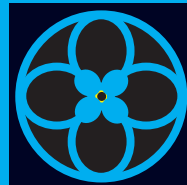
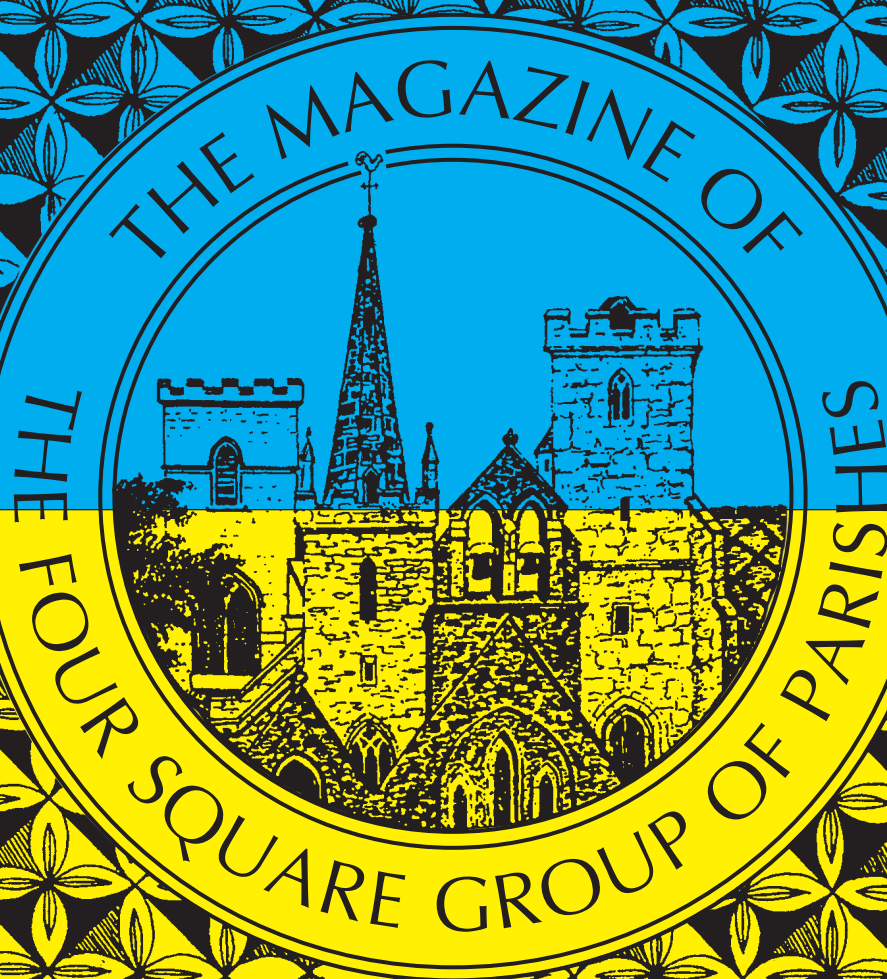


ELMBRIDGE



ELMLEY LOVETT

APRIL



2023

HAMPTON LOVETT



RUSHOCK



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EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to our March edition.

I cannot say how happy I am that we have a contribution from Stephen Owens back in our magazine. It is always such a great read. We will miss him taking an occasional service when we need a vicar, as he has now fully retired. We wish Stephen a very enjoyable, productive and fulfilling retirement.

If you haven't yet had a chance to make a donation to the magazine, please do so if you can. Those involved in its production and distribution are all volunteers. The payment details are below and your contributions help us to continue.

Happy Easter and happy spring to you all.

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.

You can pay **online** using the following details;

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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 to all who have made a donation so far this year. Some were received within thirty minutes of the online magazine being sent out! Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Richard Cartwright

FOR SALE AND WANTED

1. Two Bicycles For sale. Man's Raleigh Ogre and Lady's Raleigh Cameo. Both in reasonable condition but may need new tyres. £40 each ONO. Tibberton

01905 345716

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

THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTOR



I was sitting in the pub a few weeks ago chatting with a group of people, two of whom were farmers and one a farmer's wife, when the conversation turned to the subject of robots. As we talked we thought about the way in which robots were doing more and more of the work that men and women used to do on the farm and in many ways doing it more efficiently. Then at one point one of the farmers turned to me and said, with a sad smile and a resigned shrug of the shoulders, "What is the point anymore of us human beings?"

I did not have an answer at the time but I felt that I ought to think hard about this. I thought back to my own father who prided himself on his skills as a stockman, knowing when a sow was ready to farrow and using his intuition for many tasks on the farm.

I remember his sadness when in his later years he found increasingly that these decisions were being made by computers and that farming was becoming more and more an industrial process in which the relationship between human and animal was valued less and less. Even the Church is not free, it would seem, from this trend. I heard recently of someone who was thinking about ordination and who was told by a young member of the clergy that unless they were computer literate they would be of no use. As if what we need is more clergy spending their time sitting in front of computer screens.

