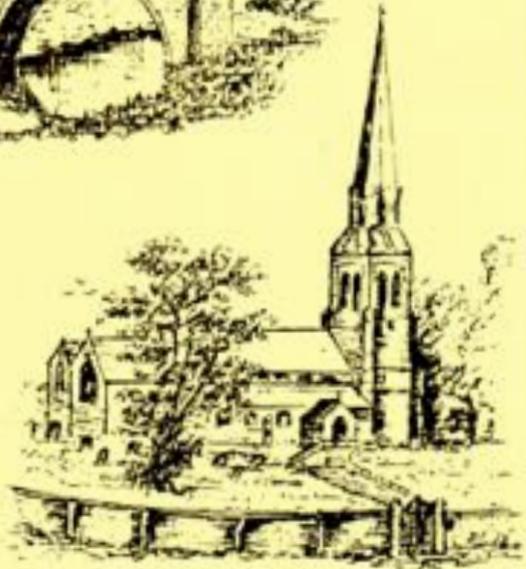


FEBRUARY
2021



The
Bridge



BEELEY WITH EDENSOR
including CHATSWORTH, CALTON LEES & PILSLEY
PARISH MAGAZINE

Rev'd Canon D. Perkins,
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(Church website -www.stpetersedensor.org)

February 2021

As we continue to journey through the coronavirus pandemic, we embark on a new journey beginning on 17th February (Ash Wednesday.) During the six weeks of Lent we can decide to do many things. We can give up some of our luxuries or take on extra tasks hoping in some way to identify with Jesus who was led out into the desert by the devil for forty days and forty nights. No one can decide what we are to do – it is up to us. However, one thing we can all do is spend more time in prayer. But all of us without exception often find it difficult to say our prayers – we also ask many questions. Where is God? Why is he so silent? Where can we find him? Many of us ask questions like this.

Before we experienced lock down, we could walk around towns or villages and see people hustling by on the street, the noise of the traffic, bright lights in shop windows full of attractive goods – but none of this seems to connect with God. The litter blows on the pavement as if to say: 'This is all there is.' Newspapers sit in the newsagent's rack – they know what makes the news: international crises, falls in interest rates, business scandals, gossip about the royals. Never, on the other hand, is there a headline about God. People crowd into the newsagent's shop every day, but not many of us will be praying while we wait. In buses and offices, in factories, in front rooms and kitchens, the daily round follows its course. Some face another day of struggling on. Some will be lonely, some sad, some happy. The computer, the workshop, the morning cuppa, the children, the bills, sitting with a meal on our lap watching the news: these are real situations. On the other hand, it takes a great effort to think that God is real. Why? Why does ordinary life feel worlds away from the Church and from God? One answer is: 'Say your prayers – then God will be real to you.' Now that is all very well, but a lot of people have problems with it. All the world over today there are people who say, 'I can't pray'; or they find it really hard going. Some Christians gave up saying their prayers a long time ago, and rely simply on going to church on Sundays. Many of us find praying very difficult. Jesus, on the other hand, told us to pray with confidence, and our prayer will be heard by the Father. Why is it then that we often find it so hard? Surely we must be making a mistake somewhere?

Here is some good news. We need to start with something surprisingly obvious. We must think of God as a person, and expect to be able to talk with him as one person to another. This is how Jesus describes God in the New Testament. For Jesus, God is our Father and we are God's sons and daughters. So, if God is like a person, then the way we get on with God will be like the way we get on with our friends and family. Speaking with our family and friends is a conversation. We can only talk to God in ways that we are used to. Yet we assume that talking with God in prayer is going to be so different, so unique, that we don't know how to begin. Just look at ourselves once we start praying. Someone at a meeting says 'Let us pray', and everyone automatically shuts their eyes tight and hunches up. Their attitude seems to say 'Concentrate hard,' Sometimes this may be right, but it can also be an unnatural thing to do. It might be more appropriate to stay upright and relaxed with our eyes open. Why do we think we have to put on this strange act every time? We don't do it with other people – why should we do it with God? It is a habit which we have been taught, perhaps since childhood, without ever stopping to question it.

What I have tried to do in this article is help all of us to communicate with God in natural, real and uncomplicated ways. During Lent let us endeavour to grow closer to him and develop a new and exciting relationship with him.

