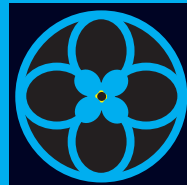


ELMBRIDGE



ELMLEY LOVETT

MARCH



2023

HAMPTON LOVETT



RUSHOCK



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EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to our March edition.

I am sure that over the decades many have wondered what a strange, extraordinary world they live in. Today is no different.

As a human race we are still evolving, becoming more inclusive, open minded and accepting; caring about those who lived in the shadows of our society till not so long ago.

At the same time we are witnessing more prejudice, looking for faults in past literature and art; the absurdity of changing the past and to some extent history, whether it be modifying books written in different times or tearing down old monuments, amending the past to make it politically correct. Wouldn't it be more prudent instead to explain and educate, to show how much society has learnt?

We can agree or disagree, but I grew up in a country where a school's history books did not match the past my parents and grandparents had lived through. We should be very careful. So many headlines today are straight out of 1984.

I came across this quote which provoked my thoughts;

The society that loses its grip on the past is in danger, for it produces men who know nothing but the present, and who are not aware that life had been, and could be, different from what it is. - Aristotle

Marzena Cartwright



Donations 2023

Please help to support our magazine by donating towards the cost of the printing which has risen significantly over the last year.

If you can donate £12 or more for the 10 issues it will help us enormously.

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If you can also email **4SquareTreasurer@btconnect.com** with your name and post code it would be much appreciated.

Alternatively you can give your donation to your magazine distributor, or you can pay a cheque or cash in at the post office using the bank details above.

Thank you.

Richard Cartwright

RUBY TUESDAY UPDATE

Well Ruby Tuesdays was a great success. 12 of us met to write letters to friends, family and those who need a few words of kindness.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were ever flowing as was the ink from our pens and the words from our mouths. You would not have known that most of us were meeting each other for the first time. It truly was a delightful morning. Letters were written to two charities and posted the next day.

We were made most welcome by Lord Lee and his ladies. Very grateful to The Elmley Trust for their donation.

We meet again every 2nd Tuesday of the month 10-12 at Cutnall Green Post Office and stores (Lord Lees Tea Rooms) everyone is welcome, it doesn't matter about your handwriting style or your spelling, just come along we have lots of stationery to share.

You will need to buy stamps for personal letters if posting them. Tea & Coffee maybe £3, although we do have some donations to cover this. Email Donna for more information, Dquinn88@hotmail.com

Hope to see you there.

Donna Quinn 07714 458080

THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTOR



I missed the so called “Winter of Discontent” of 1979 because I had recently begun to teach in a boys' boarding school in Zambia. I immersed myself so completely in that experience that I did not have a radio and so news of events back home had to come to me second hand. I now know that 40 years does not feel very long ago when you reach a certain age and yet things that happened at or just before you were born feel like prehistory. So for me the coronation of our late Queen is just such an event and for those who are now about 40 years of age or younger the industrial disputes that were so much a feature of life over many years are another. For them the current wave of disputes that are occurring largely in our public services must feel very new and very strange.

In the 1990s I was a parish priest in Birmingham and took the funerals of a number of men who had worked at the Longbridge motor factory including some who had been shop stewards and organisers of the many strikes that took place in a factory which, at one time, had about 30,000 workers. One thing that struck me at the time was that many of those shop stewards had done military service as young men and they had all been NCOs, that is the Sergeants and Corporals in the army. Now anyone who has done ever done any kind of military service will tell you is that the good running of the army depends, not so much on the officers, but on the NCOs. It is not too much of an exaggeration to say that an officer is only as good as the quality of his NCOs. The question that came to my mind was this. What had happened at Longbridge to turn a body of men who had been so essential for the good order of our armed forces, some of whom had had distinguished war records, into saboteurs within the motor industry? I will leave you to ponder that question for yourselves.

The point that I would like to make here is this. I heard a distinguished physician recently remark that of all the causes of poor health and early death, smoking and excessive drinking among them, the biggest causes are loneliness and a lack of a sense of meaning or purpose in life. And what is true of our lives individually is most certainly true of our society as well. A society needs to feel a sense of common purpose in order to be healthy. In his letters to young churches in the Mediterranean world two thousand years ago St Paul spent a lot of time addressing divisions and disputes within those communities, and at the heart of what he had to say was that we are one body and that no-one can say to anyone else: “You have nothing to do with me”. We are reminded of this every Sunday in our churches at Holy Communion when we hear the words, “We are the Body of Christ. By the One Spirit we were all baptised into One Body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.” The last part of this comes from Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 14 and verse 19.

So how can we make peace in our current divided country? One path that I would argue that we must not follow is to force people into submission. When you want a nurse to look after you, an ambulance driver to get you to hospital as quickly as possible or a midwife to help bring your children or grandchildren into the world do you want to know that they are only there because they have been forced to be so? Would you not rather know that they are there because they want to be? Or would you want to know that the teachers who have the care of your children and grandchildren for so much of the time are seeing their standard of living cut year on year (an 11% cut in real pay since 2010 according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies) and that you are going to force them to accept this state of affairs?

I would argue that we need to rediscover a sense of shared purpose within our society and a sense that every member of that society matters and should share in the common wealth of that society. We need to keep on asking the question, what is the common good for which we should all strive? It should never, for a Christian at least, just be a question of “what's in it for me?” We all need each other.