So are we humans going to be replaced by robots? Now there are certain tasks that are probably better done by robots and those are boring repetitive ones. I remember visiting a factory in Redditch once that made springs. I was shown a machine that was doing a strangely beautiful dance that produced a new spring every few seconds. "It used to take thirty people to do what that machine does," I was told, "and every spring they made was rubbish."

But the thing that every robot does is to repeat what has been done before. It is incapable of doing anything new. Every scientist who does achieve something new will tell of a moment, often in a time of leisure, when a new idea simply comes to them. Many call these aha! moments. It is these moments that then have to be tested. Can a new idea be supported by what we can see? Does it make sense of what is actually there? The problem is that those times of apparently useless, unproductive, leisure are getting harder to find. We seem to want our brightest people to behave more and more like robots.

If the glory of God is people who are fully alive then we need to learn how to work with God and to do things that make us more alive and not less so. We only need to think of the success of The Repair Shop to know that real skills are a thing of beauty and how we need more beauty in the world.

So, a little thought to conclude with. Why not spend more time upon enjoyment? I don't mean enjoying yourself but enjoying the world about you. Enjoying the people you know; the air you breathe; the food you eat; the loveliness of the bird that just landed in your garden. Be more fully alive yourself and enjoy the world as it changes around you.

Revd Stephen Winter

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):

April

05.04.23	Doverdale
12.04.23	Elmley Lovett
19.04.23	Elmbridge
26.04.23	Hartlebury

Diana Glendenning

2023 THE WORCESTERSHIRE SEVERN PARISHES

Service schedule

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

Apr 2nd Palm Sunday			Apr 3rd Monday of Holy Week			Apr 6th Maundy Thursday			Apr 9th Easter Sunday		
9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	7.30 pm	Hampton Lovett	Compline	7.30 pm	Ombersley	6.15 am	Ombersley	Sonrise	
10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First	Apr 4th Tuesday of Holy week			7.30 pm	Elmbridge	7.15 am	Ombersley	HC-BCP + breakfast	
10.30 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	5.30 pm	Doverdale	Compline	Apr 7th Good Friday			Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP	
10.50 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP	7.30 pm	Rushock	Compline	10.00 am	Doverdale	10.00 am	Ombersley	Family Service	
11.00 am	Ombersley <i>start at Checketts</i>	HC-CW	Apr 5th Weds of Holy week			12.00 pm	Ombersley	10.30 am	Rushock	Family Service	
			7.30 pm	Elmley Lovett	BCP Compline	2.00 pm	Hartlebury	10.30 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	
						2.00 pm	Hampton Lovett	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW	
								11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP	
Apr 16th 2nd Sunday of Easter			Apr 23rd 3rd Sunday of Easter			Apr 30th 4th Sunday of Easter			May 7th 5th Sunday of Easter		
9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP	10.00 am	Elmbridge	9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	
10.00 am	Ombersley	MP-CW	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW			10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First	
10.00 am	Hartlebury	MP-CW				KEY BCP - Book of Common Prayer CW - Common Worship HC - Holy Communion MP - Morning Prayer ES - Evensong					
11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP									
6.30 pm	Hampton Lovett	ES-BCP									

SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

Sometimes I visit the city of Oxford. The walk through the expansive Christ Church Meadow is always invigorating, with views of the Thames, the meadow and the dreaming spires. If you look to the north, you may see not a spire but a squat tower and hear its bells toll. You can reach it by a path from the meadow, but in the winter after dusk the gates are locked and you need to approach it by walking down a lane, very atmospheric in the dark. It is a cobbled street with old fashioned streetlamps, you pass the tower on the right, and nearby there is a door into the chapel, but it is normally closed and locked. You walk a little further, and pass into the porter's lodge, and enter Merton College.



I go there from time to time because of the pandemic. The recently leaked WhatsApp messages have reminded us of the chaos, fear and trauma of that time. A time when we lived under many restrictions. Our churches were locked. You almost feared being arrested if you drove to Worcester. During this time, and as we came out of lockdown, I began watching services from Merton College Chapel on YouTube. I was struck by the beauty of the singing, by the quality of the streaming, and the readiness of the college to open the chapel for worship as soon as they could, and to encourage people to come. I decided to try and go when I could, and I found it extremely helpful and inspiring.

Having walked through the Porters' Lodge I go to the right, crossing Front Quad and pass into Mob Quad, I am soon at the south door passing into the antechapel. Merton is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford, founded by Walter de Merton in 1264. The chapel was started in 1280s, it was planned to be a large church, but only the Quire and transepts were completed. Now it is a spacious chapel with

a remarkable sense of history with worship having been offered for 700 years. I look up at the imposing tower area above me as I walk into the Quire and take a seat. In winter it is dark at 6.15pm and for this weekday service the chapel is lit almost entirely by candles. The choir enters and Choral Evensong is sung, and my heart is full and overflowing. The combination of the worship with its readings and passages from Scripture, with wonderful sung music overwhelms me with a sense of awe and presence of God.

What would happen if you were there? You might like some of the music, but you might also never want to go to a service like that, and even if you did you might find it all rather antiquated and just rather strange. It completely inspires me, nourishes me deep down, but you might feel totally different.

