



The Church Magazine for Markfield, Thornton,
Bagworth, Stanton under Bardon and Copt Oak



Junction 22 Village Link

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This month's letter is from Linda Kelly

Dear Friends,

August 16th, 2020 is circled on my calendar for 2 different reasons, its the deadline for this letter and also the day when our new Granddaughter is expected to arrive, how exciting.

How have we made it through these past few months of lockdown? We at Cross Hills have grown closer to God and each other through our services on zoom shared alongside Christian friends and family from Lincolnshire, Bristol and Norfolk, where different worshippers have shared Prayers, Testimonies and Bible readings.

Our weekly prayer meetings have expanded in numbers and somehow the prayers have become more powerful and compassionate and we value each other more than ever before.

The Awesome holiday club leaders were not defeated by the pandemic and put on a fantastic programme of Christian activities for children on Facebook; including Crafts, Memory Verse, Leaders Challenge (a great favourite). With a lot of planning, thought and prayer Awesome 2020 has reached more children than we could ever have catered for in Church.

Garry has composed a weekly letter of encouragement which has been widely read and appreciated.

Sadly though, for many affected families it has been a totally traumatic time. Our neighbour’s wife caught the virus in a residential home and we found ourselves trying to comfort the family in their time of grief and, although if we open God’s word there are words of comfort for every situation, it is not easy to convey the word and convince non-believers that there is a God who cares and Gods promises today are still as relevant as they were when He first made them.

My prayer for us all is that no matter what changing scenes and challenging times we face, that we will all know Gods amazing love, the power of His promises and His blessings which are new every morning.

In closing, my thoughts turns towards the blessing of Aaron in Numbers 6 :v24 - 26 which communicates the heart of God to His people in uncertain times:

“ The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you, the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”

So I can now cross the link letter off my list and just await the patter of tiny feet.

**Lynda Kelly
Cross Hills Baptist Church**



Cross Hills Baptist Church Contacts

Pastor:	Garry Kelly	29 The Drive, Barwell, Leics. 07816 616189
Secretary:	Mrs Lynda Kelly	29 The Drive, Barwell, Leics. 07903 774491
Treasurer:	Mrs Glynis Straw	110 Main St, Thornton. 01530 230272
Burials:	Mr Robert Holmes,	15 Jackson Road, Bagworth. 01530 231901

Please Note:

Obviously our services at Cross Hills are suspended for the foreseeable future and so we are holding virtual services through the Zoom conferencing platform.

This is working well for us and our services are held at 11am every Sunday and prayer meetings every Tuesday at 7.15pm.

Anyone wishing to join our services can they speak to Garry our Minister (contact number above) so that he can arrange for you to join our virtual services. You will need either a computer, iPad (or other tablet), or it will work to some extent on a mobile phone.

We wish you all well through these trying times.

God Bless.

Mary Holmes , Cross Hills Baptist Church



Your Benefice Safeguarding Team

Pat Barnes

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01455 821154

Mary Gibson

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01530 231993

If you have ANY concerns about a child, the conduct of an adult towards a child or vulnerable adult (however insignificant you feel it may be), please refer to one of the Benefice safeguarding team, who will then consult with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.



Beta Bible Basics



Using technology the BETA Bible study group is continuing to meet virtually.

The meetings are as follows:

Alternate Tuesdays, 1st, 15th & 29th September at 2 pm

looking at

"Justice and the Heart of God", a study with links to Christian Aid.

All you need is a phone, tablet or laptop. And to download a Zoom application.

For further details please contact Helen 230532

Benefice Registers July & August 2020



Baptism:

26th July: Olivia Mae Hill, St Peter's Copt Oak

Funerals:

6th July: (Albert) Jeffrey Chantrell (Thornton), Loughborough Crematorium

30th July: Ryan Onions, St Peter's, Thornton

21st August: Cyril Watterson (Markfield) Loughborough Crematorium

Please remember the families and friends in your prayers



The Benefice of Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth & Stanton under Bardon and Copt Oak Prayer Diary

