Village Link March 2021

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



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6: verse 8







The Junction 22 Group of Churches - who's who

Rector: The Revd Andrew Smith

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Associate Priest and Pioneer Minister: The Revd Pauline Ashby

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Licensed Reader:

Peter Maynard 01530 249430

Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Markfield

Churchwarden: Maureen Browning 01530 244242

PCC Secretary:Helen Ward 01530 243328Treasurer (& Lay Chair):Catherine Cox 01530 243386Organist:David Seal 01530 242799Bell Tower Captain:Terry Layton 01530 244261

The Parish of St Peter, Thornton, Holy Rood, Bagworth, St Mary and All Saints, Stanton under Bardon

Churchwardens: Gill Maynard 01530 249430

Shirley Garlick 01530 230422

Deputy Warden

(Stanton under Bardon): Peter Massey 01530 242451

Deputy Warden

(Thornton):Lis Muller 01530 231502PCC Secretary:Norma Mistry 01530 243622Treasurer:Gill Maynard 01530 249430Bell Tower Captain:Eric Roberts 01530 230743

The Parish of St Peter, Copt Oak

Churchwardens: Les Gammon 01530 244229

Vacant

PCC Secretary:Sue Gammon 01530 244229Treasurer:Jan Gaskell 0116 267 4746Bell Tower Captain:Liz Twitchell 01509 829709

The Junction 22 Group of Churches Benefice website is: www.j22churches.org.uk

Junction 22 Village Link

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This month's letter is from Revd Judith Lincoln

Dear Friends,

It's a pleasure to be writing for Village Link for the first time. For anybody who doesn't know me, I'm Rev Judith Lincoln and I'm the new minister at Markfield Methodist Church: I also look after the Methodist Churches in Anstey and Ratby. I look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming months.

When this magazine comes out spring will be well on its way- but as I write this (in early February), it would be easy to think "Yeah, right!" It's been snowing, and it's zero degrees but feels like minus 5. Many of us are tired and fed up from the pandemic and continued lockdown. We long for "normal" but wonder if it will ever come.

In the story of God's people that we read in the Bible, there are many "Yeah right" situations that seem hopeless. The people of Israel are carted off to exile, will they ever come home? The prophet Ezekiel sees a valley full of dry bones - surely a lifeless wasteland where nothing can grow and nobody can live? The one supposed to be Son of God dies on a cross- doesn't that make a mockery of all that His friends have stood for?

So it would seem, and yet....just as I've seen snowdrops and even the odd crocus poking through the snow, God brings new life out of these situations. The exiles are led home, they can't turn the clock back to exactly how things were, but God leads them on to deeper faith, hope and love. Ezekiel speaks God's word to the bones, they are filled with God's Spirit, and they become living people. On the third day, "early in the morning while it was still dark", the women come to find that the Son of God has risen. Death itself is defeated. The risen Jesus is a bit different from before - He hasn't turned the clock back, but gone on.

I hope and pray that in this waiting time, we may see the signs of spring emerging from the cold and dark of winter. May we know that there is no darkness too dark for God's light. And may we listen to God, offer ourselves in faith, hope and love to bring new life to others, now in the waiting time, and in the "new normal".

With love in Christ,

Judith Markfield Methodist Church





Church Services across the Benefice



Please Note:

All Worship Services will continue online until further notice, and can be found at the 'J22 Benefice' channel on **Youtube.com**. All services can be watched live or 'on demand' at any time.

J22 Benefice Online Sunday Worship Service: 10:15am Every Sunday

Zoom Coffee, Cake & Chat: 11:00am Every Sunday. E-mail **j22rector@yahoo.com** for a Zoom invitation.

Midweek Compline Service, A Time of Quiet Prayer - 7pm Every Wednesday

Thought for Thursday - 10am Every Thursday

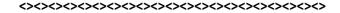
Benefice Registers



Funerals:

12th February: Sylvia Mary Straw at St Peter's, Thornton

Please remember the families and friends in your prayers



Your Benefice Safeguarding Team

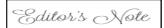
Pat Barnes

patray134@hotmail.co.uk 01455 821154 Mary Gibson

baba.gibson@yahoo.co.uk 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.





Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles for this edition of Junction 22 Village Link. Your contributions are always very welcome.

If you would like to send in a poem, recipe or short anecdote (maximum 400 words please) the deadline date for submitting articles for the April edition is 10th March.

We would also welcome your views on the magazine - What you like about it? Could it be improved? What you are interested in reading about? Your feedback is important to us as it lets us know if we are getting it right!

Our Contact details are on Page 27.

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

Prayer Cycle	Church Local	Church Local &	Community Nation	Benefice Street by Street	
		National	& World		
7th March	Our Benefice, Worship Together	Launde Abbey and its staff	The Prison Service and Prison Chaplains	Chambers Close, Wesley Way, Janes Way	
14th March	Online church services	Link Diocese of Trichy-Tanjore	Our Armed Forces and Chaplains	Charnwood Drive, Jacqueline Road, Link Rise	
21st March	Messy Church and its leaders	Link Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro	The United Nations	Chestnut Walk, The Blossoms, The Laurels	
28th March	Our treasurers and our finances	Baptism candidates and their families	National Media and journalists	Chitterman Way, Huntsmans Close, Church Drive	



Beta Bible Basics



Beta Bible Study group continues to meet via Zoom while we are in lockdown.

Our meetings are on alternate Tuesdays : 2nd, 16th & 30th March at 2 pm

We will be continuing to study the prayers of Jesus as he goes to the Cross.

Please contact Helen on 01530 230532 if you would like any further information and are thinking of joining us!

Morning Prayer for Lent

O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love, according to your judgement give us life.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; we pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The appointed psalm is read (see list)

The Song of Manasseh

Full of compassion and mercy and love is God, the Most High, the Almighty.
Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:
All things tremble with awe at your presence, before your great and mighty power.
Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, for you are God, Most High.
You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful, and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness, you have promised forgiveness for repentance to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, imploring your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned,

and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise, and your glory is for ever and ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading (see list)

Prayers

In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people, that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace, we pray to you, O Lord:

For candidates for baptism and confirmation, that they may live by every word that proceeds from your mouth,

we pray to you, O Lord:

For the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth,

we pray to you, O Lord:

For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away,

we pray to you, O Lord:

For the sick in body, mind and spirit,

that they may know your power to heal,

we pray to you, O Lord:

For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see you face to face,

we pray to you, O Lord:

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered,

to the mercy and protection of God. Amen

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 our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.

The Conclusion

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer for Lent

O God make speed to save us. O Lord make haste to help us. Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love, according to your judgement give us life.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of our sin, you have shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence, that freed from the misery of sin and shame

we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful, We pray with one heart and mind.

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.

The appointed psalm is said (see list).

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, but he did not cling to equality with God.

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in our human likeness.

Being found in human form he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name above every name,

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Scripture Reading (see list).

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed,
the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their
conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the

Prayers

Let us pray to God the Father,
who has reconciled all things to himself in Christ:
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.

beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Conclusion

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love. Amen. Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Bible Readings for March