Every Blessing
Canon Dave



Telephone Numbers

<u>St. Anne's</u>	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner	01629 732794
		Fiona Swain	<i>ex directory</i>
<u>Both Churches</u>	Treasurer:-	Fiona Lichfield	01629 813382
	Safeguarding:-	Sarah Porter	01629 732365
<u>St. Peter's</u>	Wardens:-	Elizabeth Bradshaw	01246 582421
		David Jackson	01246 583452
	Treasurer:-	Mark Titterton	01246 582245
		e-mail: mtitterton@me.com	

A Message from Pilsley Post Office & Village Shop



In these difficult times, especially with our maturing local residents still being careful, I am very happy to deliver any emergency grocery items/essentials to you in Pilsley and Edensor. We can arrange payment over the phone by card.

Let's show that the Pilsley and Edensor community can support each other!

Best wishes
Sarah Titterton

Sarah is also able to collect prescriptions from Baslow surgery for residents of Pilsley and Edensor, just contact her to let her know.



'THE BRIDGE'

Your magazine subscription for 2021 is now due - £1 per copy - £12 per year.

Reminder

Please give the money to the person who delivers your magazine - this year a cheque might be easier than cash.

Cheques should be made payable to Edensor PCC.

If I post the magazine to you please enclose a book of stamps, or include payment for a book of stamps with your subscription (a book of second class stamps is £7.92 [from 1st January 2021] bringing the total to £19.92) and post the cheque to me, Liz Bradshaw.

Thank you for your continued support, especially during what has been, and will continue to be, very strange times.

Easy Fundraising

If you already SHOP ONLINE, or if you haven't yet done so, then why not use Easy Fundraising and help raise money for St. Peter's Church? There is no extra cost to you and a percentage from your purchase will come back to the church.



To Register

- Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- Click on **Register**
- Choose **Saint Peter's Church - Chatsworth Park** as your charity and fill in the rest of the form

To Shop

- Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- Search for your store in the alphabetical list
- Go ahead and shop

Choose from over 2000 of the UK's best-known retailers including names such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis and HMV and when you shop using the links on the easyfundraising site up to 15% from every purchase you make is donated to St. Peter's Church.

JUST GIVING AT ST. PETER'S

We now have a **JustGiving** page, where people can donate to St Peter's at any point, the link is <https://www.justgiving.com/edensor-stpeters>.



If you normally give to St. Peter's through an envelope in Church, you can still support our mission by giving online and following the link at Just Giving. <https://www.justgiving.com/edensor-stpeters>.

Mountains make you feel better

The natural environment can make a real impact on your mood. Mountains can leave you feeling more optimistic, while the ocean can help boost your inspiration.

A recent study at Goldsmiths University of London found that water is most effective at increasing positive emotions, such as happiness and inspiration. Woodlands can help you forget your worries, and fields and meadows can enhance your energy levels.

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

TheGivingMachine is a unique registered charity that enables you to generate sales commissions with every online purchase. They convert these commissions into free donations for the schools, charities and other community

organisations you choose. **St Anne's, Beeley** is one of the organisations you can support. The donation is calculated without going via another website so doesn't affect your shopping experience.

Please sign up at <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk>



St. Peter's Church 100 Club December Draw 2020

1st prize £30 no. 26 Christine Bemrose

2nd prize £20 no. 61 Alan Shimwell

Funds to church this month - £50

The 100 club raised £760 in 2020 for the Restoration Fund.

This year we received an additional £500 from the Business Banking Switch.

Therefore, the total raised in 2020 for the Restoration Fund is £1,260.

Thank you to everyone who supports the 100 club.

Ann Hall

After only three minutes of cuddling your pet, your levels of oxytocin, the 'love' hormone, increase, according to a recent study from Australia's Monash University. And just five minutes of cuddling will also raise your levels of the two wellbeing and happiness hormones, endorphin and dopamine. So says a recent report in the Journal of Psychosomatic Research.

In her recent book, *Your Pet, Your Pill*, vet Margit Gabriele Muller says that caressing a dog or other pet provides exactly the same health benefits as skin-on-skin contact with another human. The hormones that are released "are the same as when you're breastfeeding or cuddling a partner."

Want to feel better? Cuddle your pet

If you think you feel better after cuddling your dog or cat, there is a good reason: you really *do* feel better.

Furthermore, a study at Liverpool University last year found that dog owners are four times more likely to be fit than other people.



Praise for NHS commitment and dedication

Derbyshire Dales District Council have praised NHS Derby and Derbyshire's "commitment and dedication" in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

In a letter to Dr Chris Clayton, Accountable Officer & Chief Executive of NHS Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the District Council's Chief Executive Paul Wilson writes: "The last nine months have proved to be some of the most testing and challenging times that any of us have ever experienced in our lifetime as all public authorities have collectively battled to sustain the delivery of key services and facilities to those who rely upon us most.

