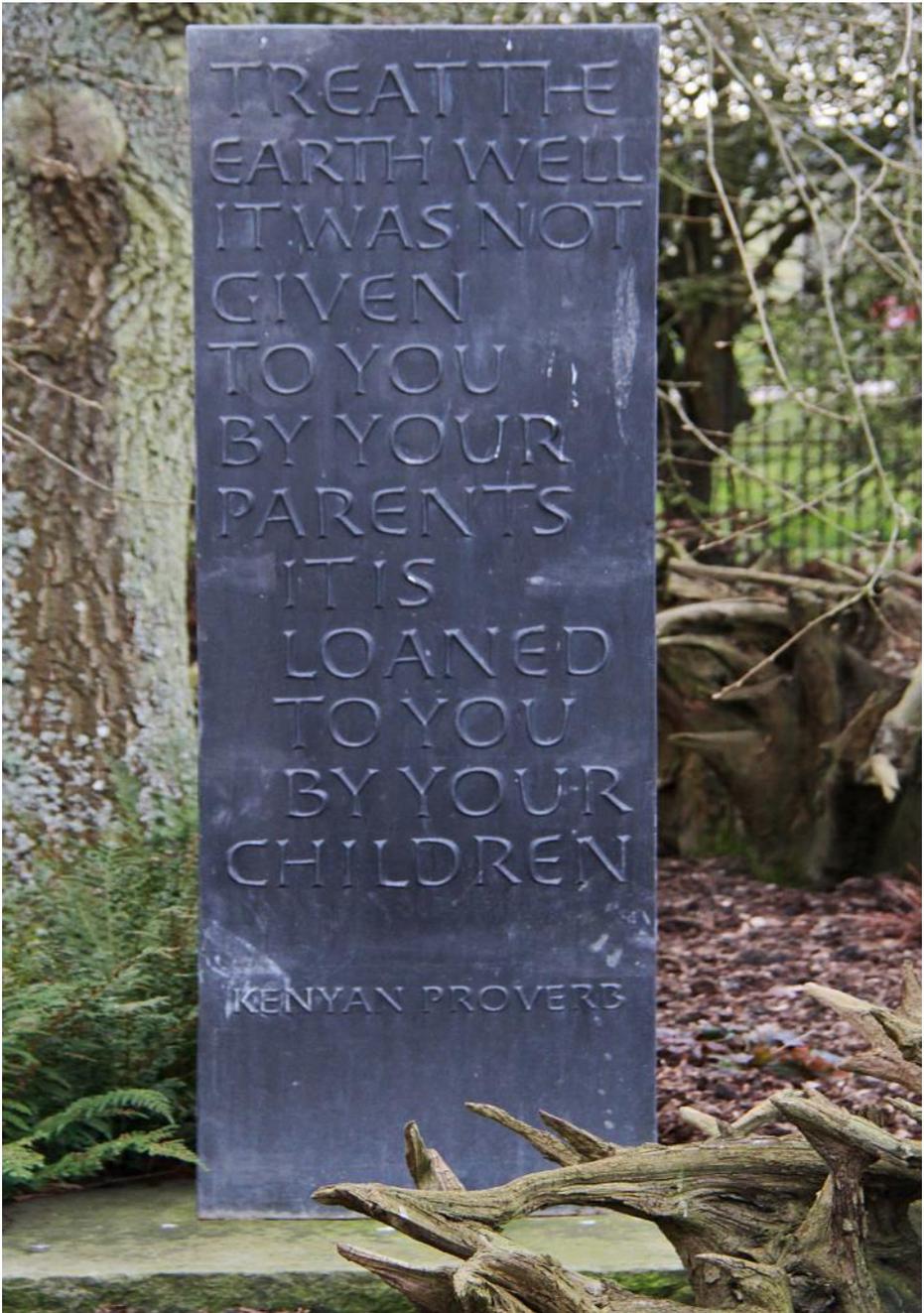


The idea for a countrywide medical service came from the Beveridge Report, instigated by the coalition government during World War 2. “Medical treatment covering all requirements will be provided for all citizens by a national health service”, is how it was defined, though it had to wait until 1948 for its implementation to begin. It was part of a programme for reconstruction, aiming to eliminate Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness. Sir William Beveridge, who gave his name to the report, was close friends with two other social reformers: R H Tawney, and William Temple, who was to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Today’s Archbishop, Justin Welby, wrote this about the trio: “Drawing on Christian understandings of justice, generosity and human dignity, they described the kind of country that they felt reflected God’s values better.”

St Paul couldn’t have thought he was providing a slogan for a welfare state when he wrote, “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ”, but that is a neat summary of the way the National Health Service works. We all pay in when we can and we all benefit when we need.

One estimate of the cost of the NHS today is £158.4 billion, which in real terms is 10 times as much as in 1950. In the meantime, it’s no longer completely free for all. Prescription charges and dental fees have been introduced. The development of ever-more sophisticated life-saving drugs and medical procedures will inevitably mean higher costs - and a heightened moral dilemma. Must there be further limits to the provision of “medical treatment covering all requirements”?