Revd Stephen Winter

2023

THE WORCESTERSHIRE SEVERN PARISHES

Service schedule

*Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett, Elmbridge, Rushock,
Hartlebury, Ombersley, Doverdale*

March 3rd World Day of Prayer		March 5th 2nd Sunday of Lent			March 12th 3rd Sunday of Lent			March 19th Mothering Sunday		
2.00 pm	Elmley Lovett	World Day of Prayer	9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW	Elmbridge	HC-CW
			10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First	10.00 am	Ombersley	MP-CW	Ombersley	Mothering Sunday
			10.30 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	10.30 am	Elmley Lovett	MP-BCP	Hartlebury	Mothering Sunday
			11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW	Rushock	Mothering Sunday
			11.00 am	Ombersley	HC-CW				Doverdale	Mothering Sunday
									Hampton Lovett	ES-BCP
March 26th 5th Sunday of Lent			April 2nd Palm Sunday							
9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP	9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW					
11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP	10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First					
			10.30 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW					
			10.50 am	Ombersley Start outside Checketts	HC-CW					
			11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP					

KEY

BCP - Book of Common Prayer
CW - Common Worship
HC - Holy Communion
MP - Morning Prayer
ES - Evensong

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Disappearing crabs, Ghostly Gnats, Stunned Birds and Nature-friendly Gardening

The days are definitely getting longer now with some spectacular sunrises and sunsets at times, although it's still a bit dark in the morning. We have had a further prolonged cold snap which sent the birds back into a feeding frenzy with bird tables and feeders emptying rapidly. As before, the high calorie food was the main target with suet pellets being a particular favourite as they are readily accessible for even the smallest birds to grab quickly and retreat to the hedge. The Sparrowhawk still visits regularly to torment the large flock of House Sparrows that reside mainly in the back garden and occasionally we find a small cluster of feathers as evidence of a small bird disappearing up the food chain!

My Red Sentinel crab apple tree had lots of fruit on it a month ago but has now been completely stripped by a mass band of Fieldfares, Redwings and Blackbirds, leaving just a slippery layer of discarded bits on the path.

There have been reports of Hedgehogs coming to feeding stations in some parts of the UK but I have not heard any reports locally or seen any on my wildlife camera. It is possible that some may have woken up briefly during a mild spell or underweight juveniles may be desperate for food. If you spot any small hedgehogs wandering about they are very likely to die if they are left out for the

rest of the winter so take them into protective custody and contact a local rescue centre. I am happy to help with advice but do not have the facilities to keep them over the winter.



It is still a bit cold locally for Amphibian or Reptile activity although there may be some frog spawn towards the end of March if it is mild. Toads will also be making their way back to their home pond and are at great risk of becoming road casualties as they usually migrate at night. Some areas have toad patrols at mass crossing points where volunteers will give the toads a carry over the road. We do have toads locally and they have been seen, both alive in gardens and two-dimensional on the road in Lunnon Lane and Purshull Green Lane in recent years.

Insect life is very much suspended at the moment although some Queen Bumblebees that have overwintered may be seen out on a sunny day feeding on whatever flowers they can find. They will be

very grateful to gardeners who have grown early flowering plants such as Snowdrops, Hellebores, Pulmonaria and Mahonia. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust would like to hear of any early bees and would appreciate a quick email plus a photograph, however out-of-focus, to identify which species are out and about early. One group of insects that can regularly be seen dancing in swarms in the winter sunlight are the Winter Gnats or Winter Craneflies which, fortunately, do not bite or sting humans. They emerge from larvae that live in rotting vegetation, such as decaying autumn leaves, and form a swarm or 'ghost', that are mostly males. When males gather together to attract mates it is known as 'lekking' and is thought to make it easier for females to find a mate before laying her eggs in decaying vegetation. The swarms are usually seen over compost heaps or sources of water such as ponds and birdbaths and the gnats will die after a few days. Many are predated by small birds and their spent bodies that fall onto water will be cleared up by fish and other insectivorous creatures.

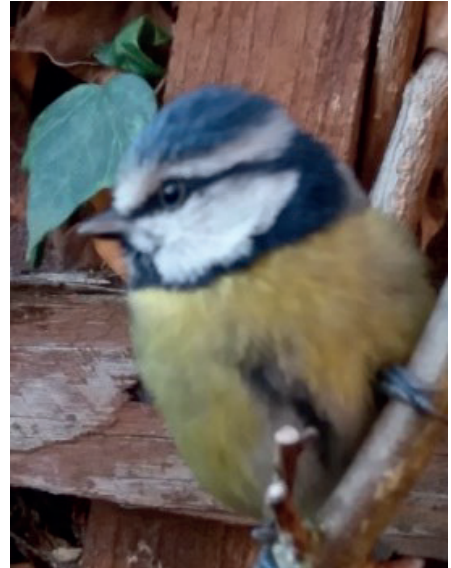


Window collisions

As I wandered back in through our tradesmans' entrance to the back garden after walking Blue the Bedlington I spotted a rather confused-looking Blue Tit sat on the ground by the conservatory. Luckily, I spotted it before it became a feathery snack for Blue, who is partial to munching random wildlife. Having shut the dog indoors I picked the Blue Tit up and, as it appeared uninjured, I popped it on a nearby branch to recover, where it, very helpfully, posed for a photograph before flying away.

Bird strikes on windows are very common and are caused by either reflections of trees and shrubs suggesting a continuation of the garden or the appearance of a clear flight path. Depending on the speed and angle of the collision the bird may get away with just being stunned or suffer a serious injury such as a broken neck.