"Despite the challenges that have been faced to date, and continue to

be faced on a daily basis, the commitment and dedication of every single person who works in the NHS across Derby and Derbyshire is to be applauded and they deserve our heartfelt thanks for the selfless way in which they go about their extraordinarily challenging work in order to care for us all."

Mr Wilson, who was writing on behalf of the political Group Leaders, all councillors and employees at the Derbyshire Dales council, adds: "I would like to place on record our gratitude, admiration and appreciation for the professional care and compassionate support that you and all of your colleagues across all NHS facilities and services, are delivering to our residents, friends, colleagues and family at this most difficult time.

"The work you are doing is incredible and you retain our full support."

Rising demand for leggings

The popularity of leggings soared last year. They became the must-have fashion garment to see out Covid-19.

John Lewis reported sales of leggings and loungewear had increased by 1,303 per cent. Sweaty Betty was selling a pair of Power Leggings (£75) every 90 seconds. Julia Straus, CEO

of the brand, explained: "Good quality leggings transform the way you feel."

Even Lucas Hugh, the retailer that made the £175 leggings Jennifer Lawrence wore in The Hunger Games, saw a 100 per cent increase in sales last year, despite shutting down its King's Road boutique. Leggings are "a nesting thing", according to Anjhe Mules, the co-founder of the brand.

The Padley Centre

We continue to collect food and clothing for the Padley Centre in Derby and with winter and much colder weather upon us we need to give even more thought for those less fortunate people who know what it is like to be hungry, homeless and cold. Canon Dave has been delivering these donations throughout the last few months - the Padley has a booking system for dropping goods off.

They need warm clothing for adults, including waterproofs, warm socks, gloves, hats and scarves etc. Sleeping bags are always very much appreciated, especially now, with the much colder nights during the winter months.

Food - tins of meat, fish, soup and tomatoes; dried pasta; rice; biscuits and chocolate and any other 'treats'; also toiletries including toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and feminine hygiene products.

Donations can be brought along to a Sunday service if you are able to attend, or you can phone Canon Dave to arrange to drop them off at the Vicarage. Alternatively, you can phone David Jackson if you are in Baslow or Liz Bradshaw if you are in Pilsley and arrange to drop them off with them.

Here is a message from Kerry Collyer, Marketing Manager at The Padley

Happy New Year

Help Padley provide support, advice, shelter, warmth, food, clothing, shower and toilet facilities and 12 individual bedrooms for people experiencing homelessness in Derby and surrounding areas.

Padley have and will remain open through lockdowns and tier restrictions and continue to provide services to the most vulnerable in Derby. Since March we have had 1,982 visits to our day centre for food, clothing, support and showers, we have served 14,302 hot meals to our hostel residents, rough sleepers and residents in other homeless hostels within the city as well as 584 emergency food parcels to those who are homeless or have no income.

We have had 53 residents stay with us in our hostel with 64% of them having a positive move on into own accommodation or facilities best suited to their individual needs.

Warmer Derby and Derbyshire

Warmer Derby and Derbyshire is a helpline with all sorts of advice and help if your home is cold. It can help people sort out bills, advise on insulation and effective heating, and suggest what to do if there's a crisis. It's run by Marches Energy Agency, a Midlands-based charity working together with Citizens Advice. The helpline is 0800 6771332 or email: wdd@mea.org.uk*

*This is a legitimate web address, alternatively use www.mea.org.uk

warmer
Derby & Derbyshire

Is your home cold?
Do you struggle with
your energy bills?

Stay warm
at home

Insulate
your home
& find other ways
to keep it warm

For impartial advice on
energy efficiency,
contact our FREE helpline
0800 677 1332
or email us
wdd@mea.org.uk

Afford your
energy bills

Upgrade your heating
system

Access grants and
financial
assistance

Derby City Council Derbyshire County Council

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Top tips to
**KEEP WARM,
STAY HEALTHY,
SAVE MONEY**

- Wear several thin layers rather than one thick layer.
- Close your curtains at dusk to keep the warmth in. Tuck them behind radiators and close doors.
- Check on your neighbours and friends. Are they warm enough? Ask them to call us if they are struggling.
- Stay active. Get up and move around regularly or move your mind: rethink sitting.
- Have hot drinks and hot meals throughout the day.
- Heat your home to between 18°C and 21°C when you're in during the day.
- Deal with draughts. There are cheap DIY draught proofing products available to keep you cosy.

from Derby Cathedral's 'Flag'

Bored? Stuck in the house? Ring someone up for a chat. It is almost guaranteed that they, too, are bored, stuck in the house, and in need of a chat.