	Morning	Evening			
1 st	Ps 79:8-9,12,14 Luke 6:36-38	Ps 74 Hebrews 1			
2 nd	Ps 50:8,16-end Matt 23:1-12	Ps 52 Hebrews 2:1-9			
3 rd	Ps 31:4-5,14-18 Matt 20:17-28	Ps 3 Hebrews 2:10-end			
4 th	Ps 1 Luke 16:19-end	Ps 71 Hebrews 3:1-6			
5 th	Ps 105:16-22 Matt21:33-43,45-4	Ps 6 Hebrews 3:7-end			
6 th	Ps 103 Luke 15:1-3,11-end	Ps 27 Hebrews 4:1-13			
7 th	Ps 19 John 2:13-22	Ps 11 Philippians 3:4-14			
8 th	Ps 43:1-4 Luke 4:24-30	Ps 17 Hebrews 4:14-5:10			
9 th	Ps 25:3-10 Matt 18:21-end	Ps 64 Hebrews 5:11-6:2			
10 th	Ps 147:13-end Matt 5:17-19	Ps 39 Hebrews 6:13-end			
11 th	Ps 95:1-2, 6-end Luke 11:14-23	Ps 59 Hebrews 7:1-10			
12 th	Ps 81:6-10, 13,16 Mark 12:28-34	Ps 69 Hebrews 7:11-end			
13 th	Ps 51:1-2,17-end Luke 18:9-14	Ps 116 Hebrews 8			
14 th	Ps 107:1-9 John 3:14-21	Ps 13 Romans 5:1-11			
15 th	Ps 30:1-5,8,11-end John 4:43-end	Ps 25 Hebrews 9:1-14			
16 th	Ps 46:1-8 John 5:1-3, 5-16	Ps 80 Hebrews 9:15-end			
17 th	Ps 145:8-18 John 5:17-30	Ps 91 Hebrews 10:1-18			
18 th	Ps 106:19-23 John 5:31-end	Ps 94 Hebrews 10:19-25			
19 th	Ps 89:26-36 Matt 1:18-end	Ps 112 Matt 2:13-end			
20 th	Ps 7:1-2,8-10 John 7:40-52	Ps 140 Hebrews 11:1-16			
21 st	Ps 51:1-13 John 12:20-33	Ps 34 Romans 5:12-end			
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22 nd Ps 23 John 8:1-11	Ps 26 Hebrews 11:17-31
23 rd Ps 102:1-3,16-23 John 8:21-30	Ps 61 Hebrews 11:32-12:2
24 th Ps 55 John 8:31-42	Ps 85 Galatians 4:1-5
25 th Ps 40:5-11 Luke 1:26-38	Ps 131 Hebrews 12:14-end
26 th Ps 18:1-6 John 10:31-end	Ps 31 Hebrews 13:1-16
27 th Ps 121 John11:45-end	Ps 24 Hebrews 13:17-end
28 th Ps 118:19-end Mark 11:1-11	Ps 69:1-20 Mark 12:1-12
29 th Ps 36:5-11 John 12:1-11	Ps 25 Colossians 1:18-23
30 th Ps 71:1-14 John 12:20-36	Ps 55:13-24 Galatians 6:11-end

Evening

Ps 88 Revelation 14:18-15:4

Morning

31st Ps 70 John 13:21-32

Your daily walk should be a sacred ritual

Under lockdown, millions of us who rarely walked around our immediate locality are now well acquainted with every nearby driveway, every crack in the pavement, and every pothole in the road. We have developed views on our neighbours' gardens, on their oddly coloured garage doors, and on their dogs, children and cars. If we go out at the same time every day, we may even be saying hello to the same people we don't know every day.

For many of us, that daily walk has become the high point of our day. After all, it is one of the few liberties we have left. Some of us go early, to enjoy the relative peace and quiet. Some of us go midday, to at least see other people, even if we can't talk to them. Others of us opt for dusk, the dark comfort of a street with lit houses and stars in the sky.

Whatever time you most enjoy, make sure you do make the time to go for your walk. Your mental and physical fitness can only improve!

Parish Pump

Cross Hills Baptist Church Contacts

Pastor:Garry Kelly29 The Drive, Barwell, Leics. 07816 616189Secretary:Mrs Lynda Kelly29 The Drive, Barwell, Leics. 07903 774491The Chair Control of Contro

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 11 am every Sunday and prayer meetings every Tuesday at 7.15 pm.

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



Countdown

Using the numbers 50, 75, 4, 4, 8, 2 try to make the number 547

Use only addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Conundrum



Find the hidden word CAMEUNTIL

(Answers on Page 30)

Village Link is 100 next year!

It's amazing to realise that church magazines more or less as we know them today have been around since at least 1870. Next year our own magazine will be at least 100 years old!