A stunned bird is obviously in danger of being predated and so will need putting somewhere safe until it recovers. A cardboard box in a dark warm place is ideal and, if the bird recovers, you will often



hear it scrabbling about inside. In this case I would suggest taking the box outside to investigate unless you want to spend a considerable time trying to evict a very lively bird from your house as they may exit the box at great speed. If there is no noise from the box and tipping it gently results in a slithering noise ending in a dull thud the bird has probably expired. Again, I would open the box outdoors just in case it is 'playing possum'. There are window stickers (left) available to reduce the likelihood of a collision or blinds and curtains can be deployed.

Gardening with wildlife

This is the time of year when gardening takes off with a vengeance, assuming the weather co-operates. I know that I am always bending your ears about gardening with nature in mind but, as things in the great outdoors suffer more and more problems, anything individuals can do to help in their own little portion of the planet the better things will be. Given a chance and a bit of patience the majority of garden pests can be dealt with by natural predators. If you have been a chemical gardener until now there will not be many predators in your garden initially as there is nothing there for them to eat. However, the minute that aphids, caterpillars and all the other little beings that share your garden increase in number the predators such as birds, amphibians, ladybirds and lacewings will appear, as if by magic, and deal with the problem organically. Please look very carefully at the precautions on the labels of the weapons of mass destruction in their pretty coloured spray bottles at the garden centre and remember that these chemicals do not disappear but hang around in the soil and your plants for a very long time. A recent study by the University of Sussex found that where Glyphosate,



a component of many herbicides such as Roundup and Gallup, was used regularly in a garden there were 25% fewer birds than in unsprayed gardens.

Be aware of the role that wild plants play in the natural order of things. The humble dandelion, which is regularly attacked by gardeners wielding toxic and possibly carcinogenic chemicals, provides food for a whole range of vital pollinators such as the bumblebee (left). Enjoy the bright yellow flowers and their little visitors in the sunshine and then, if you must, reduce the dandelions' spread when the seedheads form by emulating the Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland's cry of 'off with their heads'

Stop Press: First singing Skylark heard in Park Lane on 6th February.

Terry Green

COUNTRY DIARY - March

March – in like a lion, out like a lamb

The old saying (above) for the month of March is quite apposite given that it's the busiest month for lambing. Traditionally, spring born lambs were sold through the late summer and into autumn, depending on the speed of rearing – lowland farms with quality pasture could fatten their lambs quicker than those on the hills, where some lambs wouldn't be born until April or May and not be ready for a year. Conversely, some shepherds lamb early to produce a small animal for the spring lamb market. How does this happen?

Breed: our local poll Dorset and Dorset horn sheep have the ability to lamb at any time of year and this is controlled by melatonin. This chemical hormone is produced during darkness and therefore most sheep become fertile in the autumn as night-time hours increase, but our Dorsets are related to Spanish sheep where the length of day and night are similar all year round and therefore their melatonin clock is set for those climes.

Dorset sheep can be put to the ram in say, July to give birth in December, wherein the lambs can be fed indoors to meet the Easter Market. Working on a dairy farm in the early 1980's we also ran a small flock of Dorsets that lambed in January. I can still close my eyes and recall the smells and sounds of the lambing shed in the dead of winter, with the warm bodies of the ewes, deep litter straw, wet sugar beet pulp for feed and the background scent of disinfectant.

Some farmers like to ensure that most of the lambs are born in a short time window and to do this they synchronise the breeding of their dams so that they all give birth in a week or so – a busy time for the shepherd but easier to raise the lambs if they are the same age. One method is to 'sponge' them – a small 'sponge' containing synthetic progesterone is inserted into the ewe with a thin string attached; a couple of weeks later it is gently pulled out and the rams added to the flock two days later. Hey presto, they all come into season together.

A sheep gestates for around 150 days and the easy way to work out due dates is to remember that a sheep that goes to the 'tup' (the ram) on bonfire night will give birth on April Fool's Day. So if you keep sheep and want them to give birth on the 1st March, you would put the rams in during the first week of October. To help the shepherd know which ewes have been 'covered' (that is, mated) by the tup he may attach a shoulder harness to the ram which is strapped under his front legs and to which is attached a block of coloured crayon. When he jumps the ewes the crayon rubs off over the top of their tails to show that he has done his work.

With more than one ram in the flock different colours can be used, or the flock-master may change the colours after one 16 or 17 day oestrus cycle to see which sheep have been bred. Once the rams are taken out at the end of the breeding period the ewes can be scanned to see if they are carrying singles, twins or triplets. This procedure helps the pregnancy management of the flock so that those carrying more than a single lamb can receive some supplementary feed if the grass is of poor quality or the weather is very wet. Ewes with multiple foetuses can be susceptible to pregnancy toxemia, also known as 'twin-lamb disease', where the nutrition in their food is insufficient to sustain the growth of the unborn lambs in the last few weeks of pregnancy when the foetus will make 70% of its growth.

As the lambs grow the ewe will supply them with the extra energy required from her own body fat reserves, which not only makes her thinner but the fat itself is broken down in the liver into ketones, which can actually poison her if she mobilises too much fat, as she would if carrying twins or triplets. Therefore identifying ewes with multiple lambs gives the farmer a chance to ensure that she gets a high energy ration.