Week	Church Local	Church Local & National	Nation & World	Benefice Street by Street
7th Sept	Organist and bellringers	Those persecuted for their Christian faith	Family life and marriages	Main Street, Bagworth, Main Road, Heath Road
13th Sept	Our Benefice, Worship Together	ThirtyoneEight (formerly known as CPAS)	Addicts and those who work with them	Old School Lane, Church Hill, The Square
20th Sept	Open The Book in local schools	Crosslinks	Office workers	Barlestone Road, Lime Grove
27th Sept	Messy Church and its leaders	Bible Society	Farmers, food producers and processors	Whitehouse Close. Chantrell Close

Welcome to the Reverend Andrew Smith

The Induction (Licensing) Service for Reverend Andrew Smith, our new rector, will take place at St Peter's Church, Thornton on 21st September at 7.30 pm.

Bishop Martyn, Archdeacon Claire Wood and our Area Dean Richard Trethewey will be among those present to induct Andrew into the benefice.



Very sadly, because of limited capacity owing to the coronavirus, attendance is by invitation only and so has been limited to mainly PCC members from all three parishes. We very much regret that the service will not be open to all members of the churches and villages.

We hope to record the service and give opportunity for people to watch it on the Benefice website j22churches.org.uk.

It is disappointing that we will not be able to welcome Andrew and his family in our normal celebratory manner; hopefully in the months ahead this will be rectified. We are all really looking forward to working alongside him in the months ahead.

**Maureen, Les, Gill and Shirley
Churchwardens**



Ditch the Commute?

We may prefer to continue working at home, rather than spend hours commuting each day.

A recent poll has found that a high proportion of workers, who are new to working at home, now want to carry on post-Covid, either entirely at home, or at least with fewer than five days in the office each week.

It might mean that commuting to work could fall by as much as a fifth, even after the virus is over, according to the poll by Toluna for KEK Consulting.

Parish Pump

Church Services across the Benefice

St Michael and All Angels' Church, Markfield

6 th September	10.30 am	Holy Communion
13 th September	6 pm	Holy Communion
20 th September	6 pm	Evening Prayer
27 th September	6 pm	Holy Communion



St Mary and All Saints' Church, Stanton under Bardon

6 th September	10.30 am	Morning Prayer
13 th September	10.30 am	Holy Communion
20 th September	10.30 am	Morning Prayer (Parish Service)
27 th September	10.30 am	Morning Service and Harvest



St Peter's Church, Thornton

6 th September	10.30 am	All Age Service
13 th September	10.30 am	Morning Service
20 th September	10.30	Parish Morning Prayer at Stanton
27 th September	10.30 am	Morning Prayer



Holy Rood Church, Bagworth

No services at Bagworth yet.



St Peter's Church, Copt Oak

6 th September	6.00 pm	Holy Communion
13 th September	3.00 pm	Praise service
20 th September	9.15 am	Holy Communion
27 th September	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer and Harvest

A Simple Order for Morning Prayer

May Christ, the true, the only light, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Blessed are you, creator of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your dawn renews the face of the earth,
bringing light and life to all creation,
may we rejoice in this day you have made;
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

Early in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Lord, have mercy.

You speak in my heart and say 'Seek my face';
your face, Lord, will I seek.

Christ, have mercy.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.
Lord, have mercy.

Psalm for the day. (see list)

An affirmation of faith.

I believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist.

I believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again.

I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world.

This is the faith of the Church. This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bible reading (see list)

Prayer may be offered for the day and its tasks, for the world and its needs and for the Church and its life, or this short litany may be used:

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens:
may your glory cover the earth.
Renew your Church in holiness:
and give your people the blessing of peace.
Keep our nation under your care:
and guide us in justice and truth.
Let your way be known on earth:
your saving power among all nations.
Do not let the needy, O God, be forgotten:
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Lord, hear our prayer:
for we put our trust in you.

The Lord's Prayer

Collect:

O Lord and heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you for bringing us safely to the beginning of this new day:
defend us by your mighty power that we may be kept free from all sin and safe
from every danger; and enable us in everything to do only what is right in your
eyes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The conclusion

To the holy and glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be blessing and honour, thanksgiving and praise,
now and for ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A Simple Order for Evening Prayer

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray to the Lord.
As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise now and for ever. Amen.