We have an archive of most issues of the original Village Link magazine that covered Thornton, Bagworth and latterly Stanton-under-Bardon. The oldest one of which is from 1922, though it is possible that there were earlier issues. There have been a few years where no magazine seems to have been printed. In recent years, the British Library has received a regular copy.

The Markfield and Copt Oak church magazine was amalgamated with the Village Link in September 2019 to become the benefice magazine. It would be really interesting to find out how far back the Markfield magazine goes, and, if there was a separate Copt Oak magazine, how far back that one goes. If anyone has any information regarding this please do get in touch.

Apparently at one time there were 13,000 parishes producing magazines each month. Wow.

I do hope it's the same now.

Shirley Garlick



We are Rescued!

We were really sorry not to have been able to print and deliver hard copies of the magazine for February. We have been really struggling to print the magazine since the coronavirus struck. Because of Covid-19 our regular printer, 'TeamPrint', has been closed since April 2020. Teamprint was brilliant; the company printed, collated, folded and stapled the magazines for us at a really good price. When they had to close, we decided to use the Benefice printer to produce a reduced number of copies and our Benefice Administrator, Sam, with a bit of help undertook the job. A huge thank you to Sam for taking on this task and to Pauline for overseeing it. And of course to Mary for her excellent editorship.

However, although of good quality and new, the printer was not up to the job

of regularly printing 8000 pages and eventually was damaged beyond repair. The printing costs for the year, mainly for ink, were very large. We have replaced the printer at a cost of more than £700. So we really could not try to print the magazine ourselves. We had tried to find printers that were able to print the magazine for us at a price we could afford, but failed.

Then came our rescue! James from Norwood Press based in Ellistown rang to say the company could help us out with a most brilliant offer, and will print, collate, fold and staple the magazines for us. So we are really thrilled to let everyone know that normal service has resumed. Hard copies will be delivered to all subscribers from March.

A huge thank you to James and Norwood press for rescuing us from this very difficult situation. James, we are extremely grateful to you and your company.

Meanwhile there will continue to be monthly editions of the magazine available online on the Benefice website -j22churches.org.uk.

For further information please contact me on 01530 230422. Thank you.

Shirley Garlick



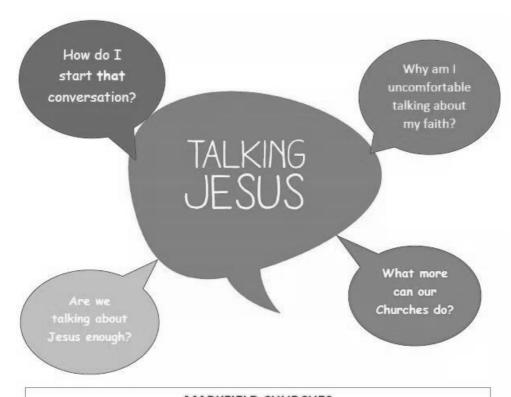
An easy way for fathers to feel closer to their children

When fathers work with their children on puzzles, it helps them grow closer, because their brains 'synchronise'. This leads them to being more 'psychologically in tune' with each other.

A study at the University of Essex said that "the synchronising of brain activity is interesting, because we knew it happened between mothers and children, but didn't know if the same was true with fathers.

"This is important for two reasons. It shows that men *are* biologically wired to provide off-spring care; and second, dads are increasingly being recognised as care-givers and attachment figures to their children."

Parish Pump



MARKFIELD CHURCHES

Warmly invite everyone to join us for our zoom lent course!

The course is aimed at folks who are already Christians but of course everyone is very welcome

This will be a 6 week course, on Wednesdays at 7.30PM starting on 17th Feb, HOWEVER you are free to attend as few or as many as you like!