It is no bad thing for any of us to reflect on what inspires us, what nourishes us in the depths of our being. Some people have a special place they like to visit, and they return there often to renew their strength. For others it is music, poetry, or drama. Many people find inspiration in sport. Others find inspiration in family and friends. I invite you to ponder what it is for you.



As I have written before, I have always been interested in music, and all through my life it has been there in one form or another. I am an enthusiastic believer in the Christian faith, though I know some would think of me as being bonkers for such a view. For me being in Merton Chapel, the music and faith come together and almost explode in my heart. I hope that you too have something which inspires, nourishes and blesses you.

Stephen Owens

Stephen Owens is a retired priest living in Hartlebury and a member of St James' congregation

SEASONAL NATURE NOTES

Geriatric Hedgehogs and Biodiversity

Spring appeared for a couple of days about two weeks ago but we are back into cold weather at the moment with the threat of worse to follow. None of this seems to have deterred the birds from singing vigorously, choosing a mate and making nesting preparations. A male blackbird is making regular visits to



a specific point in the Hawthorn hedge and, as they are early breeders, the female may well already have some eggs. Bird boxes are being inspected and Blue Tits are gathering moss even though they will not lay any eggs for a couple of weeks yet. I hope that my new Sparrow Terrace will prove acceptable to the local House Sparrow colony. We have been getting all our usual variety of bird life in the garden plus the recent addition of a Chaffinch. These birds have been having a bit of a tough time recently with a drop in numbers, possibly due to disease, so it is nice to have them back. Locally there have been several sightings of Ravens, our largest corvid with a wingspan of 4 feet (120cms). It can be identified by its call, which is best described as a huskily delivered

'cronk', and, in flight, by the diamond shaped tail (left). In the Old Testament, the Raven is the first bird Noah sent to look for land, and Elijah is described as being provided for by Ravens. They are also used as a symbol of God's providence in both the New Testament and in Christian art.

There have been reports of hedgehogs emerging from hibernation in many parts of the country but I haven't heard of any locally. If any do appear they would certainly benefit from supplementary feeding with wet or dry cat food. Badgers will have given birth during February and will generally mate straight away although delayed implantation of the fertilised egg in the wall of the uterus will mean that the young are not born until next year. Another mammal which will be having young this time of year is the Brown Hare and the young leverets will be left individually in 'forms' in long grass and suckled at night. Hares have been seen locally but are very prone to disturbance which may lead to the leverets being deserted. The Hare is regarded as a symbol of fertility and Eastre, the goddess of spring (right) was celebrated by the Saxons at this time of year. Eastre evolved into Easter and the Hare became the well-loved Easter bunny which, in its chocolate manifestation, will be readily consumed. Think how much extra chocolate there would be if we still used the Hare with its enormous ears!



It's still been a bit chilly for any amphibian activity and I have not seen any spawn in local ponds so far. If you spot any, Worcester Wildlife Trust would like to hear about it. Hopefully Nature will catch up when it warms up a bit.

Bumble bees have been seen in various places and will make good use of anything that is currently flowering and I have seen them feeding on my Hellebores and Lungworts. If you come across a motionless bumblebee sat on the ground, especially in cold weather, it will greatly benefit from a top-up using a 50:50

mixture of water and white sugar. Offer it to the front end of the bee on a teaspoon or a shallow dish in a sheltered place and allow it time to recuperate. In warmer weather moving it to a safe place on a nectar-producing flower may suffice. If handled gently they are unlikely to sting.

Geriatric hedgehogs

Up until now it has been accepted wisdom that hedgehogs are not generally blessed with longevity. Of all the hedgehogs born last year it is estimated that only about 1 in 4 will be around to celebrate its first birthday due to a combination of accidents, predation or failed hibernation. If they reach this milestone they may last for another 2 - 4 years with only one confirmed as being 9 years old. Telling the age of a hedgehog is not easy unless they have been micro-chipped as hoglets but it can be accurately determined post-mortem by counting the growth rings in the jawbone which mirrors the counting of growth rings in trees.



Recent research in Denmark, which has the same species of hedgehog as the UK, has found one male hedgehog, christened Thorvald, who had reached the grand old age of 16 years. The investigation found that the average age of the dead hedgehogs collected for the study was 1.6 years for females and 2.1 years for males. In this study, around one third of the hedgehogs had died before reaching one year of age.

While it is unusual in mammals for males to live longer than females the researcher, Dr Rasmussen, said "The tendency for males to outlive females is likely caused by the fact that it is simply easier being a male hedgehog. Hedgehogs are not territorial, which means that the males rarely fight. And the females are raising their offspring alone."

Other findings were that: 56% of the hedgehogs had been killed when crossing roads; 22% died of natural causes; 22% died at a hedgehog rehabilitation centre. The hedgehog road deaths peaked in July, which is thought to be due to males roaming longer distances in search of females during the peak of the mating season.

Hedgehog stop press; Two new species of hedgehogs have been discovered in the Philippines. They are soft coated hedgehogs known as gymnures that have been classified as hedgehogs by taxonomists.