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be glory and praise for ever.
As darkness falls you renew your promise

to reveal among us the light of your presence.
By the light of Christ, your living Word,
drive out all darkness from our hearts
that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.
Blessed be God for ever.

Psalm for the day. (see list)

Magnificat

MY soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Bible reading (see list)

The prayers

Let us pray to God the Father:
For peace among the nations, that God may rid the world
of violence and let peoples grow in justice and harmony;
For those who serve in public office, that they may work for the common good;
For Christian people everywhere, that we may joyfully proclaim and live our
faith in Jesus Christ;

For those who suffer from hunger, sickness or loneliness,
that the presence of Christ may bring them health and wholeness;
Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and
protection of God.

The Lord's Prayer

Collects:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do
proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that
both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and
quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and by your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The conclusion

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Readings for September

Morning

Evening

1st

Ps145:10-17 Luke 4:31-37

Ps107 Mark 7:1-13

2nd

Ps62 Luke 4:38→[†]

Ps119:129-152 Mark 7:14-23

3rd

Ps24:1-6 Luke 5:1-

Ps116 Mark 7:24-30

4th

Ps37:3-8 Luke 5:33→[†]

Ps130 Mark 7:31→[†]

5th

Ps145:18→[†] Luke 6:1-5

Ps118 Mark 8:1-10

6th

Ps149 Matt 18:15-20

Ps108 Acts 19:1-20

Morning**Evening****7th**

Ps5:5-9 Luke 6:6-11

Ps127 Mark 8:11-21

8th

Ps149:1-5 Luke 6:12-19

Ps135 Mark 8:22-26

9thPs45:11→¹ Luke 6 20-26

Ps136 Mark 8:27-9:1

10th

Ps139:1-9 Luke 6:27-38

Ps138 Mark 9:2-13

11th

Ps84:1-6 Luke 6:39-42

Ps145 Mark 9:14-29

12thPs116:10→¹ Luke 6:43→¹

Ps148 Mark 9:30-37

13th

Ps114 Matt 18:21-35

Ps119:41-48 Acts:20:17→¹**14th**

Ps22:23-28 John 3:13-17

Ps110 1Cor 1:18-25

15th

Ps100 Luke 7:11-17

Ps9 Mark 10:1-16

16th

Ps33:1-12 Luke 7:31-35

Ps11 Mark 10:17-31

17th

Ps118:1-2,17-20 Luke7:36

Ps18 Mark 10:35-45

18th

Ps17:1-8 Luke 8:1-3

Ps22 Mark 10:35-45

19th

Ps30:1-5 Luke 8:4-15

Ps24 Mark 10:46→¹**20th**Ps105:1-6,37→¹ Matt20:1-16

Ps119:121-128 Acts26:9-2

21st

Ps119:65-72 Matt 9:9-13

Ps119:33-40 Matt19:16→¹

Morning

Evening

22nd

Ps 119:1-8 Luke 8:19-21

Ps 33 Mark 11:12-26

23rd

Ps119:105-112 Luke 9:1-6

Ps119:33-56 Mark 11:27→

24th

Ps90:1-6 Luke 9:7-9

Ps40 Mark 12:1-12

25th

Ps144:1-4 Luke 9:18-22

Ps35 Mark 12:13-17

26th

Ps90:1-2,12→ Luke9:43-45

Ps46 Mark 12:18-27

27th

Ps78:1-7 Matt 21:23-32

Ps124 1John 2: 22→

28th

Ps17:1-11 Luke 9:46-50

Ps47 Mark 12:28-34

29th

Ps103:19→ John 1:47→

Ps138 Revelation 5

30th

Ps59 Mark 13:1-13

Ps88:1-6,11 Luke 9:57→



Prayers during the Covid 19 crisis

Intercessions

We pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:
For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Prayers with children

A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, (name of friend) is ill. I'm sad because I miss them.

They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.

Please be close to them and the people who are looking after them. Please help them to get better and to know that you love them.

Amen.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you.

Amen.

