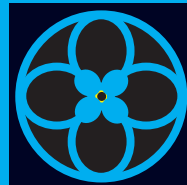


ELMBRIDGE



ELMLEY LOVETT

SUMMER



2023

HAMPTON LOVETT



RUSHOCK



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EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to our Summer edition.

Please don't forget there are both July and August service schedules on the back pages..

I wish you a joyful and beautiful summer and I will see you back in September.

Marzena Cartwright

Donations 2023

If you haven't already done so, please consider making a donation.



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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Richard Cartwright

FOR SALE AND WANTED

1. Free. Child's Cot. Mattress plus bedding if required. Elmley Lovett

07875 312950

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

THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTOR



Ever since I was a boy I have been fascinated by the story of The Sorcerer's Apprentice. At first I heard it as a wonderful piece of music by the French composer, Paul Dukas and listened to my father tell how a young apprentice took advantage of his master's absence to try out his skills by animating a mop and getting it to clean the workshop. All seemed to be going well until he realised that while he knew how to animate the mop he did not know how to get it to stop! Soon the workshop was flooded and the unhappy apprentice took an axe to chop the mop into many pieces. You can hear the chopping sound in the music and then the quiet that follows. But the peace does not last. All the pieces become mops themselves and the soon there are dozens of mops pouring water onto the floor that is now dangerously flooded. Catastrophe is

only averted by the return of the master who restores order with a word. The music and the story ends with the master taking the mop to send the apprentice rolling across the floor. I loved the story and rather identified myself with the apprentice, delighting in his early success and then feeling the horror of things getting out of control before the relief of the return of the sorcerer. I rather felt that the blow with the mop at the end was entirely justified.

A few years later the Walt Disney film, Fantasia, came to our local cinema and Dad took us to see it. I enjoyed the whole film as the Disney animators brought a number of pieces of music to life telling stories that delighted and occasionally frightened me. The highlight was the telling of the story of The Sorcerer's Apprentice in which the part of the apprentice was "played" by Mickey Mouse. Now I had Disney's pictures, as well as Dukas's music in my head. I can still see dozens of mops marching, buckets in hand, and pouring water over the floor. But it is only recently that I have become aware that the great German poet, novelist, playwright and philosopher, Johann Goethe, wrote a long poem that told the story some years before Dukas wrote the music and Disney retold the story. You get the sense in reading the poem that Goethe was drawing upon an older story, something that he also did in his telling of the Faust legend.

Goethe lived at a time when scientific development and the industrial revolution were transforming Europe and then the whole world. His anxiety was that although we might be developing many skills that in terms of the wisdom to know how to use them we were no more mature than the hapless apprentice. I suspect that if he were alive today he would note that the processes that were being developed in his day were gathering pace just like the dozens of mops in his poem but that we have not got very far in terms of wisdom and maturity. As a culture we seem to be dancing around like the young apprentice shouting, "Look what I can do!" as the world around us is covered with the consequences of our clever immaturity.

Not so long ago I listened to two thoughtful commentators discussing recent developments in Artificial intelligence in a podcast. One I know to be a professing Christian. They argued that the genie is effectively out of the bottle and that we are not going to get it back again. I rather think that they are right. If that is the case then we need to rebalance what we understand to be education and, as well as the teaching of skills, we need to teach wisdom and values. I know that the religious tradition that I represent has often behaved fearfully and repressively in the light of new discoveries and developments and I regret this but I still think that it has much to say and teach as a deep foundation for wisdom and maturity and our world desperately needs this in the face of a global catastrophe.