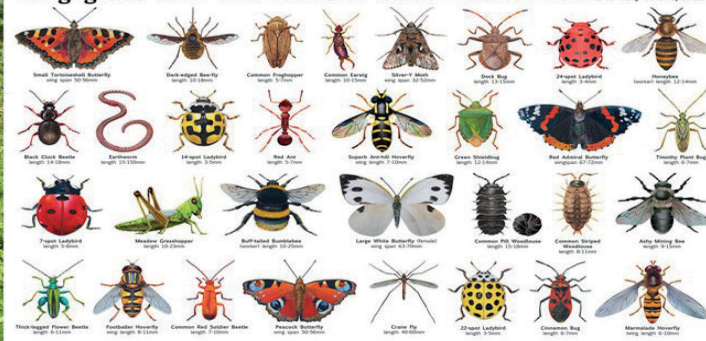
Biodiversity – a measure of the range of species in a habitat



Immaculately mowed 'weed' free lawn. Good habitat for:



Long grass and wild flowers. Good habitat for: (and many other species)



Biodiversity varies from habitat to habitat depending on a range of factors such as temperatures, rainfall and availability of food. Rainforests have very high biodiversity whilst it is very low in Antarctica. I came across this excellent illustration comparing the biodiversity of differently managed areas of grassland.. Apologies to those of you that have the printed magazine and can only see this in black-and-white. The on-line version brings you full colour and a chance to make the text larger.

The Parish Council's management of the orchard area in Lunnon Lane and the Triangle has increased the range of plant and animal species in these areas and, hopefully, will inspire others to manage some of their land to help increase populations of species at the lower end of the food chain. Without a ready supply of plants and invertebrates the more visible animals higher up the chain will not be able to survive. Even a small wildflower patch or area of uncut grass can provide a food-stop for essential pollinators such as bees, hoverflies, butterflies, moths, wasps and beetles. Happy Easter Nature Watching.

Terry Green

COUNTRY DIARY - April

April is a promise that May is bound to keep

April is one of the best months for birdwatchers in the English countryside. As we cross the Rubicon from late winter into spring and the clocks go forward, it's all change. The summer migrants are arriving in numbers now and at the start of the month the trees are still leafless, which offers a great opportunity to watch the new visitors. As soon as they arrive they settle down and start singing, and a good pair of binoculars will help to identify the various warblers, finches and buntings in the hedgerows and woodlands. By the end of the month new leaves will cover much of their habitat and they will be harder to spot.

If you are in the market for some wildlife-watching binoculars, you may be interested in the different types and the number meanings. There are two main types of binocular design: porro prism and roof prism. The traditional binoculars are porro prism with an 'M' shape design and where the eyepiece and lens are not in a straight line. Roof prisms are more like the letter 'H' and the tubes are in a straight line with the eyepiece at one end. This makes them generally more compact and easier to keep in the pocket.

I have a good pair of porro prism bins for serious nature-watching but also keep a compact pair of the roof prism design in the glove compartment of the car for unexpected use. A third type are monoculars – a single tube like a telescope (and very compact), and a larger version of these is the very powerful spotting scopes which have huge magnification and are often used for watching wildfowl and waders in an estuarine environment, or stalking deer in open country.

Most binoculars have two numbers on them such as 8x40 or 10x50. This is the magnification and the objective lens diameter. The first number is the magnification and simply describes how many times closer an object will appear compared to the naked eye, e.g. 8x is eight times closer than in real life. However, whilst it may be thought from this that the higher number will always be better it's important to remember two things.

One is that too high a magnification will make it difficult to find a bird in a hedge as your field of vision will be small – think of looking at a hedge close-up through a kitchen roll tube. The other is that generally, the greater the magnification the heavier the bins and the harder it is to hold them steady.

The second number is the lens diameter and this is where light enters the binoculars. The larger the number the brighter the image will look as more light will help (especially in woodland or if your watching is done at sun-up or dusk), but again, the larger the lens the heavier the binoculars and this is not only to be considered for holding them steady to view whatever it is you are watching, but the heavier they are to carry around on a walk or expedition.

The commonest sizes are 8x and 10x (although some pocket bins are 7x) and from 30 through to 50, so 8x35, 8x40, 10x40 and 10x50. Go to a shop and try some for weight and handling, and ask to go outside to view down the street or across the rooftops. Once you decide on the spec, you may have the option for waterproofing which is a useful feature if you are going to be using them a lot in all weathers. If you are a glasses wearer you need to ask about the eye-relief measurement, which is the farthest distance your eye can be from the eyepiece without compromising on the visible field of view. The recommendation is to look for an eye relief figure of more than 14mm or 17mm for thick glasses. Finally, if you are a serious bird or wildlife watcher and are fairly static in your viewing, consider a tripod to give you steadier observing but make sure that the binoculars have a tripod mount, and also think about the weight of the tripod as it too will need to be carried.