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day, creator of the world, we pray that you, with steadfast love, would keep your watch around us while we sleep. Tonight we pray especially for (names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus). Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them. Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us
 Lord God, you are always with me.
 You are with me in the day and in the night.
 You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
 You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
 You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.
 Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because

Help me to remember that you love me and are with me always.
 Amen.



Harvest Festivals

Please come along to one of the Harvest Festival services in
 the Benefice.



You will be very welcome

25th September:

Cross Hills Baptist Church Harvest Festival

10.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Led by Pastor Garry Kelly.

Come and join with us in thanking God for all His blessings.

All the gifts of food will be donated to

Lawrence House, Hinckley Homeless Project

27th September:

St Mary's, Stanton under Bardon 10.30 am

St Peter's, Copt Oak 6.00 pm

4th October:

St Michael's, Markfield 10.30 am

St Peter's, Thornton 10.30 am



Store cupboard items would be welcome for the
Trussell Trust Food Bank

Benefice Walk, Saturday, 12th September

We are hopeful that we will be able to hold our annual benefice walk on Saturday 12th September.

This enjoyable walk of about 8 miles (and less styles!) is through beautiful countryside visiting 4 of our local churches: St Michaels in Markfield, St Marys' in Stanton, the Quiet Garden at the site of Holy Rood, Bagworth, Cross Hills Baptist Church and St Peter's in Thornton.



The walk starts at the Lych-gate in Thornton Church and heads to Markfield following the Leicestershire Round through Brown's Wood. From here our path takes us to Stanton, and then onto Bagworth, and finally back to Thornton through the new woodlands.

We will leave Thornton at 11 am. You will need to bring a drink and a packed lunch and to wear suitable footwear.

We are really sorry that we can't include Copt Oak - it would add another 4 miles at least to the walk. One day perhaps!

If you would like more information or you would like to join us please let us know by contacting William & Shirley on 01530 230422 or email to shirley.garlick19@btinternet.com

Or just turn up on the day. We once had a couple drive up from the South coast to join us!

Shirley Garlick



Better a little which is well done, than a great deal imperfectly.

**Plato
(429? - 347)**

The Church gives thanks for angels in September: the 29th is the feast day of Michael and All Angels. Since the days of Genesis, these messengers of God have been sent many times to intervene for the good in human affairs. Angels guarded the Garden of Eden, they led Lot away from Gomorrah, they helped Gideon, they stopped Balaam, they closed the mouths of lions for Daniel, and, most important, the archangel Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she would mother the Messiah. Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus, and told of His Resurrection. Revelation is teaming with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times. Today, many Christians in the world's hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal danger.

- THANKS
- ANGELS
- CHURCH
- FEAST
- MICHAEL
- ALL
- GENESIS
- MESSENGERS
- GOD
- SENT
- INTERVENE
- GARDEN
- EDEN
- LOT
- GIDEON
- BALAAM
- MOUTHS
- LIONS
- DANIEL
- ARCHANGEL
- GABRIEL
- MARY
- MOTHER
- TEAMING
- REVELATION
- DANGER

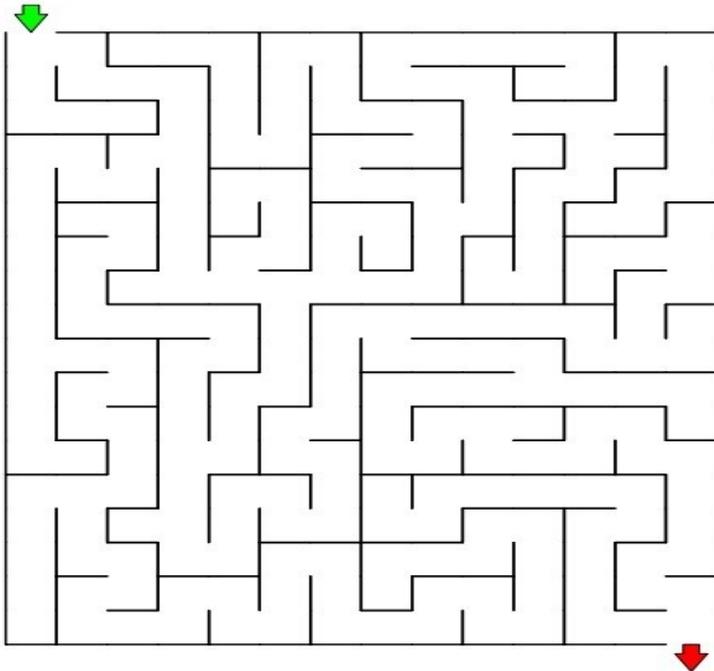
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M	I	I	N	A	E	L	T	H	A	N	K	S
O	E	O	I	H	A	G	N	I	M	A	E	T
L	L	N	V	C	G	I	D	E	O	N	T	K
I	O	S	G	R	M	I	C	N	D	N	E	R
S	H	T	N	A	R	O	G	H	N	E	I	T