Next level: ring someone you know doesn't have email or internet. See if they know about the Daily Hope line.

There's a pastoral@derbycathedral.org email address.

There's now also a pastoral phone number: 07388 867620.

Use either of those to leave a message, with your phone number if possible, and one of the Cathedral clergy will call you back. Note that the phone is set to voicemail, so be ready to leave a message. We will call you back but it may take up to 24 hours.

0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

2nd Feb: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians

National Nestbox Week – time to help your garden birds

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14th February each year, aims to encourage us to put up

developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes. Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>



Launch of Rural Teaching Partnership

The Church of England, the education charity Teach First, and the Chartered College of Teaching have recently launched the new Rural Teaching Partnership.

The partnership will run in ten pilot regions across England, and will see trainee teachers, trained by Teach First, start two-year placements with Church of England primary schools by September 2021.

By coming together, these three organisations hope to tackle teacher recruitment challenges currently faced by schools in poorer rural areas, with evidence showing that rural school leaders face greater

difficulties with staff recruitment and retention compared to urban schools.

With more than half of its 4,644 schools situated in rural areas, the Church of England is the majority provider of rural schools nationally. Within ten pilot regions, schools serving areas of rural deprivation will be selected for placements either in Church of England schools, or non-Church of England schools which are part of a Church of England federation or multi academy trust.

The ten pilot dioceses are Leeds, York, Truro, Salisbury, Chelmsford, Norwich, Oxford, Hereford, Derby, and Bath-and-Wells.

Schools and term time amid Covid-19 uncertainty

As we launch in to 2021, with rapidly rising numbers of infections, it is all too easy to lose our bearings. So says Nigel Genders, the Church of England's Chief Education Officer.

He urges that rather than argue along the “usual political fault lines”, or to follow newspaper articles putting the blame either on ‘incompetent politicians’ or ‘radical school staff’, according to their editorial bias, “there must be a better approach where we can take a step

back and consider what is really in the best interest of the children, staff, and communities we serve.

“The Church of England provides a quarter of England’s primary schools and more than 200 secondary schools, so I know first-hand, from school leaders the length and breadth of the country, how tirelessly schools work for the good of the nation’s children and how committed they are to continuing that work in 2021.”

Do your days rush by at a hectic pace?

By the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle.

Have you ever stopped to think that your mobile phone and emails have not given you more time? Just more things to do in the same amount of time.

We leave our messages in one place while we take our bodies elsewhere. Instead of doing one thing after another, we shoot out a variety of tasks, and then swoop down on them later, needing to deal with them all at once.

In a four-minute clip from a street scene from an old Orson Welles film and a similar clip from a more recent film, you will see an amazing difference. In the early film, the camera records 'real time' – people get out of their cars, walk across streets, wait for lights, speak to other people, enter a bank. In the more recent film, a similar sequence was reduced to a half a dozen quick cuts. Transition time was eliminated.

Modern life teaches us that 'down time' is wasted. Time is money. So mobile phones, emails, etc. enable us to 'waste' less time. The tempo of cultural life picks up, the heartbeat of daily life races, and our own body rhythms respond with adrenaline, cramped muscles and heart attacks.

To take time out for daily prayer, for a quiet walk that is not to the next meeting, for daydreaming or for Bible

study becomes a cross-cultural act. Following Christ, waiting on Him, is a countercultural act.

One lovely biblical phrase is 'in the fullness of time, it came to pass'. This suggests four things: that time crests like a wave; that there is a right moment for things to happen; that it's not ours to plan that moment, but to recognise it; and that we are not the primary agents of what happens in the world.

So, feel free to accept God's offer of rest when you are weary; receive each moment of your life as a gift from God's hand; pray to discern what each new encounter you make requires of you, and freely entrust everything else to God's care.

It's all in the spelling...



- God



- Ran



- Alongside



- Carrying



- Everything

Taking a mature look at Valentine's Day

The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers romantic love.

You do not see many Zimmer frames, wheelchairs or hearing aids on Valentine's Day cards. They mostly seem to be full of young love, hearts and roses.

Young love is wonderful and beautiful, full of optimism, and plans and hopes for the future.

But love in later life is precious too. It is a love that has been forged through years of shared experiences and joy, maybe raising children together, perhaps enjoying grandchildren.

It's a love that's stood the test of time, and deeper, much deeper, than any shop-bought Valentine's Day card can describe.