Once you have your bins get out and watch the wildlife. The birds are very busy from now on as they have but a short window in which to complete their summer tasks. Firstly they have to stake out a territory, clear their throats to sing for a mate and once found, start nest-building. When the eggs are laid the incubation period for most of our common finches and warblers is around 12 to 14 days. As soon as the young hatch they will grow quickly but need constant feeding, although the danger is that a brood which hatches too early may want for insect food in a cold spring whilst those that are too late emerging may not be strong enough as young adults for the autumn migration south.

I enjoy watching the sparrows plucking the tufts of grass heads from my pampas grass in the front garden – the reason why I don't clear it away in the winter. They must have comfy nests lined with that! And as I write this on the 18th March, my friend the chiff-chaff is back this morning, a few days later than usual, and as I walked on after a long listen and a beatific smile across my face, a brimstone butterfly flew across me. Spring and then summer really is close to reality in just a few more weeks.

A.J.Selby -Kindly submitted by Barrie Audis

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF DUDLEY



I have recently returned from the Holy Land, where I had the privilege of co-leading a Diocesan Pilgrimage.

The land of Israel/Palestine has long been a contested one, and we were very conscious of current tensions. Scripture invites us to 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem' and that is still needed now. It was a joy to meet with members of the Christian community in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, particularly the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum, who helped prepare and bless the Oil of Anointing for use at the Coronation of King Charles III. The oil was made using olives from the Holy Land and was blessed in the Aedicule (shrine) of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

We had visited that church late afternoon on the first day of our pilgrimage, and most of us found it a disappointing experience. There was a huge queue of people trying to get into the Aedicule, built over the traditional site of the empty tomb, the place of Resurrection; and another long queue of pilgrims waiting to climb the steep steps to the Chapel of Calvary, the traditional site of the crucifixion of Jesus. We were out of time though and had to leave before getting any further.

But early on Sunday, some of us got up at dawn and made our way through the winding streets of the Old City to arrive again at the Holy Sepulchre. Quiet this time, except for the chanting of the Coptic clergy, we were able to ascend the hill of calvary, to kneel and pray before the shrine, and to touch the rock of Golgotha, still bearing the split from an ancient earthquake. We then moved to join the slowly moving queue at the aedicule, the site of the tomb and of the resurrection of Jesus. It is small and you stoop to enter. I prayed for you all in that place.

I had been once before as a parish priest. I'd gone early that morning too and was thrilled if rather overawed to get the chance to enter that 'holy of holies' for the very first time. That time I remember clearly hearing words from Mark's gospel: "He is not here. He is Risen!"

Whether in the Holy Land, or here in Worcestershire or in Dudley, Jesus Christ, our crucified, risen and ascended Lord is with us still.

May the joy of our Risen Lord be with you and those you love, this Easter and for ever more.

Martin Gorick *Bishop of Dudley*

Desiderata

Many of you will be familiar with this piece of work which has been around for nearly a hundred years. It was certainly the go-to lifestyle advice for those of us of a certain age and it was an almost compulsory poster for any aspiring hippies in the late 60s and early 70s. You know who you are - Peace and Love

Desiderata

GO PLACIDLY amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

By Max Ehrmann © 1927

Original text

Terry Green

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

Worcester Passion Play

Good Friday
7th April 2023
10.30am

Cathedral Square, Worcester

For more info, email: janeroberts440@gmail.com

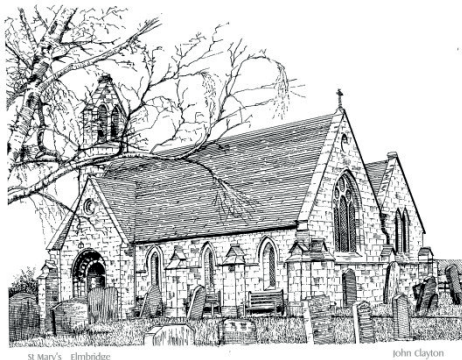
Website: www.worcesterpassionplay.co.uk

Facebook: WorcsPassion

YouTube: [worcesterpassionplay](https://www.youtube.com/worcesterpassionplay)

To make a donation:

www.gofundme.com/f/worcester-passion-play-ltd



ELMBRIDGE NEWS



*EASTER IS COMING AND YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE
DOING*

THURSDAY 6TH APRIL. Maundy service at 7.30 pm.

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL. We need everyone looking at it's best for this special time. Please come and help decorate the church or join our churchyard working party. We start at **9.30am.**

SUNDAY 9TH APRIL. We are celebrating **Easter Sunday** with a Family Service at **10.30am** and we are delighted that the Revd. Julie Humphries will be leading us.



BENEFICE SERVICE SUNDAY 30TH APRIL

We look forward to welcoming you to our 10.00 Service on Sunday 30th April and to having time to socialise after the service with coffee/tea and biscuits.