Revd Stephen Winter

2023 THE WORCESTERSHIRE SEVERN PARISHES

Service schedule

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

July 2nd 4th Sunday after Trinity			June 9th 5th Sunday after Trinity			June 16th 6th Sunday after Trinity			June 23rd 7th Sunday after Trinity		
9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP
10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First	10.00 am	Ombersley	Family Service	10.00 am	Ombersley	MP-CW	11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP
10.30 am	Elmbridge	Family Service	10.30 am	Elmley Lovett	MP-BCP	10.00 am	Hartlebury	MP-CW	July 30th 8th Sunday after Trinity		
11.00 am	Ombersley	HC-CW	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW	11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP			
11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP				6.30 pm	Hampton Lovett	ES-BCP	6.00 pm	Ombersley	Benefice ES-BCP
August 6th 9th Sunday after Trinity			August 13th 10th Sunday after Trinity			August 20th 11th Sunday after Trinity			August 27th 12th Sunday after Trinity		
9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	HC-CW	9.00 am	Rushock	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmbridge	HC-CW	9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	HC-BCP
10.00 am	Hartlebury	Sunday First	10.00 am	Ombersley	Family Service	10.00 am	Ombersley	MP-CW	11.00 am	Ombersley	HC-BCP
11.00 am	Doverdale	MP-BCP	10.30 am	Elmley Lovett	MP-BCP	10.00 am	Hartlebury	MP-CW	KEY		
11.00 am	Ombersley	HC-CW	11.00 am	Hartlebury	HC-CW	11.00 am	Doverdale	HC-BCP			
4.00 pm	Rushock	Pet Service				6.30 pm	Hampton Lovett	ES-BCP			

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

FINDING OUR TRUE SELVES

I am looking at the photograph of a middle-aged white man. He is dressed casually, with white T-shirt, maybe a denim shirt and jacket, he is smiling but with a closed mouth. He looks like a real character, with a sense of humour. The photograph is on the front cover of a book, *The Seven Storey Mountain* and the author was Thomas Merton (1915-1968) the American Trappist monk, writer and peace and civil-rights activist.

The Seven Storey Mountain was published in 1948 and is an extraordinary book which was widely acclaimed at the time. In it Merton shows himself to be a gifted writer as he recounts his extraordinary childhood and life as a young adult. During this time, he lived in France, the USA and England. His mother died when he was six, and his Father when he was in his teens. You are with him in all the mistakes and scrapes that any young person can get into. It is full of humanity. Then the emphasis grows on his spiritual pilgrimage, first to the Christian faith as he becomes a committed Catholic, and then as he discerns a call to be a Trappist monk and enters a monastery in 1941. It influenced a great number of people in their own spiritual journey.

I read a short, but fascinating book, *The Way of Thomas Merton*, by the American writer and scholar Robert Inchausti. One of the chapters is about the topic of this article, finding our true selves. Merton had interesting views about this that can provoke thought for all of us, regardless of whether or not we believe in a religious faith. Merton wrote, 'For me, to be a saint means to be myself.'

We are approaching very deep waters here, in terms of thought and theology. So, I am going to keep this as simple as I can to leave something to reflect upon rather than attempting to explain everything, for I do not understand it all myself.

Many years ago, I went to live and work as a church worker in Tanzania, East Africa, and needed to learn Kiswahili. I was sent to a language school and in our first lesson I, and many of us, were surprised. We went into the classroom expecting to see some books or something written on the blackboard. Instead, we just had our Tanzanian teacher sitting at the front, and he spoke to us in Swahili. We had to listen, and we had to mimic. If we were to learn the language that is what we had to do. Mimic words, phrases and styles of language in our new location.

Mimicry is part of learning and life. At a deeper level we can mimic characteristics, qualities, and gifts that we see in others and want them in our own lives. This is good. But there is a danger. The things that we mimic, maybe that we envy in others, become too much part of our identity. To impress others, to live out a role in our work or family life, we play a part rather than find our true selves.

It is good to learn from others, so we will indeed imitate someone's example. The problem is when we try to become someone else, to take on their identity as it were. Likewise, we all know that within us our human nature prompts us both in good and bad directions. We need to be the best person that we can be, so we will need to try and follow the things that inspire good within us.

Thomas Merton as a monk used contemplation and prayer as he tried to focus on God. In doing this he attempted to find his true self, pondering upon the presence of the God of love and mercy working within him. The interesting thing is that as he entered the monastery, Thomas Merton the writer entered as well. His true identity seemed to include the work as a writer, and he continued to write all his life. Others will seek to find their true selves in other ways.

'For me, to be a saint means to be myself'. We are all different and need to find our true selves, taking inspiration from others. It is sad if we lose our way in this. Something for us all to ponder including myself, a retired vicar. Be yourself!