Soon the ewes and their lambs can get out and graze some spring grass. However, as the days lengthen (so the cold strengthens, as the old saw goes), late March brings the blizzard-white display of the blackthorn and with it, very often, a short cold snap. It's what we call the blackthorn winter and it's a small blip in the gradual warming of spring. The blackthorn of course, is the shrub that produces sloes, so you may console yourself during your spring walks that a good display of blossom may result in a bumper crop to fill your gin bottles in the autumn.

A.J.Selby -Kindly submitted by Barrie Audis



FOR SALE AND WANTED

1. Complete poultry keeping kit looking for a good home. 'The Domestic Fowl Trust' (Evesham) hen house with covered run - suitable up to 8 hens. 8 metre square electrified fence with entry/ exit gate, 12 volt battery and controller in weather proof container. 2 'Grandpas' covered auto-lift seed feeders. 2 gravity water feeders. + plus useful bits and pieces and lots of advice from experience, if wanted. Original total cost when new circa. £1,300. Full kit, all in good condition, for sale @ £140.

Hampton Lovett to view

Tel: **01905 798124**



Please send all of your personal For Sale and Wanted adverts to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER



I am writing this in the departure lounge of Heathrow airport, lucky enough to escape the long cold days of January and fly off to Cyprus for some of February. For quite a few years now, I've facilitated the worship for the Anglican diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf – quite a privilege, and, you might well think, not much of a hardship either! I've been most fortunate on so many levels. Cyprus is a beautiful island, and it is great to be able to travel again.

Waiting to board the plane, I realise once again just how much of a jolt to the whole world the Covid pandemic was, and, in many senses, still is. As we travel and meet and live again, it's worth remembering just how total the lockdown was. Perhaps it is not surprising that we are experiencing such political turmoil in its aftermath. And perhaps it's not surprising there seems to be so

much grumpiness around.

We are learning to be with each other again, though undoubtedly we'd learned the true value of neighbourliness when we couldn't get out. Maybe we also need to re-learn how to do business with each other – how to discuss, how to disagree well, how to live for others. We even see this in the Church, where, for example recently, our consideration of and moves towards affirming same sex relationships have given rise to feelings and reactions I don't really understand. How can this feature so large when the world faces far greater problems and issues?

But I'm here in this airport lounge, so maybe it's easier to see things a bit differently. Stepping back from the fray while others get on with it is my luxury at this moment. So I mustn't judge, but rather learn a little humility as we all try to 'come back well' from the experience of these past few years. But hey, it's time to go: they're calling my flight!

Robert Jones Archdeacon of Worcester

MORNING PRAYER

Thank you for your continuing help with our Morning Prayer services.

The dates for Morning Prayer are as follows: (All are Wednesday morning at 09.15 am):

March

01.03.23	Hartlebury
08.03.23	Rushock
15.03.23	Hampton Lovett
22.03.23	Ombersely
29.03.23	St Mary's, Crossway Green (in the churchyard)

Diana Glendenning



**WORCESTER
FESTIVAL
CHORAL
SOCIETY**

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

COME & SING

SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023

VERDI REQUIEM

Love singing?

**Join our choral workshop to
learn and perform this choral
masterpiece in just one day!**

**St. Andrew's Methodist Church
Pump Street, Worcester, WR1 2QT**

Registration from 9.30am

Workshop 10.15am - 4.45pm

SAMUEL HUDSON CONDUCTOR

GUS COX ACCOMPANIST

TICKETS £20 (adults) - £10 (students)

WFCS.ONLINE

0333 666 3366

TicketSource: Local call rate & booking fees apply



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St Michaels Church, Elmley Lovett

Friday 3rd March 2023 at 2pm. All welcome!

I Have Heard About Your Faith

Ephesians 1:15-19

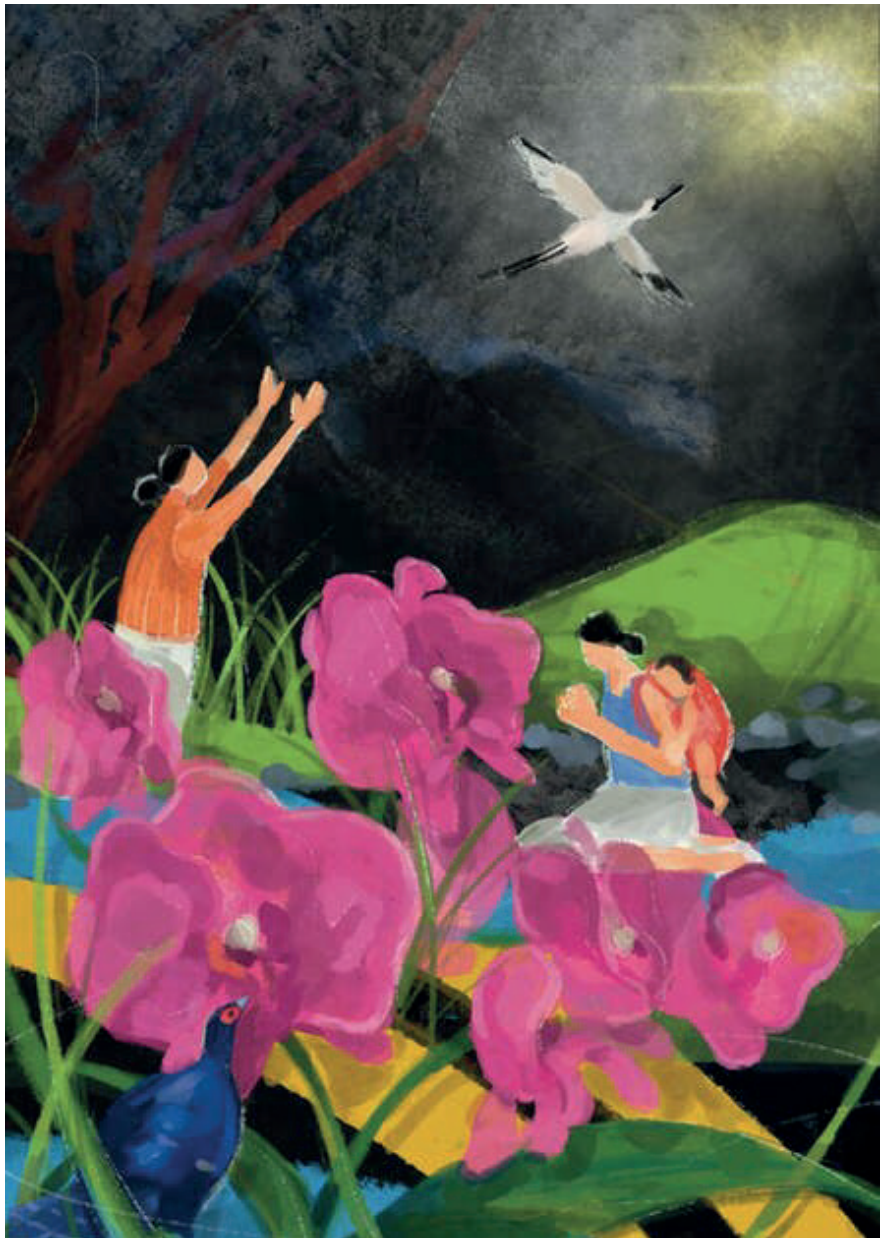
World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