A

ROYAL INVITATION

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

BUT

we can invite you to a

CORONATION LUNCH

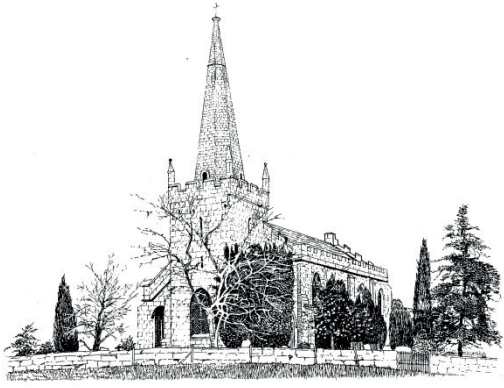
On Sunday May 7th at 12.00 noon

In Elmbridge Village Hall

A welcoming glass of bubbly will be provided on arrival and there will be complimentary soft drinks. Please bring your own wine and glasses.

Let's celebrate our new monarch's crowning!

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



ELMLEY LOVETT NEWS



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year Elmley Lovett had the privilege to host the 2023 World Day of Prayer service. Each year the service is written by the Christian women of a different country. This year it was the turn of Taiwan. Letters of encouragement for women who face suffering and injustice were read out, with stories of faith focusing on issues that are shared by women and girls around the world.

The service was prepared with great thought. Julia Goss kindly welcomed us to her home to plan and prepare this service. Dee and Neil made a Taiwan map puzzle for us to complete during the service. The flowers and exotic decorations added to the celebration. Dee and James led the service and Nick tried his best to make us sing in tune.

Thank you to all who helped, read, brought cakes and joined us on the day. Judy had tea and coffee waiting for us after the service and I mustn't forget Neil lending us his technical expertise to make the microphone work!

We wish Margaret Harper a speedy recovery and hope her knee allows her to be able to come to church soon.

As a part of service we read out this beautiful piece;

"In everyday life we are often frustrated by difficulties, obstacles and challenging situations. Many people are bowed down under heavy emotional loads and are weary of life's struggles. At times, we may even lose our hope and our faith, relying on our weak human nature. However, we are called to keep our hope and faith in God's kingdom and promises.

Today, as Christians in many parts of the world continue to face adverse circumstances, suffering from hardship and persecution, they still need to be surrounded in prayer and encouraged to hold steadfast to their faith just like Paul encouraged the Ephesians. As sisters in Christ wherever in the world we live, we need to keep each other in prayer and be encouraged to keep on whatever our personal circumstances. So, be encouraged, keep on even if progress is slow. Keep each other in prayer and, through prayer, demonstrate our love of God. Have conversations. Encounter God-appointed moments.

It is so important to have encouragers in our lives, people who are there for us when the going is tough. This is even more noteworthy when the Lord brings other Christians into our lives; people who strengthen us in our journeys of faith. Strategic, person-centred Gospel ministry – everyone has a part to play and everyone must play their part.

Even in the face of adversity we need to remain focussed and faithful and align our will to the will of God. For Christians, opposition and difficulty are never far away. Spiritual advancement will always face



opposition but if we, like Paul, encourage each other, the people of God, we in turn will also be encouraged.

In the eyes of God we are not pieces of confetti that go with the wind without specific direction: we are irreplaceable pieces of a puzzle. Just as puzzle pieces were used to complete the map of Taiwan so, despite our different social backgrounds, regional contexts and diverse cultures, we uphold each other in prayer. For those who are persecuted for their Christian faith, we pray that they remain strong and faithful. May all of us live out and share our Christian love and faith in our daily lives."



Upcoming services

April 5th – Wednesday of Holy Week – Compline (Night Prayer) at 7.30pm

It begins *“The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end”*

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning ‘completion’ (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

It is one of our favourite services at Elmley.

April 9th – Easter Day Holy Communion at 9am

April 23rd – Holy Communion at 9am

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

We are praying for a speedy recovery for Julia Goss who is currently in hospital. Julia is a mainstay of our PCC and we hope she can be home soon.

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



You are cordially invited to a

Coronation Tea Party

To be held at Hampton Lovett Parish Rooms

From 2pm-4pm on Sunday 7th May 2023

Tea & coffee and a selection of sandwiches and cakes will be provided but donations of something savoury to share would be much appreciated.

Please RSVP to;-

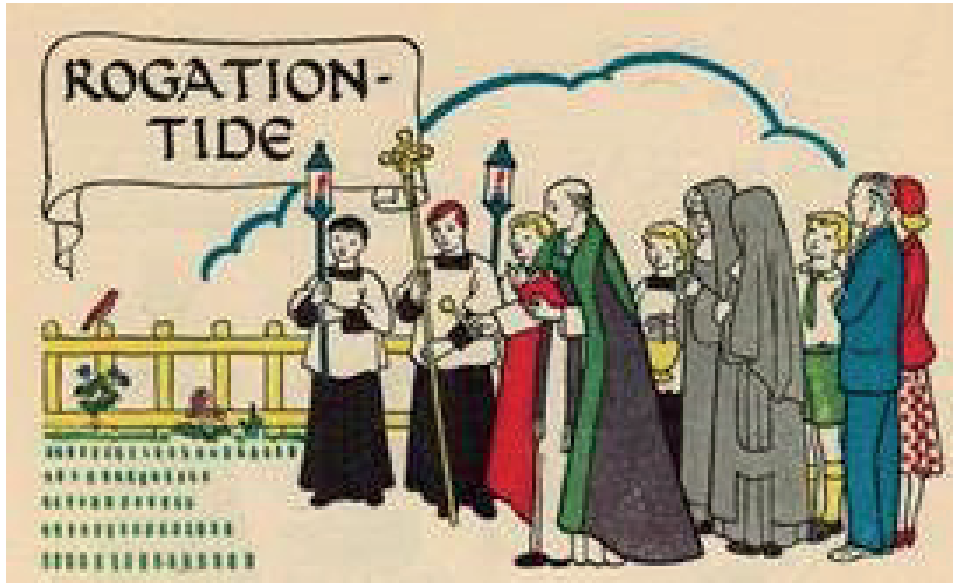
Rachel Wyatt on 01905 779091 rachel@moatcottage1.plus.com