For the "zoom link" click the contact us link on the Methodist Website, message on the Methodist FB page or ring Kerry - 07979 607099 or Joy – 07742 631290

Methodist Church: www.markfieldmethodistchurch.org or FB

Anglican Church: j22churches.org.uk or FB

Congregational Church: FB

Catholic Church - http://stwilfscoalville.blogspot.com

MARKFIELD CHURCHES – WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Life is full of ups and downs: after blessings, hard times often follow. They are not meant to destroy us but to help us grow spiritually by deepening our faith and dependence on God. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil – to give Him the opportunity to stand fast against the enemy. The devil's temptations were based on half-truths, which Jesus rejected by standing firm on the whole truth of Scripture. The truth sets us free!

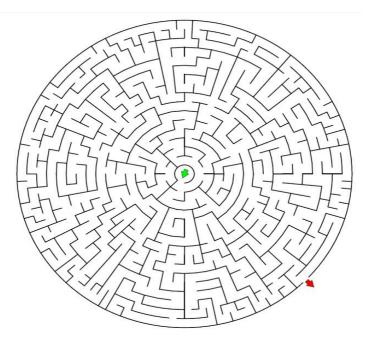
HOLY SPIRIT **JORDAN** WILDERNESS **TEMPTED** DEVIL **FASTED HUNGRY** lF **BRFAD** ALONE **KINGDOM** WORLD **AUTHORITY GLORY** WORSHIP ME SERVE **JERUSALEM PINNACLE** TEMPLE STONE FOOT ANGELS **BEAR** STRIKE **TEST TEMPTATION**

STEIYYBDTAOMI TEHOLYEEBREAD RMERRTLDALON PCDSCLLARMST KTKAARISYOEP EAFNOVUTD GTNWERIGDHBR DERNESSG TRDN HKPOSUOOVS EMWOHWORV EMPLEF LTANGELSTON

Sudoku

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

It's A-mazing!



How to stop stress getting the better of you

With the third lockdown, too many of us are facing a torrent of stress over job insecurity, home schooling, isolation, illness, or all of the above!

Stress makes us want to eat badly, exercise less and drink more. It also has a profound effect on our immune system.

While brief or 'acute' stress can spur us on to some specific achievement, the opposite is true of 'chronic' stress, which does only damage. It suppresses our immune system, making us more susceptible to bugs. That is why a stressful event can leave you feeling run down, or trigger a bad cold, shingles, or asthma. So how do we give our immune systems some help during this crisis?

Eat well. A balanced diet includes at least all six plant-based food groups: fruit, vegetables, wholegrains, legume, nuts and seeds.

Exercise every day: regular moderate exercise helps your immune system. Get enough sleep. It has been called "the foundation of the immune system." Avoid caffeine in the afternoon and keep devices, laptops or screens away from you for an hour before bedtime. Instead, stretch and relax, and consider a hot shower or bath.

Finally, don't be mean to yourself. Practise some self-compassion. Give yourself some private time, forget perfectionism, and accept that 'sometimes half-good is good enough.' Be kind to yourself – because even that will help your immune system.

Parish Pump



Why not contact a lonely neighbour?

The public have been urged to write letters to their lonely neighbours, as the Government has announced a £7.5million cash injection for community-boosting activities.

It is hoped that people will "reach out virtually and help combat loneliness", says Robert Jenrick, the Communities Secretary. This could be done either by "picking up the phone or writing a letter."

He urges, "Let's all do what we can to connect with our older neighbours, in a Covid-secure way, so they feel less alone and know how valuable they are to their communities at this time."

The charity Age UK has said it reckons there to be about 1.4million older people in England who are "chronically lonely."

Parish Pump

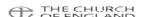


A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.





An injection of humour?

I hear young Percy's had the jab -He's headed up the queue. I wonder how he managed that -He's only 92!

The lovely nurse will say to him "Let's get it over quick.
There's nothing to get stressed about 'Twill only be a prick."

And then she'll say "Roll up your sleeve And look the other way. I've lots more folk to follow you, At least ten score today."

This deadly virus sweeps the land Land's End to John O'Groats. It's like a serpent - Boris says "Stamp foot across its throat."

"And wash your hands, and wear your mask And keep your distance wide. By doing this we'll win the day And take it in our stride."