Sudoku

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

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It's A-mazing!



Copt Oak News

Hello everyone,

During lockdown, apart from a few Zoom meetings, social distancing etc. nothing much has been happening, although I managed to go to the hairdresser's last week, which was much needed and afterwards I was taken out for lunch at a very nice restaurant. It felt like the great escape to be able to do something different from the isolation which has become the norm. When it became time to think about my contribution to the magazine, I began thinking about the month of September.

There seems to be a universal curiosity to find out about events that have happened on significant days in our lives, e.g. birthdays, anniversaries etc., and in newspapers, magazines and even on TV, there are often reminders of 'On this Day', so I thought I would take this as a theme and remember some such events that have occurred in September, over the years. If we search for them, we will find many, far too many to mention here, so I will mention just a few which have some national significance and some that are part of my memory.

I remember quite a few September events in my life, mainly because, in some cases they coincide with the start of the educational year, which was at that time September, or they made an impact on everyone.

In September 1939 World War 2 began; recently, we celebrated VE Day to mark the end of the war in Europe, but some see the true end of the war as VJ Day, when Japan surrendered to the Allies. However, the formal surrender didn't happen until the 2nd September, aboard the Aircraft Carrier, Missouri, in Tokyo Bay; in September 1940, the German Blitz on London began which I remember well, because, my father a Group air raid warden, led a contingent of Leicester wardens to London to help their colleagues in search and rescue in Woolwich, and then, in November of that year, the Leicester Blitz happened, after which I was sent to live with my grandmother at Greenhill, now Abbots Oak.

In 1944, the German V2 rocket landed in Chiswick, killing several people; I did not move back to live with my parents until the summer of 1946, moving to continue my education at the Wyggeston Girls Grammar School in September of that year. Until then, I had not been a rebellious child, but following 5 happy years at Copt Oak school and a further year at the Co-educational King Edward

VII Grammar School in Coalville, I did not take kindly to being sent to an all girls school and consequently made up my mind to get myself expelled from such an establishment. Beginning that September, I tried all sorts of ways to achieve my goal, some of which I still feel some shame about, but none of them worked (mostly due to my mother, who knew exactly what I was up to and a Headmistress, who guessed my intentions). Thus it was that my St. Trinian's days came to an abrupt end eventually, when I realised that whatever I did, I would not fulfil my intentions.

Fortunately my schooldays there ended happily and in September 1951 I entered a Teacher Training College to begin my teaching career; September 1961, is particularly etched in my memory, because, as a primary teacher at Alderman Richard Hallam Infant School, we were asked to take part in the piloting of a new alphabet, invented by James Pitman of shorthand and typing fame. It was claimed that this Initial Teaching Alphabet (ITA) would help children to become proficient readers from an early age. The alphabet was composed of a separate symbol for every sound and at first it seemed very successful as the children did indeed, learn to read very quickly. However, it soon became clear that there was a big problem, i.e. that though they could recognise the symbols and correctly sound them, they could not understand what they were reading, so the scheme was short lived and was dropped.