or

June Heaven on 01299 851 452

Early booking recommended

Rogation Sunday 14th May



"Rogation" is connected to the Latin word for "asking," and refers to a traditional time of praying for agriculture. Rogation Days are the three days preceding Ascension Day, especially devoted to asking for God's blessing on agriculture at a time for planting and for all those working on the land and also those involved in industry.



This year by kind invitation of Bill Laight and Ruth Yardley, there will be a **Rogation Service at 10.30am on Sunday 14th May** at their home:-

Stockend Farm
Hampton Lovett
DROITWICH
WR9 0PD

During the service, there will be opportunities to visit various points on the farm to appreciate the views of the surrounding countryside, parishes, agricultural land and other features of the landscape.

Following the service refreshments will be served, which will include Ruth's legendary cakes no doubt!

Everyone is warmly invited. There will be plenty of car parking available at the farm at the top of the drive. Do come and join us.



A Big Thank You

Pete and Jennie Lawrenson would like to thank everyone for their contributions of domestic items for the new flat of their Ukrainian guests, Lesia and Maria, who are now moving to Droitwich after 8 months living with the Lawrenson's in Hampton Lovett. People have been so kind in rallying round with much needed furnishings for Lesia and Maria's future home, and providing transport for the move.

Barbara Thompson



Many of us were very saddened to hear of the death of Barbara on Valentine's Day, only 5 days after her 95th birthday and 3 years after losing her husband Jack. They used to live in Meadow Cottage in The Forest before she and Jack moved down to Buddleigh Salterton to be near their daughter and her family.

Barbara led a very happy and fulfilling life. As a child she lived near the Hawthorn's Football Stadium and from an early age showed an interest in all kinds of sport. At the age of 16 she left West Bromwich Grammar school and went to work for Accles and Pollock where she met Jack who was working on a special Archery bow. Barbara soon proved to have a good eye for the sport and in 1949 she went to Paris to compete for Great Britain where she became the Ladies World champion under her maiden name Waterhouse.

Jack and Barbara were married in 1952. Daughter Kate was born in 1957 and Robert followed in 1963. When Robert attended school Barbara became the school secretary. She took a great interest in her job and knew all the pupils by name. She

always had a wonderful memory.

Barbara was always very competitive whether it was playing sport, card games or scrabble. She became treasurer at the bowling club in Buddleigh Salterton where they were avid players and here her delicious shepherd pies served at lunch time were soon very popular with visiting players.

Barbara coped well mentally living on her own after Jack died but latterly she became physically very frail so decided to go into the "Firs Care Home" where she was very well looked after and happy and mentally alert right up to her death.

We send our condolences to the family, especially to Kate, Robert and granddaughter Fran who will all miss her greatly.

World Day of Prayer

Elmley Lovett kindly hosted this special service for us on Friday 3rd March. It was prepared by the Women of Taiwan. Our service was organised by Julia Goss and led by Dee Cutler, Stephen and James and many others in the 7 parishes took part. A welcome cuppa and cakes were served after the service.

Next year Hampton Lovett shall be hosting the service which will be prepared by the women of Palestine. We hope many of you will come next year to support this day.

People in our thoughts

We still continue to pray for Joan Farmer and Alison Ricketts who are still both in hospital and also all those who have lost loved ones recently. Many of us will have been thinking of our mothers too on Mothering Sunday.

And now a story for all you golfers out there.....

A young avid golfer had a few hours to spare one afternoon so he figured if he played very fast he get 9 holes in before he had to head for home.

Just as he was about to tee off and elderly gentleman shuffled on to the tee and asked if he could accompany the younger man as he was playing alone. Not being able to say no, he allowed the old man to join him.

To his surprise he played fairly quickly. He didn't hit the ball far but plodded along consistently and didn't waste any time.

Finally they reached the 9th fairway and the young man found himself facing a tough shot as there was a large pine tree directly between the ball and the green. After deliberating for several minutes on how to hit the ball the old man said "You know when I was your age I'd hit that ball right over the tree." With that challenge placed in front of him the youngster swung hard and hit the ball up, right smack into the top of the tree and it thudded back down on the ground not a foot from where it originally lay.

The old man offered one last comment.

"Of course, when I was your age that pine tree was only 3 feet tall!"