The Program is written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan for WDP 2023.

One of the WDP Guiding Principles states that 'Prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another. In WDP we listen to the Word of God and to voices of women sharing their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.'

The theme of the worship service "I Have Heard About Your Faith," based on the letter to the Ephesians, is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers. Following the example of the letter (1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualizes the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.

Do come and join us at Elmley Lovett on Friday 3rd March.



CUTNALL GREEN AND DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL



Coronation Day Party

To be held in the grounds of the Memorial Hall
On Saturday 6th May 2023 from 3.00 pm onwards

Bouncy castle

Bring a picnic to share

Evening entertainment

Barbecue from 6.00 pm

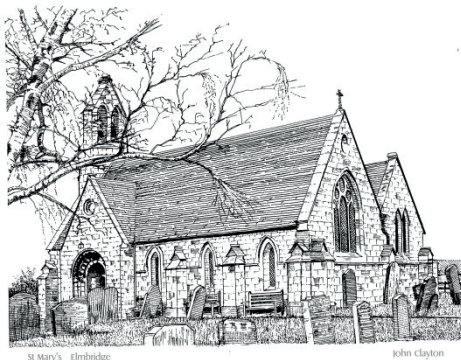
Entertainment by The Fireballs from 6.30 pm

Entrance and Barbeque free of charge

Mobile bar available

Everyone welcome

For information contact rounddj@gmail.com



ELMBRIDGE NEWS

Big Breakfast bounces back

After an absence of more than 3 years due to Covid etc, the Hall Committee's famous Big Breakfast event made a successful comeback in early February, welcoming around 50 people from near and far to a sizzling plate of tasty bacon, sausages, tomatoes, mushrooms, beans and fried eggs, with toast and tea/coffee there in abundance to go with it.

While committee members Max, Kate and Ann were cooking in the kitchen, out front we had Alison doing the fried eggs to order and new committee member Hazel Ferguson taking the kitchen orders and serving to what seemed like a never-ending line-up of hungry mouths. Sylvia was looking after the tea/coffee table with myself replenishing the kettles in between taking the ticket money.

As well as welcoming Hazel, the Hall Committee would also like to welcome Lisa Colebrook on board, who was apparently co-opted while eating her big breakfast! And to extend our thanks to Wendy Walker and Janet Miller, who have recently stepped down from the committee after what must be 20 years or more of loyal support. We thank you both most sincerely. The Committee has finally come into the modern age by creating a WhatsApp group, so handy for arrangements like keeping tabs on the numbers coming, sorting out the finer points of who will buy what food for the event, and voting in our new recruits. Our group is aptly named the Elmbridge Hall Platoon! Shades of Dad's Army you may be thinking? No chance!

Furthest travelled award goes to Andrew and Sandra Hawes; it was nice to welcome them back to the area as they now live in Worcester. They knew about it because they receive the digital version of the Four-Square magazine. I wonder how far it travels these days?



The event was not aimed at being a fund-raiser as such, no raffle, no speeches etc, just a relaxed, informal and friendly get-together for people to catch up with each other over a tasty breakfast and a hot cuppa. Proceeds from the takings (£375) will go towards hall maintenance. Plans are also being considered to refurbish the kitchen, which is showing signs of wear and tear after 27 years of good service since the new hall was opened back in 1996. That'll need more than a Big Breakfast or two!



Robin Wilson



A ROYAL INVITATION

*We can't invite you to the Coronation on May 6th
BUT*

*we can invite you to a
CORONATION LUNCH*

On Sunday May 7th at 12.00 noon

In Elmbridge Village Hall

Note: Numbers will be limited so please ring Janet Miller on 01299851589
to reserve your place.



PAY ATTENTION PLEASE!