Many years later, working in Romania, I was reminded of this scheme when I was learning the Romanian language, which is also a symbol for sound system. Having learned the symbols, I could successfully read any passage I was given, but there was no expression because I didn't understand what I was reading. That was when I fully realised why the ITA had not worked;

Mother Teresa and Diana, Princess of Wales both died in September (different years); Frank Sinatra began his solo singing career in 1942; in 1972, US swimmer, Mark Spitz at the Munich Olympics became the first person to win 7 Gold medals in a single Olympiad and all seven wins set world records; perhaps the most important September of all was 1984 when Professor Alec Jeffreys discovered DNA fingerprinting at Leicester University; Finally, did you know that 1955 saw the first sales of Fish Fingers in the UK and that in the first year, 600 tons of them were eaten!

So, enough of all that, this September, we are all looking forward to meeting the new Rector, the Reverend Martin Smith, his wife Louisa and children, Reuben and Amelie plus their pet pooch, after Martin's Licensing at the end of

the month. I understand that they have already moved into the Rectory and we all hope that they are settling into their new home without too many problems and we wish them well in this next chapter of their lives.

Mary Pepper



Update on activities at St Peters, Copt Oak

St Peters, Copt Oak opened for private prayer on July 5th. Prior to this a thorough Risk Assessment had to be completed and approved by the Area Dean. Guidelines produced by the Government and pages of the Church of England’s interpretation were poured over and an acceptable document was produced. To ensure social distancing pews were roped off alternately and markers placed along the floor. Notices, hand sanitisers and signing in sheets were placed appropriately.

With all precautions in place it was good to open the church building once again. Members of the church family were able to spend a quiet time and welcomed the opportunity to meet albeit briefly and in somewhat strange conditions. It was good to see one or two visitors in addition to our regular number. Afterwards we gathered outside - socially distanced - with our own flasks of coffee and enjoyed catching up on each others news.

Following the 26th July Prayer Time, at 12 noon we welcomed baby Olivia - and her family for her Baptism service, led by Revd Pauline. This was our first ‘service’ since March and the family were very pleased to be able to go ahead with this in church. Meticulous planning by Pauline meant that the service complied with all regulations but was still very moving and meaningful. The children present were all involved in helping to explain the symbolism and meaning of Baptism and especially enjoyed finding things hidden under their seats and blowing ‘bubbles of joy’ over everyone.

After Government restrictions on public worship were eased we were pleased to begin holding services again. Sunday 9th Aug marked our first ‘proper’ service since March. Again a Risk Assessment had to be undertaken listing the procedures we have to follow to meet Government and Church of England criteria. The service was a 3pm Praise and was ably led by Peter Maynard and obviously we were all required to wear a mask and no singing! We did however listen to hymns on a CD - and faint humming could be heard - how hard it is not

to join in! Again we gathered in the sunshine afterwards to enjoy our own refreshments. Although this, for now, is now our 'new normal' we look forward optimistically to a time when we can worship again without restrictions - and to sing mask free!

Although the church building has been officially closed during most of the lockdown work outside has continued. Ray and Pat Barnes, Les Gammon and Peter Barnes have been busy tidying the churchyard, cutting back and removing saplings that have grown in untended graves. The Garden of Remembrance has been tidied, memorial stones cleaned and low hanging branches removed. Mr Barnes has also repaired, renovated and rehung the entrance gate - a very professional job. Trees along the drive have had their lower branches trimmed off. Also the flagpole has been taken down ready for re-siting.

Purchase of a replacement shed has been discussed and in Sept we plan to sort and cull the contents of the old shed.

There is always a job of maintenance to be done - we are fortunate to have people in our church family willing to undertake such tasks - thank-you

Les and Sue Gammon



I was glad

'I was glad when they said unto me we will go into the house of the Lord'. So says Psalm 122 and how appropriate as we return to our churches after this period of lockdown from the 22nd March. We were not just glad, we were ecstatic!

It proves if proof was ever needed, that you really don't fully appreciate what you have got, until you have lost it. This is assuredly the case for many of the relatives and friends of those 46,000 plus who have died as a result of this pandemic. To a much lesser extent it is also true for those of us who have been prevented from meeting and greeting our friends and families in person on a regular basis. It has been hard.

Similarly, being made redundant, or to use the new, yet old, terminology of being 'furloughed' has proved really traumatising to many, as has the enforced break in education for our young people and teachers. Much lower down the

scale, yet none the less calamitous to those whose livings are dependent on them, is the closure of hairdressers, pubs, clubs, theatres and the like. Not to mention rugby!

