

St Mary the Virgin, Plumtree

PARISH MAGAZINE

EMERGENCY EDITION

April – May 2020

No. 238

From the Editor

In view of the current crisis, we've decided not to have a printed Parish Magazine for the moment. There is not a lot to put in it and nothing for the diary. In addition, our printer has temporarily closed!

To reach at least some of our readers we've produced this slimmed down version. Hopefully we can get back to normal in a couple of months.

In the meantime, obey the advice, enjoy the colours of spring, and stay safe and well.

Rosemary

Dear everyone

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

The novel by Charles Dickens written in 1859 is set against the backdrop of two cities: London and Paris. Dickens may perhaps be pointing to the possibility of new life for people as individuals and as members of a much larger Society. In recent weeks, those of us living in the Northern hemisphere had been looking forward eagerly to the coming of Spring and the signs of new life – and of course, warmer days. In the Church's calendar, we are coming towards the end of the Season of Lent. Palm Sunday – this year on 5th April – marks the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where he is acclaimed by the crowds. The next few days see him appearing before the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate and being condemned to death on a Cross with a Crown of Thorns around his head. The cries of the crowd had turned from acclamation to cries of "Crucify". Many of the followers of Jesus perhaps saw the entry into Jerusalem as the best of times – perhaps the culmination of the activity of the previous three years which would result in Jesus being accepted by all people both in the City of Jerusalem and in the wider Judaeo-Roman world. In the

space of just a few days the best of times turned into the worst of times for them as Jesus was condemned to die on a Cross.

We read in the New Testament of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, standing at the foot of the Cross. It is hard to imagine the anguish, the sheer pain that she experienced as Jesus was hanging there. Yet the story did not end there. Our faith is that Jesus rose from the dead; that he appeared to his disciples and that he is present in the lives of those who seek to follow him. The resurrection promise of Jesus was that he would meet with his disciples, his followers. It is the promise to each of us that he will meet with us in our lives. He commanded those disciples to go and tell others and they proclaimed the Good News that they had "Seen the Lord." We as the present-day followers of Jesus must take the step of faith and tell others the Good News that "Christ is Risen."

Like the first disciples, our lives will have their highs and lows; times of joy and times of sorrow. We all understand that in many ways, that is part of what it means to be human. Yet, at the moment as I write, the world is in the grip of the Coronavirus and many people have lost their lives. There are understandable fears about our own safety and well-being. We are all encouraged by Government and Health Personnel that we must take steps to try to protect ourselves and others by not putting ourselves in positions of risk. This has resulted in the unprecedented decision being taken (certainly unprecedented in my lifetime) that Services should not be held in Churches throughout the country in order to avoid people congregating together and potentially putting themselves at risk.

The decision that our Churches must be closed means that we cannot continue to meet in Church Sunday by Sunday; we cannot together sing our "Hosannas" as Jesus enters Jerusalem; we cannot together stand at the foot of the Cross as Jesus hangs there and we cannot together shout "Alleluia" as Jesus is raised from the dead. Yet we can individually and in our home family groups still walk the Way of Jesus and we can proclaim the message that new life does and will come.

As we look out of our windows, we see the green shoots of new life, the flowers of Spring, and we pray that people will be kept safe. These may be for many people and in many ways "the worst of times" but as followers of Jesus

we have a promise that there will be "the best of times." For the moment we wait, for we are not people without hope. Our hope and our prayer is for resurrection; for new life in and through our Lord Jesus both now and in times to come.

My prayer for all of you is that you will be well and kept safe from harm; that we support one another as best we can, and that we will soon be able to meet together to proclaim that "The Lord is Risen: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!"

With every blessing to you all,

Trevor

From the Choir Stalls

Angela North

We've been singing in the rain. There have been several Sundays when we seem to arrive and leave Church in the rain. The weather has not deterred the choir and fortunately no one has actually accused us of causing the various deluges. We sang the anthem 'Christ is the world's true Light' for Candlemas. This was a new anthem with words by George Wallace Briggs (1875–1959) set to music by Walter Kendall Stanton (1891–1978). W.K.S. was an English organist, educationalist and composer of sacred music. He was educated at Chorister's School, Salisbury before undertaking an Organ Scholarship at Lancing College, and was then at Merton College, Oxford.