That long-term love can also be shown by the devoted wife or husband who visits their spouse in a care home each day, gently talking with them when they are, perhaps, deep into dementia. Or sitting for long hours by a hospital bed. Or dutifully caring for them at home.

Love is a marathon, not a sprint. It starts with white lace and promises and grows over the years.

Mature love is about the commitment that spans decades and is seldom shown on the cards on sale in the High Street this Valentine's Day.

As a priest, when I marry a couple and take them through their wedding vows, I hear them make their lifelong commitment "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part..."

It's so wonderful to see the bride and groom smiling, and enjoying this precious moment, making vows that will, hopefully, span the rest of their lives. I love taking weddings - it's an immense privilege to be part of a couple's special day.

And I find myself pondering what the future will hold for them. I wonder what shape that lifelong commitment will take, as I pray a blessing on their marriage.

How much wealth or poverty will come their way? Will it be sickness or health that will accompany them through the years? How will they support each other as the years go by?

'Love is patient. Love is kind.' These are familiar words from the popular wedding reading in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. That patience, that kindness are qualities that can

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develop over years of marriage.

Just how much patience will be needed in the years ahead cannot usually be known on the wedding day.

So, this year, as I look at the rows of red or pink Valentine's Day cards on sale in the shops, I shall look out for cards that have a deeper message.

I shall seek out cards that celebrate long-term love. Cards that say

Describe what love is

Here is a beautiful paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13 – the love chapter.

J R Miller (1840-1912) was considered by many to be the most gifted devotional writer of his generation. His book 'In Green Pastures' was much loved. Here is J R Miller's paraphrase of the famous 'love' passage in 1 Corinthians 13:

Love thinks no evil. It does not suspect unkindness in kindly deeds. It does not imagine an enemy in every friend. It does not fear insincerity in sincere professions of esteem. It does not impugn others' motives nor discount their acts.

On the other hand, it overlooks foibles and hides the multitude of faults that belong to every human being, even to those who are the holiest and the best. Love believes in

something about the joys and challenges of growing older together.

Cards that go beyond hearts and roses to the deeper love that transcends love's first blossoming. I just hope I can find some...



the good that is in people and tries to think of them always at their best, not at their worst.

It looks, too, at the possibilities that are in people, what they may become through divine love and grace, and not merely at what they now are. It is wonderful how seeing through love's eyes changes the whole face of earthly life, transfiguring it. If the heart be filled with suspicion, distrust, and doubt of people, the world grows very ugly. But love sees brightness, beauty and hope everywhere.



Follow a new pilgrim path

In the south of England, a new pilgrim path is emerging. Winding through downland, weald and shoreline for 250 miles, the Old Way, from Southampton to Canterbury, is derived from the oldest road map of Britain: the Gough Map, c.1360.

Like the Santiago de Compostela in Spain, this ancient route has lain dormant for years. But it has been recently rediscovered by the British Pilgrimage Trust, who have used the Gough Map's key anchor waypoints (corresponding to settlements like Southampton, Chichester, Arundel, Battle, Rye etc) to create a new pilgrimage route with ancient roots.

In unison with the Old Way's development, the British Pilgrimage Trust are also reintroducing another ancient – and similarly dormant – tradition. The offering of 'sanctuary' hospitality to pilgrims along a pilgrimage route was, up until the English Reformation of 1534, common practice. Monasteries throughout the country would have had a room or building reserved specifically for travellers, who would rely on these sanctuaries in order to make pilgrimage. When pilgrimage was banned in 1538, and monasteries demolished, these two practices – making pilgrimage, and providing

sanctuary – ceased, lying fallow for hundreds of years.

It is natural, then, that with the re-emergence of pilgrimage in the UK, the provision of sanctuary should likewise become common practice again. The BPT has worked with 13 churches along the Old Way, who will offer overnight sanctuary to BPT pilgrims walking the route, in exchange for a donation (between £5-£10 per pilgrim for one night) to their church. In Spring 2021, Covid-19 permitting, the Sanctuary Project will launch.

The BPT is looking for more churches, based along this route and in other locations across Britain, to take up this project. This is a fantastic opportunity: not only will the project enable pilgrims on lower incomes to make pilgrimage, but it will also bring a new type of visitor and donation to churches.

To find out more about the BPT's Sanctuary Project, visit:
britishpilgrimage.org/sanctuary



Leave them be

The National Trust has urged the public to stay away from certain areas during the breeding season this Spring. It hopes to mimic the effects of lockdown last year, which helped more vulnerable species.

The call follows the discovery last year that lockdown did our peregrine falcons, grey partridges and other species a real favour.