For those of us who are churchgoers, we felt starved of the comfort and inspiration we get from coming together in Church, to worship God, to pray and to meet up with our Church family. Zoom services are alright, (if you know how to access them), but you miss out on the ambience of the Church itself and its surroundings; the stained glass windows, the peace and memories of the grave yard, the war memorial and its relevance to the war we are presently facing.

But if the scientists are to be believed, there is a sign of light at the end of this very long tunnel. We, as Christians, must keep praying that those scientists, doctors and nurses, will find and once found, be able to deliver, the cure to this pandemic. It has been hard on all of us but none more so than the medics who would appear to have been working ceaselessly over such a long time to achieve this end.

Thanks to all of them and thanks be to God for helping them find a remedy to this, what would appear to be, a man-made situation

Jan Gaskell



**Heritage Open Day
13th September**

St Peter's Church, Thornton will be open to visitors
on September 13th from 1 pm until 5 pm.

Come and explore our lovely Grade 1, historical church for yourselves.



THORNTON NATURE NOTES



Mid Summer Sightings.

A pair of Reed Bunting were carrying nesting material on June 10th and a Spotted Flycatcher was in Thornton Wood. Summer visitors were represented by a Hobby hunting near the church and a group of twelve Swifts screaming over the village.

Hot and sunny weather on June 14th encouraged both Banded Demoiselle and Ringlet to be on the wing. It was encouraging to see a pair of Great Crested Grebes with two young after last year's lack of breeding success.

Very hot and sunny conditions on June 24th were ideal for butterflies and at least twelve Marbled Whites were on the wing at Bagworth Heath. It was even better to see a single Marbled White rapidly fly through the garden on the following day. This species is expanding its range and in hot conditions exploratory flights are made to search out suitable meadow areas.

Also seen at this time were several Scarlet Tiger Moths. This is a day flying species, and a very attractive beast. Its caterpillar's food plant is Comfrey and this may explain why I have seen so many.

As June came to a close other species noted included Red Kite, Hobby, Tawny Owl and a very early Wigeon. A Reed Warbler was also recorded.

July commenced with more Scarlet Tigers and also my first Gatekeeper of the year. On July 8th two Little Egrets were on the dam and thirty Coots were at the Outflow. Great Crested Grebes were demonstrating breeding success with three pairs with young and one pair nest building.

A single Common Sandpiper was on the dam on July 9th and Tufted Duck numbered 40.

A butterfly survey on July 10th recorded eleven species on the meadow with Painted Lady, Ringlet and Small Skipper amongst the tally.

A male Common Scoter was a nice find on July 11th. It was still present on 15th. These sea duck regularly stop off at inland reservoirs on their migration. This individual spent its time feeding and I had the opportunity to time its dives.

Each was at least 65 seconds. A common Snipe was on the dam on July 12th. Tufted Duck numbers had increased to 51 by July 14th.

Records for mid-July included Garden Warbler, 35 Swifts, 41 Coots, and two moth species, an Old Lady and a Hummingbird Hawk Moth.

A night time vigil on the 22nd was memorable as we were able to view the comet Neowise, while a Tawny Owl called and a Hedgehog trotted around the garden.

Hot weather at the end of July encouraged more butterflies to be on the wing. It was rewarding to see White Letter Hairstreak and Brown Argus on the Meadow. Several Small Copper and Common Blues were also seen.

Other early August sightings included Teal, Lapwing, Peregrine, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Yellowhammer. Seven Ravens over the church on August 10th was a high count.

On August 11th, while I stood quietly at a gate at the Top End of the reservoir I was surprised by a Stoat that ran past my feet. It seemed oblivious to my presence. It is this type of encounter that makes watching nature so rewarding.

Andy Smith 11/08/2020.



Countdown

Using the numbers
25, 1, 5, 6, 4, 1
try to make the number

783

Use only addition, subtraction,
multiplication and division.