We sang another new anthem on Ash Wednesday, 'Hide not thou thy face', with words from Psalm 27 set to music by the 16th century composer Richard Farrant, and followed this with Simon Lole's setting of 'O God of mercy, God of might'; our last new anthem was Peter Aston's 'I give you a new commandment'.

We are pleased that Lesley and Kate are feeling much better after their recent illnesses and have rejoined us. We also thank Katharine for singing to us during two evening Communion services.

Thank you to the choir, Neil, Anita and Rosemary G.

Lenten Lunch Update

The two lunches of soup and French bread held on Saturdays 7th and 14th March were a great success. The choice of soups was wider than ever and the Burnside Hall was full of happy chatter. Alas, the remaining two lunches could not take place. However, the magnificent total of £500 was raised to support the very important work of the Friary drop-in centre.

Many thanks to everyone who made and served the soup, sliced the bread, laid the tables, washed the dishes and of course our generous supporters. If you would like to make a further donation, please contact the Friary on 0115 982 5448 or check the details on Twitter @theFriary88.

From Our Norfolk Correspondent

Who would have thought things could have gotten any worse? After all the rain then the storms now the invisible virus (until you get it).

Here in Norfolk we have just about finished tidying up the storm damaged trees – here in Norfolk and Nottingham (we are the international tree surgeons). After Ciara, Dennis, Ellen and Jorge (how do they come up with these names?), a little bit of research on storm names. Alternate between male and female and run from A to Z in the alphabetical order.

The Norfolk landscapes here will never be the same again. It was just like a "Giant" had walked through the countryside ripping off branches and uprooting trees. It looked like a war zone!

Now: Lamblets (only say that because Matt called lambs that when he was little). Pigs have piglets, sheep have lamblets. The wonderful displays; daffodils, violets and primroses plus many others spring flowers. They definitely give you a feel-good factor! Which we all need at this time.

The thing about each and every one of us: we are British! We will overcome whatever is thrown at us if we all work together!! Not emptying shelves at the supermarket. I called into our local store the other day – it made me question some people's mentality.

I left feeling totally stunned and disgusted at the action of some people, hearing stories about people fighting over products (toilet rolls). Someone taking toilet rolls from a trolley a lady was pushing towards her car in the car park. Then today people are being restricted on how many white goods they are allowed to buy (freezers and fridges) – unbelievable!

The staff at the local store said it was worse than Christmas! Of course Christmas brings people together. The virus is keeping us apart!

I wash my hands of it all! Like every one should. I sing "I do like to be beside the seaside". What's your song?

Stay safe, stay well. Love and elbows (because you can't hug).

Vonnie x

Do You Like Icons?!

Doris McGowan



A "Fellowship" group, led by Paul Olejnik, met on Saturday 22nd February in the Burnside Hall. There were 15 participants with a wide range of ages, and Paul was ready to start us all on a fantastic journey of knowledge, inspiration and enjoyment. The whole day was tremendous, challenging but extremely satisfying.

Paul had everything organised, he took us through the whole process calmly with perfect timing, enabling the initial processes to be completed by lunchtime and left to dry.

The ladies with lunch all arrived and, together with two members of the group who were experts on Greek cuisine, they set out lunch. Everyone enjoyed the repast of both English and Greek dishes, washed down with teas and coffees.

After lunch the basic icons were ready for completion; applying the "icon" picture, then painting with acrylic colours, and finally adding amber crushed with linseed to enhance those designs which included halos.

We completed the day by taking our finished icons and beeswax candles over to the church. Here we met Revd Trevor, who told us more about icons and shared some of his own examples. As we gazed at our icons displayed on the Millennium altar and watched our lit candles shine in the darkening light, Revd Trevor led us in prayer.

A wonderful ending to an amazing, inspiring and extremely satisfying day. Very many thanks to everyone who helped to make this a truly exceptional experience. Special thanks to Paul.

A note from the Editor:

To explain the technicalities, we first selected a rectangle of wood – a piece of old floorboard perhaps – and sanded it smooth before covering it with thin fabric held in place by small nails. This was thinly coated with gesso to provide a smooth white surface, which was allowed to dry.

We each selected an image to copy and traced it in order to apply it to our icon base. Then came the exciting and tricky part of applying acrylic paints to complete the image.

Our finished icons were displayed on the altar in the south aisle for everyone to see the following day. They were then moved to the adjacent windowsill, where they remain.

As Doris says, this was a really enjoyable and educational day. Paul was an excellent instructor and we had a lot of fun.