Stephen Owens

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

SPRING / SUMMER UPDATE - Verges, Wizards, Doorsteps and Meandering Moles

Spring has definitely arrived now with long sunny days even if it does go a bit cooler at night. On the downside we have not had any rain since just after the Coronation and it's starting to get very dry now which will affect crops, gardens and wildlife. When the Swallows first arrived there was plenty of mud available for nest building but muddy puddles are a bit hard to find at the moment. Garden birds have been breeding well; a nestbox full of Bluetits and the first batch of Swallows from the alley at the side of our house have fledged. We are also regularly visited by a squadron of speckled adult and brown juvenile Starlings which can empty a bird table in a matter of minutes.



A female Blackbird, with a distinctive bald patch on the back of her head, pursues us for a supply of dried mealworms every time we go out into the garden and follows our neighbour when he is gardening in the hope of finding worms. The bird table also indirectly feeds the local Sparrowhawks as can be seen from the cluster of feathers found on the lawn from time to time.

Goldfinches are pairing up now and young House Sparrows can be seen pestering their parents for food with their crouching and rapid wing flapping. I was pleased to see a House Sparrow emerging from my birthday sparrow terrace nest box which was only put up in March and we have a lot of youngsters to join our local flock.

I haven't seen any evidence of mammals in the garden apart from the occasional mouse on the bird feeders and a marauding Grey Squirrel. There have been no signs of Hedgehogs locally although there have been reports elsewhere which suggest that breeding started earlier this year.

Tadpole development seems a bit slow although it may speed up as the temperature increases. Numbers have fallen a bit but they are prone to predation and Blackbirds may pick off some.

There are lots of bees about at the moment which, in my garden are currently feasting on Rowan blossom, Chives, Catmint, Welsh Poppies, Calendula and any flowering wild plants. There have been reports on Twitter about a lack of insects in some areas but there seem to be plenty about around here. Butterflies have also been putting in an appearance and research has shown that gardens can be very good for them. A cluster of Garden Spider eggs appeared on a Star Jasmine leaf. It was fascinating to follow their development until they hatched. Initially the spiderlings stayed together but eventually dispersed and will probably be found indoors in due course!

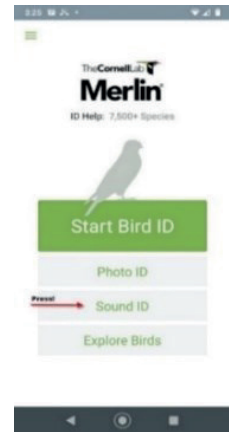


Road verges

On the subject of insects, roadside verge plants provide an excellent habitat for insects to feed and breed particularly in Spring and early summer. We have often asked Worcestershire County Council, who claim to be a pollinator-friendly county, to cut our verges later in the year but to no effect until now. This year some residents took direct action by persuading the tractor driver to leave the verges alone and e-mailing the WCC Cabinet Member for Highways, Mike Rouse. A standard reply was sent out and I responded, initially querying some of the statements in the reply and explaining what we were asking for to see if there was anything that could be done. Possibly the pictures I sent of wildflowers in the verges helped to convince Mike that we had a case and he agreed to get officers to look into our request. I had a constructive meeting with our local Highways engineer and Marcus Hart, our County Councillor, on 17th May and we are looking at ways that we can routinely have a later cut in June. There would appear to be some hurdles to overcome to achieve this but the Parish Council will stand up for the pollinators and will do its best to persuade WCC to do their bit. Hopefully we can avoid having to stage a sit-in on the verges or gluing ourselves to tractors to achieve our aims!

Merlin – a Wizard App

I have recently become aware of a new free app which may have been named after the wizard or the bird of prey. It has been devised by Cornell University and can be set up to identify British birds by either their appearance or their song. I have only used it to identify bird song so far and have found it very effective. In a 10-minute morning walk in fields by Clattercut Lane it picked up a total of nine species. As a bird song is identified its name is added to the on-screen list and, if the bird is heard again, the species name is highlighted. All the bird song is recorded so that it can be listened to again. If you can get a reasonable photo it will identify the bird. There is a lot more species-specific information on the app which can help to identify birds by sight if you cannot get a photograph suitable for visual ID. The only drawback is that the app needs 1 Gb of storage on your phone.