The colossal task of rebuilding a shattered economy in the years to come may compel the British people to choose between what is essential and what is optional. The Christian principle now sounds particularly demanding: “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ”.



An old Kenyan Proverb which gives pause for thought as we contemplate Global warming.



St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Diocese of Worcester



News from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

I had hoped that by now we might know when we can return to St Marks but sadly, as yet, we have no further news. Unusual for me but I am fast running out of things to write about so I do hope that something happens very soon! We look forward to the return of all our long term hirers hopefully in September. Pre-school has given notice that they intend to re-open on 7 September and Ladies Club expects to start again on, Wednesday, 2 September, with a social evening because the ladies will no doubt have lots to talk about; we may even have cake(s).

Following the inclusion of parts of the 1955 Church Magazine in the June edition, I had two responses to my appeal regarding the whereabouts of Barneshall Farm.

A member of St Martin's congregation has very fond memories of attending the St Mark's summer fete because he met a young lady who later became his wife. He recalls walking along Norton Road to Barneshall Farm where the fetes took place and which was owned by Mr Aldersey.

A member of St Mark's congregation also got in touch to say that she started married life in Timberdine Farm (now a public house) and her first two children were born there. When the opportunity arises, I am keen to take up the invitation to pay her a visit to find out more about the local area because history is my first love. I had an excellent teacher who, by coincidence lives nearby, and with whom I am still in touch. She had a wonderful way of bringing history alive and it was one of the few GCE subjects that I passed in the 1960s.

Continued.....

Scones fit for royalty! Yes, truly this is a recipe recently published in the Telegraph that was provided by the chef to the Queen. Since I did not have the ability to produce acceptable scones like my mother made, that were light, delicious and were not stale the next day, I thought I would give this recipe a whirl; I can now make wonderful scones! The following has been slightly adapted from that published and makes approximately 15 depending on size of cutter.

Ingredients:

500g Plain Flour 30g Baking Power

85g Sugar (I use caster sugar)

95g Salted Butter (Cold)

2 Large Eggs (or 3 Medium)

150ml Buttermilk

Optional – 100g Sultanas previously soaked in hot water for 30 minutes. For a treat, I soaked some in sherry for 24 hours until plump.

Method: Preheat oven to 180C / 350F / Gas Mark 4. Bearing in mind that to make and rest the scones takes an hour or so, you may want to put the oven on when they are returned to the fridge for the second time.

- Mix together flour, baking powder and sugar in large bowl and rub in butter until crumb is formed; better and quicker, use a food processor.
 - In separate bowl, whisk together eggs and buttermilk, and slowly add to crumb to form a dough, retaining some for an egg wash after cutting out. At this point, you can also add the sultanas but not, as I did, in the food processor because it cut them into tiny pieces!
 - Flatten dough and put in fridge to rest for 30mins
 - Roll out dough to a thickness of approx 2.5cm and cut into scones
 - Place on baking tray, apply egg wash and put back into fridge for further 20mins.
 - Cook just above centre of oven for 15mins or until golden brown
 - Cool and serve with jam and clotted cream – yummy!
- Best frozen on the day of baking as soon as cool.

Continued.....

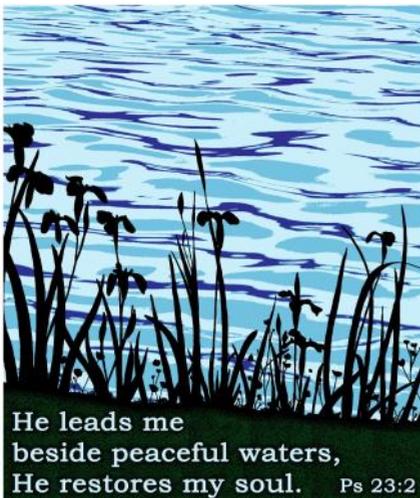
The committee of the Friends of the Swan Theatre recently took the sad but expected decision to postpone the long awaiting 2020 Variety Show until August 2021; it was supposed to take place this October. Barry North is the star of the show and he shared this news on BBC H&W and explained the refund arrangements that have been put in place for those who had pre-bought tickets.

The good news is that the refurbishment of the theatre is well underway and when audiences do return, they will find big changes will have taken place. It has been suggested that it opens with a coffee morning and bric-a-brac sale to show case it all but, as we know, when that will be is in the lap of the gods.

So what have we to look forward to at St Marks? It would be lovely to be able to hold a quiz night, a community parish party and proper services again – the only positive event is the institution of the Reverend Peter Hart as South East Team Rector in September; the congregation looks forward to meeting him.

Jan

janvale810@gmail.com 01905 351392



Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace.
And your best days are never so good that you're beyond the need of God's grace. - Anon

The crash that killed off Concorde

It was 20 years ago, on 25th July 2000, that an Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris after taking off for New York. All 109 people on board were killed, as well as four people on the ground.