Keyworth and District U3a News

We are now well into our 2020 year's activities. Our first Monthly Meeting was on the topic of the very rudimentary and often grossly misunderstood state of medical knowledge at the time of the Eyam etc plague – perhaps an unexpectedly prescient choice of subject in the light of subsequent events! At our second meeting we learned about the Nottinghamshire County Show – its history and its present activity, which had been due to take place in May at its Newark Show-ground – together with a fascinating review of past agricultural life and some thought provoking glimpses into possible future directions for our agriculture. Our forty-five or so Interest Groups were also well into their wide range of interests, with the U3A ethos of all our activities being run by ourselves.

Then along came coronavirus and everything had to change! All our forward Monthly Meetings and Interest Group Meetings have had to be cancelled until further notice.

We had been looking forward towards our AGM, when the next committee will be elected to continue to nurture our U3A into the rest of the year – now postponed from April to a new date yet to be determined some time in the uncertain future. Our involvement in a national U3A Day in June along with some 1000 or so other local U3As also cannot now take place. We are endeavouring to maintain contact with our membership as best we can via our 'beacon' email system. We all share the deep disappointment in having to miss out on all those highly valued U3A activities until who knows when!

We hope to be able to give better news of our way forward once things become back to 'normal'.

Robin Wilcockson

Chairman, Keyworth and District U3A

WaterAid UK

Angela North

Please keep collecting. The latest Rainy Day total is £32.20. Thank you to those who keep filling the bags.

Church Services and Events

Because of the present situation, no services will be held in Plumtree Church for the foreseeable future. This is particularly distressing as we approach Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter. For the moment the bells will not be rung nor will the choir practise; the coffee morning planned for 4th April has been postponed until later in the year. There will be no church ceremonies involving groups of people.

Our website, **www.plumtree.church**, is regularly updated so use it to find out what is happening. We are also on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. Our two churchwardens, Tony and Pauline, and their deputies, Fiona and Rosemary, can be contacted by phone or e-mail – see the "Who's Who" page on the website. Take the official advice on 'social distancing' and self-isolation. We are all in this together and when normality is restored, we shall once again join together in fellowship and worship of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

It's Going Up!

A word from the Editor

This Parish Magazine was first published in 1980. Back then the term 'desktop publishing' had not been invented and none of us had heard about megabytes! The material was typed on to wax-coated sheets (don't forget to remove the typewriter ribbon!) and the resulting stencils were fixed to a hand-cranked Gestetner machine. Black ink was forced through the holes on to white paper, and the resulting sheets were collated and manually stapled together. These days the text is produced on a computer and converted to a PDF (portable document format) file, which is dispatched to the printer by e-mail.

The price for an annual subscription was set at £2, and so it has stayed for the past 40 years! The price of paper and ink has not. So, the PCC has reluctantly agreed to increase the annual subscription to £4 and the price of a single copy to 75p. The plan was to make the change in October, but we may defer it for a bit for obvious reasons. I hope you will agree that this magazine is still very good value, and will cheerfully continue to subscribe.



2425 (NOTTINGHAM AIRPORT) SQUADRON

Royal Air Force Cadets



2020 has started with great results for 2425 Nottingham Airport Squadron. We have seen our best results in many years at South and East Midlands Cross Country meet at RAF Wittering in early January. Our team headed out over 5km and 3km on a cold but sunny Saturday morning. The cadets performed magnificently with a number

chosen to go forward to represent the Wing at a higher level. In sport, cadets have also undertaken Wing trials in rugby, football, netball and hockey.

Staff have also been out and about with attendance in training in DofE and First Aid. Without trained staff we are unable to provide activities to our cadets and as such we fully support our adult volunteers obtain skills and qualifications. The month has seen cadets also progress in their classification training with a number receiving certificates in all four exams. On passing the final of the four exams the cadets also qualify for a BTEC, and three have already been secured this year.

This month saw the Squadron gaining further drones for flying upon the squadron. Cadets compete against each other flying these small quadcopters through and around obstacles against the clock. Our multi-screen flight simulator is now fully up and running with instruction being provided to cadets by staff who are all pilots themselves.



2020 marks 80 years since the Battle of Britain and 75 since D-Day. It also holds significant anniversaries for our squadron. The Squadron has always been local to our communities and moved between a number of villages and locations until in 1985 we moved to our current home – a purpose-built HQ at Nottingham Airport Tollerton.