The tern colony at Blakeney Point in Norfolk had a bumper season, with

more than 200 little tern chicks fledged, the most in 25 years. The Peak District saw more curlews, and the Llyn Peninsula saw more stoats, weasels and rabbits emerging from the woodlands of Plas yn Rhiw. Meanwhile, the ruins of Corfe Castle in Dorset became home to peregrine falcons, and a cuckoo arrived in Osterley, west London. Even Dartford warblers were on the move, some to as far as Shropshire.

The birds and bees

Here is some good news: all new major roads will have wildflower-friendly verges that could boost our numbers of birds and bees.

Highway England has said that vibrant road verges will be created as standard on new roads over 300 miles in England, using low nutrient soils which will be seeded with wildflowers or left to grow naturally.

A staggering 97 per cent of our meadows have been destroyed since the Thirties, due to modern agriculture. This means that the 238,000 hectares of road verges across the UK could become a vital habitat for pollinators.

The Government has pledged to build 4,000 miles of new road by 2025.

Smart bird

Ravens have been found to be among the cleverest animals in the world. These largest members of the crow family can even score as high on intelligence tests as chimpanzees.

Ravens can remember where food is

hidden, can use tools to get at it, follow human faces with their eyes, and understand what people mean when they point. All in all, researchers praise their “general, sophisticated cognitive skills.”

The study was carried out at Osnabruck University in Germany.

16th February: Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she

ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs:

"And every man and maide doe take their turne,
And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.



These look as though they're served with lemon, how do you like yours?

17th Feb: Ash Wednesday; mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites,

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putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

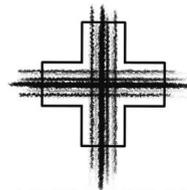
The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Remembering John Keats

Tim Lenton looks back on a well-loved poet.

It was 200 years ago, on 23rd February 1821, that John Keats, the Romantic poet, died in Rome of tuberculosis, aged 25.

Keats was a generous, likeable and hard-working man who had much experience of suffering in his short life. He also had a love of civil and religious liberty. Most of his best work was done during the year 1819, when he was already sickening after an exhausting walking tour of the Lakes and Scotland the previous summer.

In that same year he had also been nursing his brother Tom through

tuberculosis – the disease that killed their mother. But in 1819, after Tom's death, he moved to Hampstead and fell in love with a neighbour, Fanny Brawne, who was 18.

By this time Keats was devoting himself to poetry, having originally trained as a surgeon following his mother's early death. He is most famous for his Odes, all of which (except the one to Autumn) were composed between March and June 1819. All of them ponder the clash between eternal ideals and the transience of the physical world.

His most famous lines: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."

It is not enough to love – you need to be loved

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others - without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity - of great strength. But it can also be one of pride - we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem - we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put

ourselves in danger - we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs - whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual - you will not last the distance.

If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker and accept God's love, given to you through other people.

Celebrating 75 years of the RSV Version

The RSV has been around for longer than most of us have... by Tim Lenton

The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published 75 years ago, on 11th February 1946. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

The RSV Old Testament followed in 1952 and the Apocrypha in 1957. The translation was a revision of the American Standard Version of 1901 and was intended to be a readable and accurate modern English translation. A ceremony to commemorate the publication of the New Testament was held in Columbus, Ohio, with the translation team saying they wanted it to supplement the ASV and not supplant it.

The RSV New Testament was mostly well received, but the Old Testament, which made use of Dead Sea Scrolls material, less so. One objection centred on the translation of a Hebrew word in Isaiah as ‘young woman’ instead of ‘virgin’, which was said to distort a basic Christian truth and encouraged many to go back to the King James Bible.

Some opponents went further, calling it a “master stroke of Satan”. One Southern pastor burned a copy with a blowtorch in his pulpit. The controversy may have paved the way for the now widely used and virginal New International Version, introduced in 1978.

National survey finds our favourite walks

Where do we most like to walk? A recent survey has found that two places in the Lake District are clear winners.

Top comes the gently accessible Buttermere Circuit, with its rippling silver water, mountain views, peace and quiet. Second is the demanding eight-hour climb up Helvellyn, which is not for the faint-hearted.

Then comes the Rhossili Headland walk in Gower, and the Solva to St David’s route in Pembrokeshire, both in Wales.

The survey was done by the consumer champion group Which?



Truth at risk of being auctioned to the highest bidder – Archbishop

The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the growing problem of fake news.

Truth is becoming a commodity, up for auction to the highest bidder, says Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell in a recent article published in Radio Times.