Conundrum



Find the hidden word

TRIFLUFU

(Answers on Page 30)



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Faith in later life

CONNECTIONS

All in the month ofSeptember

It was:

- ◇ 150 years ago, on 20th September 1870 that Rome was captured. Italian forces defeated the Papal States and captured the city of Rome at the end of the wars of Italian Unification. The Papal States were dissolved. Rome was annexed, and it became the capital of Italy in 1871.
- ◇ 65 years ago, on 22nd September 1955 that Britain's first independent television channel, ITV, was launched. It ended the BBC's monopoly. Regional franchises were rolled out across the whole country by 1965.
- ◇ 60 years ago, on 27th September 1960 that Sylvia Pankhurst, suffragette leader, died.
- ◇ 50 years ago, on 19th September 1970 that the first Glastonbury Festival was held, at Worthy Farm near Pilton, Somerset. About 1,500 people attended (compared to 135,000 today). It became an annual event from 1981 and is now the world's largest greenfield festival. The first festival was billed as the Pilton Pop, Blues & Folk Festival.

Smile!



- ◇ Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was always standing on the deck.
- ◇ What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
Absolutely ruthless.
- ◇ The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.
Mosquitoes come close, though.
- ◇ What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.
- ◇ Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
No - just an apple.



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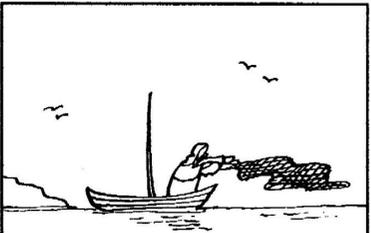


The parable of the Fish and the Nets

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS SAID THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WAS A BIT LIKE CATCHING FISH!



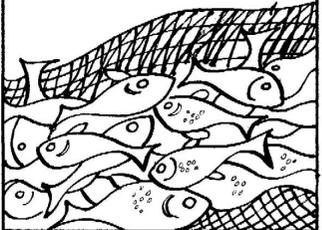
WHEN PEOPLE GO FISHING THEY THROW THEIR NETS INTO THE LAKE...



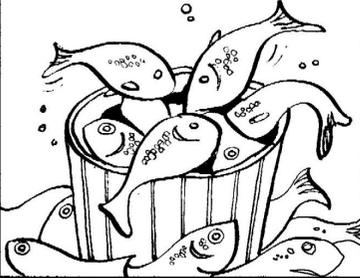
... WHEN THE NETS ARE FULL, THEY PULL THEM TO SHORE



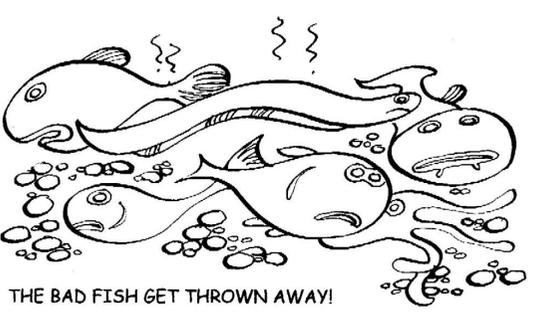
ONCE ON SHORE THE FISH HAVE TO BE SORTED OUT.



THE GOOD FISH GO INTO BUCKETS



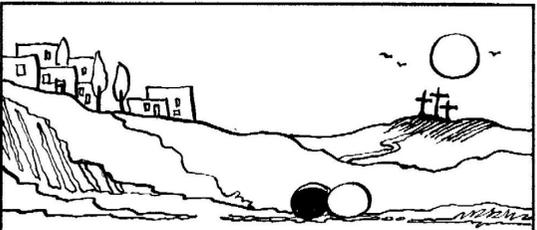
THE BAD FISH GET THROWN AWAY!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE TOO WILL BE SORTED LIKE THE FISH. WE CAN CHOOSE TO DO GOOD OR BAD THINGS WITH OUR LIVES.



BUT EVEN IF WE MAKE TERRIBLE MISTAKES - WE CAN ALWAYS BE FORGIVEN - THAT'S JESUS' PROMISE.





"But did they plough the fields and scatter at a safe distance?"

Countdown Solution

$$6 \times 5 = 30$$

$$30 \times (25 + 1) = 780$$

$$780 + 4 - 1 = 783$$



Conundrum

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