Oh, wait a mo - I've heard the phone To fix a date for me. The last time that I had a jab I got a cup of tea!

Martin Foster



Copt Oak News

Dear Friends,

Events over the past year have brought heartache to many and at times have triggered some painful memories for me.

Some years ago, when my very best and closest friend, a devout Christian, was dying, I said to her "I so wish this wasn't happening" She replied "It is as it is, we have to accept it" Her words have stayed with me ever since!

Acceptance is easy when replying in the affirmative to an invitation for a special event, but in other circumstances, such as the death of a loved one, it is exceptionally hard. It is also difficult when, even little things that we were once able to do, but now cannot, brings frustration.

Karl Rheinhold Niebuhr, was an American theologian who, In 1951, wrote the Serenity Prayer:-

"God give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference."

Life is full of 'what ifs' and 'should haves' and during the past difficult months, when some politicians and others have focussed on what they think should have been done, I wish they had been guided by this prayer, accepting the situation as it was and is, doing something positive, learning from it and moving forward with hope, without recrimination. Hindsight is useful for reflection and making changes, but what we do here and now is important too.

During the pandemic we have been surrounded by much darkness, but with the emergence of the vaccines, we are at last moving towards the light. Martin Luther King once said "Only in darkness can you see the stars" and St John's gospel, chapter 1, tells us The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

In spite of all the darkness, the light has still been shining, through the spirit of human kindness, care and thoughtfulness; the knowledge and skill of doctors, nurses, researchers and all others who have played their part in these troubled times.

Psalm 46 reminds us that:-'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble'

Darkness can be overwhelming, but if we put our faith and trust in God, He will be our support and His light will carry us through, with hope, to the future.

Take care,

Mary Pepper.



Happiness

How can we be happy during these difficult times? We are often creatures of habit, slow to adjust to new circumstances and this time of closure of all areas of our everyday lives, makes being happy really difficult. Travel, visits to the theatre and restaurants, attending our own church services and seeing our families and friends whenever we choose, these are things we have taken for granted. So now we have to make small changes to our lives to enable us to set on a course for a happier life.

For example, during this strange and isolating time, and weather permitting, every day David and I have taken to walking into our local village to collect our newspaper.

Walking alongside David's mobility scooter we have been delighted that people who are completely unknown to us have greeted us with a warm 'good morning'. As we walk through the park, it is usual for people to move to one side to allow David to pass. After a 'thank you' from David we are mostly answered with 'That's OK' or 'You're welcome'.

Prior to the pandemic, we would have passed in silence, but these new made acquaintances go some way to alleviate our forced inability to meet up with our families and friends.

On returning home we look into our gardens and see snowdrops, that wonderfully iconic little flower which heralds the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Such a small flower, which, coupled with the early primroses brighten up the otherwise dull flower beds and encourage us to smile as we hear the birds sing. They have not heard about social distancing and our cheeky robin looks for his daily meal of raisins, and only raisins, as he refuses to eat sultanas or currents. He is very picky but his glorious singing demands a reward and so raisins he gets.

The trees and shrubs are beginning to sprout green buds and the post is bringing a daily selection of catalogues for seeds and flowers. I am reminded of our young children's urgent enquiry as we travelled to our holiday destination, 'Are we there yet?' And our response was always 'Nearly'. And so it is now with advent of spring and the hopeful control of the corona virus. The old hymn sums it up nicely 'Trust in the Lord and don't despair, he is a friend so true'.

Jan Gaskell



<u>Please note</u>: The following article appeared in February's online edition but, as we are now able to go to print too, is repeated this month for those of you who may not have internet access. Answers in April's edition!

St Peters Copt Oak Church News

As I reported last month Church services restarted on 6th December and continued throughout December - including our 9pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion. Unfortunately, as 2021 broke the new lockdown was introduced as the new variant of Covid19 caused cases to rise rapidly. We decided that the safest route for us was to suspend services again until the crisis has abated. The roll-out of the vaccine promises a much brighter future and we can all hope and pray for that.