Lamenting the decline of truth in public life, the Archbishop explains “The echo chambers of social media and the fake news that often goes with it have led us to mistrust and cynicism.

“In other parts of the world, even news channels seem to be mouthpieces of certain political parties or vested interests.”

Commenting on the US Presidential election, Archbishop Cottrell says “Look at how divided and mistrustful of each other the people of that nation have become. Most alarming of all, there seems to be no common understanding of what is true or who can be trusted. Truth itself seems to have become a commodity, bought by the highest bidder.”

The Archbishop’s words echo those of former President Barack Obama,

who told the BBC that the US was more sharply divided now than when Donald Trump won election four years ago.

Using the term ‘truth decay’ to describe a rise in conspiracy theories and disinformation in the US, Barack Obama said, “I think at some point it's going to require a combination of regulation and standards within industries to get us back to the point where we at least recognise a common set of facts before we start arguing about what we should do about those facts.”

The Archbishop of York, who took up the post last July, is warning that the divisions in the US could come to the UK. He believes that the BBC and other UK ‘public service broadcasting’ channels like Channel 4 have a vital role in holding the country together.

He says “I know that there are many across the country who feel that during this terrible pandemic year, others have been favoured at their expense. The vision of the united but diverse nation that we see on TV programmes such as ‘Gogglebox’ is not always what we see around us.”

The Archbishop is worried that the rise and spending power of US broadcasting giants Netflix and Amazon places “our British way of

Continues over page....

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doing broadcasting under threat. A voracious, unchecked market may just sweep it away. Even some of our own politicians don't always see this."

He adds: "Along with the NHS, and even the Church of England, the BBC and other public service broadcasters are a precious part of our cultural ecology. They help us to see ourselves clearly. They can be trusted."

Meanwhile, a project running in the CofE's St Albans diocese has brought

together journalists, scientists, representatives of Big Tech and authors, with people from a range of faiths to consider how the rising tide of disinformation and fake news can be stemmed.

Grove Books has published 'Responding to Post Truth', showing how churches and Christians could fight back against fake news and disinformation. You can order a copy at: <https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/e-197-responding-to-post-truth>

The challenge to some over-60s

Last year saw a steep rise in redundancies among the over-60s, and a lack of proficiency with digital work tools such as Zoom helped contribute to the problem.

The number of workers over 60 who were made redundant increased from 8,000 between April and June to 31,000 between July and September – twice the percentage increase of any other groups.

According to research by Rest Less, a jobs site for older people, older workers are less likely to receive workplace training than their younger counterparts, and once made redundant are significantly more likely to find themselves in long-term unemployment. "Contrary to popular belief, most 60-somethings are not revelling in their gold-plated final salary pensions – a long lost preserve of their parents' generation."

A February Rose

My love, she likes a red, red rose
Of deep magenta hue,
A gift for Valentine that shows
That someone's love is true.



But think on this, my bonnie lass,
As you admire the bloom –
That flower's been forced on under
glass
You ought to wait till June!
By Nigel Beeton

A London Sparrow – the inspiring and true story of Gladys Aylward

By Phyllis Thompson, IOPublishing, £9.99

A down-to-earth London girl, without many prospects, Gladys Aylward became a Christian when she was just 18. When she felt God's call on her to go to China as a missionary, she overcame great obstacles in order to obey, and made the perilous solitary journey from London to China to join other missionaries out there.

Gladys may have been little and ill-educated, but she was determined and committed, and in time became a formidable force for the gospel amongst her beloved Chinese

people. Her courage was extraordinary, leading her to even go into a Chinese prison in order to stop a riot.

But she will be forever remembered for her 'incredible journey' during the Second World War, when the Japanese had invaded China. She led hundreds of Chinese children to safety on foot through the war zone, risking her life in order to save theirs.

Throughout it all, Gladys had a simple, transparent faith in God and knew she'd rather die with 'her people' than desert them.



With Lent beginning on 17th February, this may be of interest to people.

Rooted in Love – Lent Reflections on Life in Christ

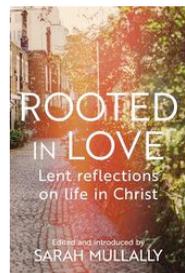
By Sarah Mullally, SPCK, £7.99 (Review)

This is the first Lent book from the Bishop of London, and it explores the ways in which we can live the Christian life to the full today.

The forty reflections will help you to go deeper into the meaning and practice of what it is to have your life in Christ today. Each reflection includes a Bible reading, a prayer and a suggestion for action.