FRIENDS OF ELMBRIDGE HOT SUPPER

Friday 24th March

7.30pm

Elmbridge Village Hall

Followed by a fascinating talk on

THE HISTORY OF BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

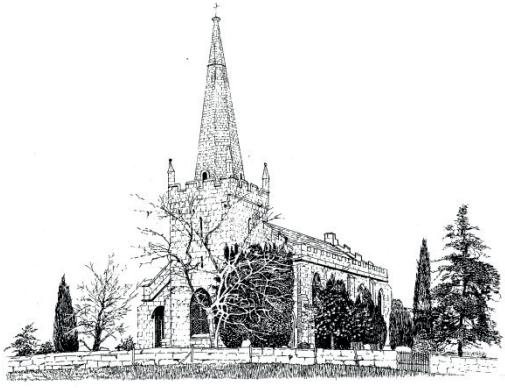
By

Philip Bowen

Retired Master and Deputy Headmaster, with over 30 years service to the school.

NOTE: Because of the local connection of the speaker and his subject, we expect this to be a very popular event so book your place (£15) early by phoning **Chris Gray** on **01299851469**.

BYO Drink and Glasses



ELMLEY LOVETT NEWS

Upcoming services

March 3rd - World Day of Prayer at 2pm

March 12th - Morning Prayer at 10.30am

March 26th - Holy Communion at 9am

April 9th – Easter Day Holy Communion at 9am

Do come along and support your church. You will be made most welcome.

Richard Cartwright

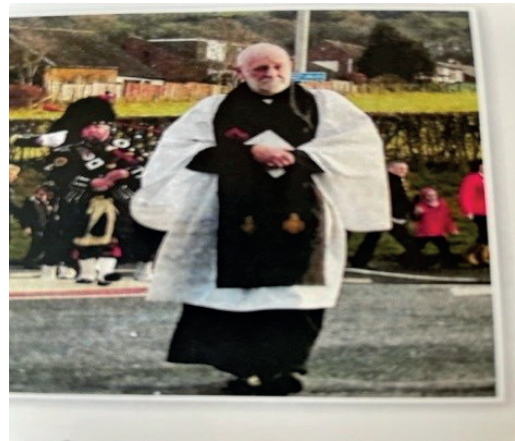
Articles for Elmley News

Please do not hesitate to send in any items you wish to appear in this section. Historical, topical, artistic, seasonal – poetry, photographs, essays, news, all of which may be anonymous if you so wish. Please just email the editor on 4SquareEditor@btconnect.com .



HAMPTON LOVETT NEWS

REV. CANON NORMAN ATTY



On 31st January we said goodbye to Norman at St Mary and All Saints Church, Whalley with a service to celebrate his life. The church was packed with people from all parts of the country and in some instances beyond.

A highly entertaining eulogy was given by Ken Readfern a close friend who had us all laughing and crying in equal measure. He made reference to the fact that he and his wife regularly holidayed with Norman and Christine with one of their last being to North Devon last year. This holiday culminated with a trip down memory lane to have breakfast at Lord Morton's Tea Rooms and join the morning service being held at Elmley. They were apparently late so crept into a back pew to avoid disrupting the service only to find James (who was taking it) recognised Norman and went over to greet the latecomers. Those who knew Norman in the congregation also greeted them.

Following the funeral service the congregation and locals lined the street outside the Dog Inn (which Norman and Christine have run for over 30 years) to watch the cortege pass by en route for Ribchester and a private family burial service. The traffic was stopped as the hearse passed by and everyone gave a hearty round of applause in honour of Norman.

Whilst the private service was taking place, the rest of us filed into the Dog where a warm welcome was to be had along with much laughter over reminiscences of our memories of Norman. One of my memories was of the two of us on the stage at Cutnall Green Hall performing to We're a Couple of Swells suitably dressed as Binmen! I couldn't remember exactly what it was but Eleanor knew straight away as she said it was one of her dad's favourites. Norman also officiated at both the Tomlinson 'girls' weddings along with Alan and Jean (our parents) funerals. Once Christine and her sons along with Eleanor, David and family returned to the pub the stories continued and we were treated to sausage and bacon baps to keep us going.

Norman touched many people's lives, whether it was through his role in the clergy or being a well-respected publican often with a gin and tonic in hand and will be very sadly missed.

Trish Hartley

KENNETH ARTHUR TWIGG



Those who knew Ken well knew what a kind, caring, sensitive, family man he was who was devoted to his wife Shirley, daughters Caroline and Angela and his grandson Alex. I was so pleased he was able to spend Christmas with them all.

Ken lived most of his early life in Quinton and it was here that he met Shirley. After their marriage they bought a bungalow in Bewdley but returned to Quinton after a short time which is where both their two daughters were born and grew up. Ken and Shirley were both confirmed in 1984 at Christ Church Quinton and became regular churchgoers and still attended services there (as well as at our church) after they moved to Hampton Lovett. As well as the church he enjoyed many pursuits including camping, cruising, Crown Green Bowling, cooking, Daniel O'Donnell music and Coronation Street!

Those of us who attended the crematorium service on 4th January heard much of his favourite music and listened to a poem Caroline had written remembering her father. She said he loved apple pie, custard tarts, jelly

babies, Turkish delights and a whisky or two. They sound good Ken. We hope they serve them up in heaven as that is surely where you will be.

After the service more people joined us for the service of Remembrance at Hampton Lovett which was also taken by Revd Rachel Heathfield from Christ Church, her Lay Reader Chris and our James Homer. Many continued to celebrate Ken's life later at St Andrews Hotel in Droitwich.