The scaffolding was removed from church on 18th December. fully exposing the renovated windows - they do look good. The contractor will repair the final one later in the spring when the weather improves.

I thought I'd set a little quiz to test people's knowledge of the church:

- 1. How many lime trees line the church drive?
- 2. Which name is on the first gravestone erected in the churchyard.
- 3. When was the church built?
- 4. Which architect designed the church?
- 5. Name 3 other buildings he designed.
- 6. The metal gates commemorate who?
- 7. In order, can you name 5 previous vicars? (bit tricky)
- 8. How many bells are there in the belfry?
- 9. Which Civil parish is Copt Oak part of?

- 10. A large granite boulder commemorates what?
- 11. What was planted in 2000?
- 12. There is a Commonwealth War Grave in the churchyard who is buried there?

Les Gammon



Easy Access and Children's Area - St Peter's Church

The saga about the development of an easy access and children's area in St Peter's Church, Thornton continues. A visit by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to St Peter's is necessary for them to properly consider the plans we now have. Unfortunately, these plans have changed several times over the years. We are hopeful that the new ideas will be acceptable to everyone.

The plan is to have a lift that will take a wheelchair on the righthand side of the steps and for a children's area to be created in the South aisle. There will need to be some alteration to the area at the top of the steps and to the steps themselves. We will need to remove pews in the south aisle. These pews are very badly damaged by death-watch beetle, wood worm and general wear and tear. The floor under the pews has collapsed in places so a new floor with underfloor heating is planned. Rest assured, the wonderful linenfold pews ends will be preserved and kept in church.

The latest problem has been caused by Covid-19 of course! The visit by the DAC to consider these plans was postponed several times during 2020. The latest visit due last month has now been rescheduled for March.

Let us hope that we will soon be able to move forward with this exciting project.

Shirley Garlick Churchwarden

Thornton Open Gardens 2021 - now to be held 'virtually'

It is with regret that I announce that Friends of St Peter's, Thornton has decided that it will not be possible to hold its scheduled Open Gardens event this year. Despite the progress of the Vaccination programme, we feel that the Open Gardens in a village such as ours cannot be held in a socially-distanced way and so will not be practical this year.

Building on the success of last year's 'virtual' open gardens on YouTube (which was viewed 854 times), there will be something similar again this year. The format may differ, depending on the number of participants. As Open Gardens usually serves as both a social and fundraising event, this year we plan to link to an optional 'JustGiving' page so that people can donate if they wish to.

The deadline for submitting photos or a short video will be 20th June and the Virtual Open Gardens will be available to view in early July. If you think you may be interested in displaying your garden in this way, please let me know on thornton.opengardens@outlook.com.

We are hopeful that we will be able to hold this event in June 2022, as it should be - for real, outdoors and welcoming everyone into our beautiful and unusual gardens.

Lis Muller



Little Angels

Little Angels, our group for babies and pre-school children and their adults, are still unable to meet as I write, which is really disappointing. Lis and I are longing to see you all again, and we will keep in touch and let you know as soon as it is possible to meet again.

If you would like to know more about this lovely group, please contact either:

Lis Muller on <u>Tel</u>: 01530 231502, <u>E-mail</u>: lis.muller@hotmail.co.uk

Helen Brown on Tel: 01530 230532, E-mail: brown.helenmary@gmail.com

Thornton Nature Notes



Snow and Ice!

Early January was marked by very wet and mild conditions. The Reservoir was brim full and the inflow streams were regularly over bank full. My first Woodcock of the year was flushed at Brown's Wood on the 12th and seven Song Thrush were feeding in flooded fields on the 14th.

A Peregrine flew north on the 16th and a flock of 18 Linnet were feeding on the stubble. The January Webs count took place on the 17th. Totals included 136 Mallard, 117 Coot, 64 Tufted Duck and an impressive 27 Moorhen. Also on this date a pair of Sparrowhawks were displaying and Lesser Redpoll and Tawny Owl were added to the year list.