This Month's Ponderings

Who knew that the hardest part of being an adult is figuring out what to cook for dinner every single night for the rest of your life?

Never trust an electrician with no eyebrows!

A husband asked his wife to bring him a screwdriver. "Flat head, Phillips or Vodka?" she asked.

I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart when I bet they don't know any of his paintings....

Why have we never found a cave painting of a salad?

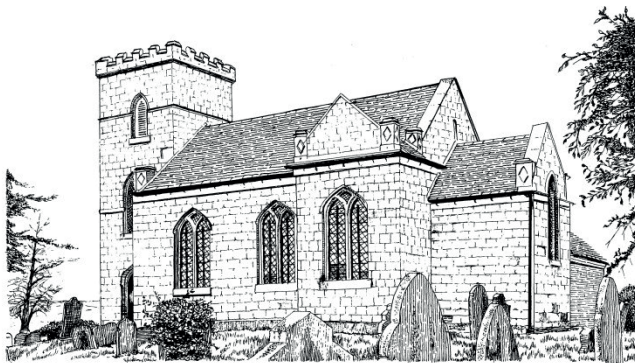
So much to do....no desire to do it.

If supermarkets are lowering their prices every day, how come nothing is free?

And lastly

I don't do much ironing these days but my birthday suit could do with a little press!

Margaret Vertigen



RUSHOCK NEWS



Rushock Coronation Afternoon Tea Street Party

Sunday 7th May 2023

3pm onwards

Rushock Village Hall

*Come along and celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty
The Queen Consort*

Glass of fizz, scones, cream and jam provided.

Bring your own sandwiches, cakes and drinks as well as tableware!

Design and make a crown fit for a King or Queen to be modelled on the day.

Prizes for the best creations



Chaddesley Corbett Local History Society

Wednesday April 19th 7.30pm

A Land Army Life: Women's Land Army during WW2 **By Robin Hill**



Planting fruit trees

Robin Hill, the former Worcestershire County Museums Officer, will be presenting his talk "A Land Army Life: memories of service in the Women's Land Army during WW2" conveying the thoughts and experiences of ladies (many younger than 17) that volunteered to help with the war effort, left their homes and travelled, sometimes to quite different parts of the country, to live and work on a farm. The origin of the Women's Land Army can be traced back to WW1 when women were first drafted in to replace men called up to fight as labour on farms. Were they paid? What skills were they expected to already have? What was the training? What did they wear and where did they live? What happened after the war and when was the Land Army 'de-mobbed'?

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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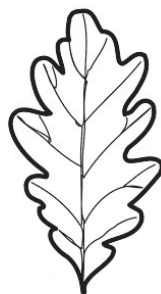


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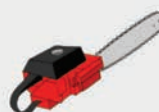
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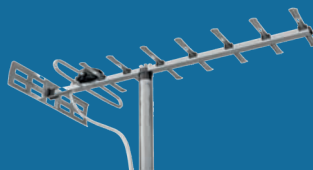
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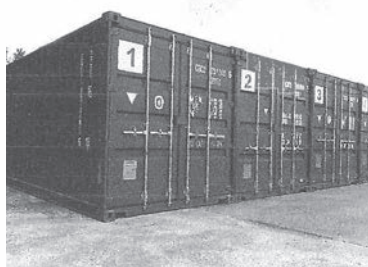
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Service schedule

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

Apr 2nd Palm Sunday			Apr 3rd Monday of Holy Week			Apr 6th Maundy Thursday			Apr 9th Easter Sunday		
9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	7.30 pm	Hampton Lovett	Compline	7.30 pm	Ombersley	HC	6.15 am	Ombersley	Sonrise
10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First	Apr 4th Tuesday of Holy week			7.30 pm	Elmbridge	HC-CW	7.15 am	Ombersley	HC-BCP + breakfast
10.30 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	5.30 pm	Doverdale	Compline	Apr 7th Good Friday			9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP
10.50 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP	7.30 pm	Rushock	Compline	10.00 am	Doverdale	Walk of Witness	10.00 am	Ombersley	Family Service
11.00 am	Ombersley <i>start at Checketts</i>	HC-CW	Apr 5th Weds of Holy week			12.00 pm	Ombersley	Meditation	10.30 am	Rushock	Family Service
			7.30 pm	Elmley Lovett	BCP Compline	2.00 pm	Hartlebury	Reflections on cross	10.30 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW
						2.00 pm	Hampton Lovett	Meditation	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW
									11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP
Apr 16th 2nd Sunday of Easter			Apr 23rd 3rd Sunday of Easter			Apr 30th 4th Sunday of Easter			May 7th 5th Sunday of Easter		
9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP	10.00 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW Benefice	9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW
10.00 am	Ombersley	MP-CW	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW				10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First
10.00 am	Hartlebury	MP-CW							10.30 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW
11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP							11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP
6.30 pm	Hampton Lovett	ES-BCP							11.00 am	Ombersley <i>start at Checketts</i>	HC-CW

KEY

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship

HC - Holy Communion

MP - Morning Prayer

ES - Evensong

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