Mothering Sunday

We wish all the mothers out there a very happy day on 19th March.

A mother will only ever be in 1 of 3 places.

In front of you to cheer you on, behind you to have your back or next to you so you aren't walking alone.



Easter at Hampton

Now that the worst of winter is hopefully behind us we look forward to celebrating spring and Easter. We have no Easter Day Service this year but will have one on Good Friday as usual.



The Coronation

We plan to celebrate King Charles III Coronation with a **Tea Party** in the parish Rooms on the Sunday 7th May. More details will follow next month.

Jeanne Louise Calment (*an inspiration to us all*)

Jeanne lived for 122 years 164 days and held the world record for the longest life. Apparently fate approved of the way she lived her life.

She was born in Arles, France in 1875, 14 years after the Eiffel Tower was built. At 14 she also met van Gogh and in an interview in 1988 she recalled "He was badly dressed, dirty and disagreeable"

She took up fencing at the age of 85 and was still riding a bike at 100. She starred in a film at the age of 114 and had a hip operation at 115.

She gave up smoking when 117 because she had to ask someone to light her cigarette for her once she was nearly blind and she didn't like to be dependent on somebody.

In 1965 at the age of 90 without any heirs she signed a deal to sell her apartment to a 47 yr old lawyer called Andre Francois Raffray. He agreed to pay her a monthly sum of 2,500 francs on the condition he would inherit the apartment on her death. He paid her for 30 years before his death at 77 when his widow had to take on the payments.

Jeanne retained her sharp mental faculties. When asked on her 120th birthday what kind of future she expected to have, her reply was "A very short one"

Here are her rules of life.

I'm in love with wine.

All babies are beautiful.

I think I will die of laughter.

I've been forgotten by our dear Lord.

I've only got one wrinkle and I am sitting on it.

I never wear mascara because I laugh until I cry too often.

If you can't change something, don't worry about it.

Always keep your smile.

I see badly, hear badly and I feel bad but everything is fine.

I have a huge desire to live and a good appetite especially for sweet things.

I have legs of iron, but to tell the truth they are beginning to rust and buckle.

I took pleasure when I could and acted clearly and morally without regret. I am very lucky.

Being young is a state of mind; it doesn't depend on one's body.

I am actually still a young girl, it's just that I haven't looked so good for the last 70 years.

At the end of one interview, the journalist said "I hope we will meet again next year" to which Jeanne replied "Why not? You're not that old, you may still be here!"

A Lesson For us All

A mouse, looking through a hole in the wall, sees the farmer and his wife open a package containing a mousetrap. He is terrified and runs to warn everyone.

The chicken says "Excuse me Mr Mouse, I understand it may be a big problem for you but it does not hurt me"

The mouse ran to the lamb and he says "I don't think I can do anything more than ask for you in my prayers"

Lastly he ran to the cow and he said "But am I in danger? I think not!"

The dejected mouse returned home.

That night he heard a great noise like that of the mousetrap catching its victim. The Farmer's wife ran to see what she had caught but in the dark she didn't see that she had caught the tail of a poisonous snake. The speedy snake bit the woman which caused her to go to her bed with a high fever.

Her husband decided to make her some chicken broth so he killed the chicken to cook. His wife became worse and friends and neighbours came to see her so he was forced to kill his lamb to feed them. Sadly his wife died so he was forced to send his cow to the slaughterhouse to fund the funeral.

The next time somebody tells you about their problems and you think it may not affect you then think twice. "He who doesn't live to serve doesn't serve to live."

The world is not going badly because of the wickedness of the bad but because of the apathy of the good. When someone comes to you with their problems give them your hand or give them a word of encouragement.

May you never lack empathy?



A Lexophiles Delight

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu—the same mustard as before.

Shotgun wedding—a case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead give away.)

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
Local Area Network in Australia —the LAN down under.
Every calendar's days are numbered.
A lot of money is tainted—taint yours and taint mine.
A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.
Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.
Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.
Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
Acupuncture is a jab well done.

And lastly.....

I have just posted a selfie and people told me to get well soon!

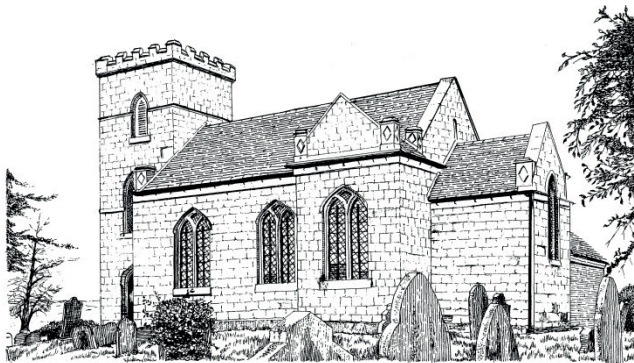
Last night I ordered a wine with my meal and the waiter asked for my ID. I replied "Do I look that young?" and he said "No. I just wanted to see if you qualified for the Senior Citizen Discount."

When I die I want my last words to be "I left a million pounds under the....."

I signed up for a local exercise class and they said to wear loose fitting clothing. If I had any loose clothes I wouldn't have signed up to begin with.

It's a pity nothing is made in the UK any more. I have just bought a new TV and it says "Built in Antenna."
I don't even know where that is.