Plumtree W.I.

Lorraine Levell

At our February meeting David Lee came to talk to us about Amish quilting. He was very enthusiastic and informative. I had never heard of the Amish people or Amish quilting. He brought samples of the quilting and suit and dresses about 80 years old. It was fascinating.

Our March meeting was completely different. Canon Alan Haydock presented 'Confessions of a country Vicar'. He was like a stand-up comedian of the old school and was very entertaining.

There was an outright winner for our competition, 'a pretty plate', but five of us got a joint second place. Instead of asking someone to judge our competitions, we vote ourselves by placing a 20p piece beside our favourite item on the competition table, and when voting is completed the 20p pieces are collected and put into the ACWW tin. ACWW stands for Associated Country Women of the World, which exists to amplify the voices of rural women – our money helps with various projects. For example, 250 women from 25 villages in Sri Lanka constructed small vegetable gardens in the back yards of their homes and received seed kits and seedlings. This year the W.I. money will go to a literacy project in Togo.

We had been very much looking forward to hearing our April speaker, Jordan Box, telling us about her charity work abroad. We also had various visits arranged throughout the spring and summer. Alas, all W.I. local, county and national events have now been postponed or cancelled because of COVID-19.

In my next article I hope to be giving you more positive news. In the meantime, if you would like to hear more about Plumtree W.I. do call me on 07539 112 229.

Audrey Johnson

Her friends and acquaintances will be sad to learn that Audrey Johnson died on 22nd March, Mothering Sunday. Audrey was the widow of Philip Johnson, a former Churchwarden of Plumtree Church. She was also a well known local artist. We hope to have a full tribute to Audrey in the next magazine.

From the Registers

Memorial Service

February 14th Clifford Whitworth Gillott

Interment of Ashes

February 28th Jennie Burn Phimister

A Cautionary Tale – *from your Editor*

I'm sure you will have heard the advice to all computer users; "Back up your files frequently". With this in mind, I bought an external hard drive. Not expensive to buy, very easy to use. Full of zeal, I backed up my entire system, unplugged the external drive and forgot about it.

Move forward a couple of years.

Unfortunately, I didn't heed that advice. Three or four weeks ago the image on my screen started flickering and then died. Took the PC tower off to Clifton and discovered that the hard disk was kaput and none of the files on it were recoverable.

I shall not miss the myriad of holiday photos that were stored there, but I did lose quite a lot of material intended for publication in my old school magazine.

The disaster was slightly mitigated by a search of my old e-mails, from which I was able to salvage several attachments, but I shall have some painful explaining to do to people whose data has disappeared. I have chastised myself severely and resolved to back up everything much more frequently.

A Poem for Spring – from Angela North

I go to an exercise class on a Monday and we always finish the session with a poem. I am sure some of you will recognise this particular poem by John Drinkwater.

The Miracle

*Come, sweetheart, listen, for I have a thing
Most wonderful to tell you – news of Spring.
Albeit Winter still is in the air,
And the earth troubled, and the branches bare,*

*Yet down the fields today I saw her pass –
The spring – her feet went shining through the grass.
She touched the ragged hedgerows – I have seen
Her fingerprints, most delicately green;*

*And she has whispered to the crocus leaves,
And to the garrulous sparrows in the eaves.
Swiftly she passed and shyly, and her fair
Young face was hidden in her cloudy hair.*

*She would not stay, her season is not yet,
But she has reawakened, and has set
The sap of all the world astir, and rent
Once more the shadows of our discontent.*

*Triumphant news – a miracle I sing –
The everlasting miracle of spring.*



Our plan was to follow the path of Jesus from his trial under Pilate to his tomb on the Wednesdays of Lent. Such a service took place on only two Wednesdays before all services were suspended. Many of you may have planned to attend one of the services and have been disappointed. Here are details of the fourteen stations you would have visited – follow them in your heart.

At each station is said:

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

- Jesus is condemned to death
- Jesus takes up the cross
- Jesus falls the first time
- Jesus meets his mother
- Simon of Cyrene helps carry the cross
- Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
- Jesus falls the second time
- The women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus
- Jesus falls the third time
- Jesus is stripped of his garments
- Jesus is nailed to the cross
- Jesus dies on the cross
- Jesus is taken down from the cross
- Jesus is laid in the tomb

Final prayers:

Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, may we know your love for us, that in humility, love and joy we may place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Last of all, the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.