Twenty Gadwall on the 19th was a good site total and two pairs of Shoveler were present on the 21st. Despite an early frost sunny and calm conditions had a very early Red Admiral on the wing on the 22nd. This early taste of spring was short lived as a good covering of snow arrived on the 24th. This resulted in a movement of wildfowl on the 25th. Three White-fronted Geese were the highlight, and 27 Pochard, 18 Teal and 22 Wigeon were also noted.

Milder weather at the end of January encouraged a thaw with several signs of lengthening days. On the 29th Great Spotted Woodpeckers were drumming in the Church yard, Song thrush were singing and the first frogs were braving the pond. Other sightings at this time included Meadow Pipit, Skylark, Little Egret and Kingfisher.

February commenced with mild weather. On the 2nd 35 Pochard were scattered along Wood Bank and a single female Goosander was resting on the dam. The following day and a smart male Mandarin was seen by Gill and Martin. Also on the 3rd a Buzzard was feasting on a dead goose in the fields below the dam.

On February 7th a Red Kite drifted over the house, already my fourth sighting of the year and clear evidence that this species is increasing locally. Also on this date high pressure over Scandinavia had slipped south west bringing an Arctic blast to the UK.

As I write icy conditions are forecast, with night time temperatures dropping to -5C. With the ground and water bodies frozen bird species are under stress. Many will be forced to move west or stay to tough it out. By providing food and especially water you can help them make it through.

14th March: Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Parish Pump



Poverty is not created by God It is made by you and me We are responsible because we don't share. Even God will not force us to do good We must choose to do good.

Mother Theresa (1910 - 1997)



Junction 22 Village Link - April 2021 Edition

Article Submission Deadline: 10th March

E-mail copy to:

baba.gibson@yahoo.co.uk or pass copy (preferably typed) to: Mary Gibson, 232 Main Street,

Tel: 01530 231993

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Dave Robinson, 221 Main Street, Thornton. Thornton.

Tel: 01530 231662

Please note that the articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Editorial Team or the Benefice.

Smile!



- ♦ Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.
- On't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
- ♦ When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- ♦ A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- ♦ Two choir members recently got married. They met by chants.
- ♦ A filing cabinet is a place where you can lose things systematically.
- ♦ The man who fell into an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- ♦ A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.



All in the month of March

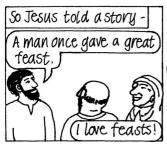
It was:

- 1700 years ago, on 7th March 321, that the Roman Emperor Constantine 1 (Constantine the Great) decreed that Sunday should be a day of rest throughout the Empire.
- ♦ 150 years ago, on 29th March 1871, that the Royal Albert Hall in London was officially opened by Queen Victoria.
- ♦ 40 years ago, on 29th March 1981, that the first London Marathon was held.
- 25 years ago, on 13th March 1996, that the Dunblane Massacre took place in Scotland. A gunman killed 16 children and a teacher at a primary school and wounded several others before taking his own life.

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 14 verses 15-24

Jesus was at a dinner when one guest said how good it would be to be at God's feast for His people at the end of time.







Time to get dressed up!

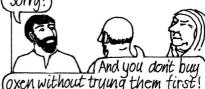






buys land without seeing at!

The next said, Tive bought some oxen and I need to try them out. Sorru!



And another said, 'I got The master was married so I'm not comuna!



They insulted him with their rude excuses!

very angry.



He told his servant to go to every street in the town and fetch, everyone who was poor or disabled



and there was still 1 room.



His servant did that the told his servant to search outside the town and fill the house.



Everyone who will come!

The master of the feast said, 'None of those linvited but who wouldn't come will get even the Leftovers! 1





Countdown Solution

 $8 \times (75-4) = 568$ $(50 \div 2) - 4 = 21$ 568 - 21 = 547



Conundrum Solution

The hidden word is **CULMINATE**

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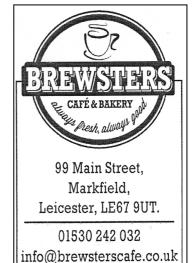
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