Margaret Vertigen



RUSHOCK NEWS

Rushock Parish Council

Rushock Parish Council held a meeting on 19th January 2023. Draft meeting minutes will be available on the noticeboard and on the website. Points of interest were:

Highways: Concerns were raised with our County Councillor, Marcus Hart, regarding the state of the verges in Park Lane as there are now considerable drops from the carriageway to the verge in some places. Previously the Parish Council have been allowed to spend our Lengthsman's grant on verge repairs but this has been stopped. MH will be discussing this with Highways along with our request to have control over verge-mowing timings to prevent the unnecessary and expensive destruction of wildflowers in Spring.

Biodiversity project: More Narcissus and tulip bulbs have been planted in the Lunnon Lane orchard and on the Rushock triangle. The first cutting of vegetation in these areas will be in late-July or early August to allow the bulbs to die back naturally and wildflowers to set seed., as preferred by the majority of residents in last year's parish poll.

Footpaths: We have received payment from WCC to cover the costs of clearing vegetation from the some of the footpaths. A dangerous bridge on the footpath between Elmbridge Lane and Purshull Green Lane has been reported to Countryside Services.

Finance: After much discussion it was agreed by councillors to raise the parish precept by 3% due to increased costs. This will increase the Parish Council precept for a Band D property from £43.79 to £45.10 a year.

Council elections: District and Parish council elections are being held on 4th May 2023. Further details are available on the Wyre Forest District Council website.

The next Parish Council meeting along with the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council AGM will be held on the 18th May 2023 starting at 7.30 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and the Agendas will be available on the noticeboard and the website nearer the time. Alternatively, items of concern can be raised at any time with individual councillors whose contact details are available on the website.

Terry Green

Chaddesley Corbett Local History Society

Wednesday March 15th 7.30pm

Voices from the Past

The stories of place names

Mike Jenkins



Mike Jenkins will share an intriguing story interpreting local place names, explaining their original intended meaning, and introducing the people who originally adopted them.

Many of our familiar local settlement names and landscape features will take on a new perspective and surprise you when their true earliest meaning is revealed. A great deal of our history shouts out at us from road signs and maps with place names spelling out industries, families, disease and disaster or the physical geography of the place like our own Hillpool. Place names however can deceive, are not always all that they seem.

The picture is a bit simplistic – but I hope it amuses!

Watch on Zoom

Members unable to attend the meeting in person can watch as it will be broadcast via Zoom. Details for joining the meeting using Zoom will be emailed to members who request this and for whom we have an email address a day or two before the meeting.

Talks held in Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall, DY10 4QA

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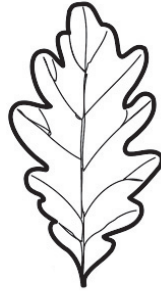


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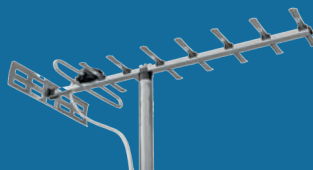
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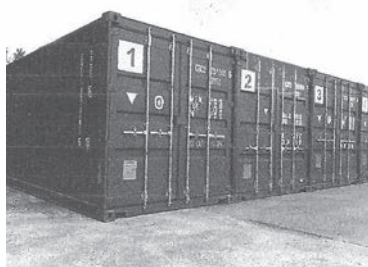
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MARCH 2023

Service schedule

THE FOUR SQUARE PARISHES

Elmley Lovett, Hampton Lovett
Elmbridge, Rushock

DATE	LITURGICAL COLOURS	TIME	CHURCH	FESTIVAL/ SUNDAY	SERVICE/ LEADER	SIDESMAN	READER	FLOWERS	LESSONS
Mar 3rd	PURPLE	2.00pm	Elmley Lovett	World Day of Prayer	Stephen Winter			No Flowers	
Mar 5th	PURPLE	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	2nd Sunday of Lent	HC-CW Stephen Winter	Dee & Neil Cutler	Craig & Lib Nicholl	No Flowers	Genesis 12:1-4a Rom 4:1-5,13-17 John 3:1-17
		10.30am	Elmbridge		HC-CW Stephen Winter			No Flowers	
Mar 12th	PURPLE	9.00am	Rushock	3rd Sunday of Lent	HC-CW Stephen Winter	K Jones	K Jones & L Jones	No Flowers	Exodus 17:1-7 Rom 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
		10.30am	Elmley Lovett		MP-BCP James Homer	Tim Goss	Judy Bromage	No Flowers	
Mar 19th	PURPLE	9.00am	Elmbridge	Mothering Sunday	HC-CW Stephen Winter	Heather Needham & Ann Pugh-Cook	Ruth Yardley & Rachel Wyatt	No Flowers	Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Sam 1:20-end 2 Cor 1:3-7 or Col 3:12-17 Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25b-27
		10.30am	Rushock		Mothering Sunday Service	T Morris		No Flowers	
		6.00pm	Hampton Lovett		ES-BCP			No Flowers	
Mar 26th	PURPLE	9.00am	Elmley Lovett	5th Sunday of Lent	HC-BCP Stephen Winter	Marzena Cartwright	Ellie Cartwright	No Flowers	Ezek 37:1-14 Rom 8:6-11 John 11:1-45
Apr 2nd	RED	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	Palm Sunday	HC-CW Stephen Winter		Colin & Kate Scott	No Flowers	Isa 50:4-9a Phil 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27 or Matthew 27:11-54
		10.30am	Elmbridge		HC-CW Stephen Winter			No Flowers	

KEY : BCP - Book of Common Prayer, CW - Common Worship, HC - Holy Communion, MP - Morning Prayer, ES - Morning Prayer

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