The plane was a charter flight from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris to New York, and most of the passengers were German tourists on a 'dream trip' which would have seen them catch a cruise ship from New York to the Caribbean. But as the Concorde hurtled down the runway, a fire started under the left wing – possibly caused by a metal part that fell from a plane that took off moments earlier.

The exact cause was never determined: the Concorde was also overweight, and the landing gear mechanism was slightly defective. The wind had also shifted slightly before take-off.

The aircraft was unable to gain height and plummeted on to a small hotel in nearby Gonesse, where a 20-year-old guest who had just arrived escaped miraculously by jumping from a window as her room caved in.

It was the only fatal Concorde crash in 24 years, but Concordes were grounded as a result, and although they returned to service in November 2001, all Concorde services stopped permanently two years later.

The queue at the supermarket.....

While waiting in a long queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us 'seniors', I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved her cane at him, and he quickly backed away.

A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away.

But he wasn't giving up, and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition.

The young man stood there for a moment, and then shrugged his shoulders. "If you people won't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."

How well did you recognise hymns?

There are so many hymns that we sing throughout the year, year after year and they are so familiar, that, surely, we should be able to identify a hymn from just one line. How did you do?

Here are the answers for you:

1. When Earth's joy's grow dim, its glories pass away. *Abide with me.*
2. Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before Thee.
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.
3. Mild he lays his glory by. *Hark, the herald angels sing.*
4. And sweet harp the story of what he has done. *O praise ye the Lord.*
5. But yet in love he sought me. *The King of love my shepherd is.*
6. Dwellers all in time and space. *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven.*
7. I want to be in that number. *O when the saints go marching in.*
8. And guide us when perplexed. *Now thank we all our God.*
9. Born of the one light Eden saw play. *Morning has broken.*
10. Loveless in strength and comfortless in pain. *Lord, for the years.*
11. A breastful of milk and a manger full of hay. *In the bleak mid-winter.*
12. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone. *I danced in the morning.*
13. Go through the park on into the town. *Colours of day dawn into the mind.*
14. Our triumphant holy day. *Jesus Christ is risen today.*
15. 'Gainst all disaster. *He, who would valiant be.*
16. We are his folk, he doth us feed. *All people that on earth do dwell.*
17. Bring forth the royal diadem. *All hail the power of Jesus' name.*
18. His boundless mercy will provide. *Fight the good fight.*
19. Hill and vale and tree and flow'r. *For the beauty of the earth.*
20. When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God.
God is working his purpose out.
21. And so the yearning strong. *Come down, O Love divine.*
22. From heaven he came and sought her. *The Church's one foundation.*
23. Radiant beams from Thy holy face. *Silent night, holy night.*
24. You shall not live by bread alone. *Seek ye first the kingdom of God.*
25. Ever old and ever new. *One more step along the world I go.*
26. Each jubilant chord re-echo around. *O praise ye the Lord.*
27. No ear may hear his coming. *O little town of Bethlehem.*
28. And where there's sadness ever joy. *Make me a channel of your peace.*
29. Like earth's proud empires pass away. *The day thou gavest Lord is ended.*
30. Bring me my chariot of fire. *And did those feet in ancient time (Jerusalem)*

NB The last one "slipped off" the bottom of the page last month but here it is anyway!

The man who created Sherlock Holmes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the multi-talented writer who created Sherlock Holmes, the world's most famous detective, died 90 years ago, on 7th July 1930 at his home in Sussex, probably of a heart attack. He was 71.

He had been born in Edinburgh to a prosperous Irish-Catholic family with a dysfunctional father and a loving mother who had a talent for inventing stories. He spent seven years in a Jesuit boarding school in England, which he loathed, and qualified as a medical doctor at the University of Edinburgh. He added 'Conan' to his name at that stage.

He wrote the first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*, in 1887. In all, he wrote nearly 60 novels or short stories involving Holmes and his sidekick, Dr Watson. He did not regard them as his best work – he wrote prolifically on many subjects – but their characterisation and ingenious plotting made them by far the most popular.

He was married twice – first to “gentle and amiable” Louisa Hawkins, the sister of one of his patients, and then, after she died of tuberculosis in 1906, to the “strikingly beautiful” and talented Jean Leckie. Towards the end of his life he developed a strong interest in the occult and spiritualism. He was knighted in 1902.



Tidal wave of sales coming?

“This summer will be an absolute bonanza for shoppers, and they should be selective and patient... discounting will continue throughout the summer.” So says Clive Black, a retail analyst at Shore Capital.

He explains that billions of pounds of winter stock is coming over to the UK in ships, but the retail warehouses are still full of unsold summer stock... “The magnitude of what has happened has never been seen in modern times.”

No wonder, then, that some analysts predict that shops will offer up to 70 per cent off throughout July, August and September.

We will see what happens!



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