The result is an exceptionally helpful Lent book, offering a rich array of biblical insight and spiritual guidance that Christians of all traditions will warmly welcome and appreciate.

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is the Bishop of London. Before her ordination she was Chief Nursing Officer in the Department of Health.



God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith. www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches and <http://www.cis.org.uk>

Hope for 2021: Celebrating the now and future creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. We may all need some extra hope for 2021, after the events of 2020. By the time you read this a number of us may have been fortunate enough to receive a COVID vaccine, but all of us will probably still be under various kinds of restrictions. After creation's winter shut-down, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2021, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by an animal virus jumping into the human population. Diseases like this are not 'natural disasters', but are almost certainly caused by environmental destruction and poor farming practices - either from greed or the desperation born of poverty. Part of the answer to the current crisis is for us to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heavens and new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2021 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

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January solution



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February Sudoku



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Pilsley C of E Primary School

3 - 11 years

Our new and exciting Foundation Stage unit is now running all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday plus two afternoons (Monday and Friday).

The unit is led by a fully qualified Early Years teacher with two highly experienced teaching assistants.

Visits to our lovely school are warmly welcomed.

Please contact Emma Bond, Headteacher on 01246 583203.



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AND CARING**

Baslow Health Centre – Church Lane, Baslow

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

Appointment Times: Clinicians are still available for consultations and medical advice. Please contact the surgery and a GP or Nurse will call you back to discuss your concerns and if necessary arrange to see you in person. Many problems can be dealt with over the telephone.

Patient Online: Have you registered to use the online service? This allows you to book or cancel appointments on line (during normal service) and order your repeat medications. You can also request access to your Summary Care Record, and Detailed Coded Data contained within your medical records. You can also look at your test results.

Telephone Numbers:

Reception: 01246 582216

Surgery Fax: 01246 583867

District Nursing Team 01332 564 900

Health Visitor: 01629 816633

Normal Surgery Opening Times

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri

8am-6.30pm;

(closed Bank Holidays)

(Phones 8am – 6.30pm Mon - Fri).

Surgery Closure for training -

Wednesdays from 1pm:

10th February & 10th March

Ordering Repeat Medication

You can order repeat medications in the following ways:

- In writing or with our on-line access service
- Return your repeat request form to surgery by Post or Fax

Please allow **three** working days before collection and **collect between 8am and 5pm**

Prescriptions can be collected via the side window near the back door.

Samples – if you need to leave a sample with us please ensure it is labelled with your name and date of birth and returned in a bag, if provided, either through the letterbox or at the side window.

Test Results – Please ring for test results after 2.30pm as we do not receive test results back from the hospital until lunchtime.

Christmas & New Year – The surgery will close at 4.00pm on New Year's Eve.

For Urgent Calls when we are closed call 111

St. Anne's, Beeley (pre-booked places only)

please phone Canon Dave Perkins 01246 386385 to reserve a place

Sunday 14th February: Sunday Before Lent (Holy Communion)

2 Kings 2: 1-12 Reader: Rupert Turner Brasses: Barbara Hawksworth

Mark 9: 2-9

Sunday 28th February: Lent Two (Holy Communion)

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Reader: Fiona Lichfield Brasses: Fiona Swain

Mark 8: 31-38

February cleaning: Fiona Swain

St. Peter's, Edensor (pre-booked places only) 10.45am

Sunday 7th February: Second Sunday Before Lent (Holy Communion)

Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31 Reader: Roger Wardle

John 1: 1-14 Stewards: Mr & Mrs Gordon

Sunday 14th February: Sunday Before Lent (Holy Communion)

2 Kings 2: 1-12 Reader: Trevor Grimshaw

Mark 9: 2-9 Stewards: Roger Sherwood & Diana Walters

Sunday 21st February: Lent One (Matins)

Genesis 9: 8-17 Reader: Gloria Sherwood

Mark 1: 9-15 Stewards: Liz Bradshaw & Margaret Perkins

Sunday 28th February: Lent Two (Holy Communion)

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Reader: John Caws

Mark 8: 31-38 Stewards: Sue & Roger Wardle

Cleaning Rota for February

We are very grateful to those who are still able to clean the church. Please phone the Vicar to arrange your cleaning day and time and to collect the key.

7	Trevor & Jackie Grimshaw	21	Mike Pindar & Jennie Ball
14	Mr & Mrs Wardle	28	Mrs Day & Mrs Walters

Items for the **MARCH** magazine should reach me **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY** - email to: liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk

The Bridge Parish Magazine £1 per copy (£12 per year).