Birds on your doorstep

The British Trust for Ornithology regularly monitor bird populations and a recent data study suggests that there are 73 million fewer breeding birds in the UK than there were in 1970. Using historic data from a range of sources may affect the results but I am sure all of us are aware that bird numbers, particularly of some species have dropped. You can check your local area using BTO's 'Birds on Your Doorstep' where entering your postcode will give a summary of species in the area. It indicates that Rushock has lost 11 breeding species since 1970 including Woodcock, Nightjar, Turtle Dove and Nightingale. A further 28 species have declined since 1990 including Lapwing, House Martin, Green Woodpecker and Song Thrush although some of the declining species such as Starlings, House Sparrows and Jackdaws are making a recovery. Buzzards, Swallows, Long-tailed Tits and Goldfinches are among the 9 species that are increasing in number with a further 5 new breeding species including Raven, Peregrine Falcon and Reed Warbler. Various factors will have affected the birds over the time span including draining of wet fields, increased traffic, changes in farming practice such as autumn planting of crops, loss of set-aside land, an increase in chemical usage by farmers to meet a rising demand for food and excessive use of toxic chemicals in gardens which reduces the natural food available for birds. The concept of 73 million birds disappearing gives a 'Shock Horror' headline but I personally find it hard to visualise and feel that regular annual updates showing gains and losses would stimulate more interest and encourage more action on a local basis. If it looks like an improvement can be made more people may be encouraged to take part. We can all play our part in helping our local bird life by both doing (nest boxes, providing food and water) and not doing (garden chemicals, excessive garden tidiness). The Merlin App shown above should make it easier to relate to the birds in your area although they will, rather unhelpfully, be singing less at this time of year.

A Strolling Mole

I was wandering down Park Lane with my faithful pooch, Blue, the other afternoon when I spotted something small and black meandering along the side of the road. As I got nearer, I realised that it was a Mole which was at serious risk of becoming 2-dimensional. Persuading it to go onto the verge and through the hedgerow was a bit of a challenge as I also had to ensure that Blue didn't make a snack of it. Thankfully the driver of a Jeep which came down the lane at that point was happy to stop and wait while I



achieved my mission and the Mole disappeared into the adjacent field. Young Moles can often be found above ground as they disperse at this time of year and, a few years ago, I saved one that was being attacked by Magpies. If you come across one take the opportunity to have a good look at the enormous shovels that are its front paws and feel the genuine moleskin coat before putting it in a safe place. Just be a bit careful of the pointed end as they can give you a bit of a nip.

Finally, Stephen Winter, in his Message for Trinity Sunday, discussed the functions of the brain's hemispheres. I am sure that taking notice of and viewing the natural world is very left hemisphere and will make your heart sing if you only give it a chance. All you need is a comfy chair in the shade.

Enjoy your summer.

Terry Green

COUNTRY DIARY - July

"Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." Sam Cooke

My evening walk usually takes me by the river Shreen and through a damp, scrubby piece of ground known locally as 'Frog Hollow'. It's barely a quarter of an acre and has the benefit of a raised gravel path around the edge, most useful in winter as it is called Frog Hollow for a reason; it's wet. During the dark months water lies in little pools of rough, reedy ground and in spring the biggest of these pools are full of frog spawn.



However, there is a dramatic change once spring turns to summer; when the hollow starts to dry up the place is transformed with an explosion of flowers and birdsong. On one side is a patriarchal ash, a majestic tree that shadows the hollow, and around it helping to enclose the area are blackthorn, hawthorn and elder. As the blackthorn fades in April so the may trees fill the space with white blossom and scent, followed again by the elder in June, some of it intertwined with honeysuckle, whose aroma I never tire of. The far side is a riot of tumbling dog rose and at a lower level the hedge banks are covered in stitchwort, vetch, knapweed, fleabane, wild carrot and ox-eye daisy, and for a few short weeks in early summer, marsh orchids in a shady, damp spot.

From early May to the end of June, as I write this, I am serenaded every evening by a song thrush who belts out his wonderful repertoire from a high branch of the ash. This bird has a remarkable range and a song of such beauty and variation that I can't help thinking that were it only found in other climes, bird watchers would travel far to listen to its song. As it is, he sings his heart out without pause and yet many a dog walker trundles past without stopping to listen to this magnificent entertainment, completely oblivious to the nature all around them.



Not only does my song thrush entertain me but there are usually chaffs and blackcaps singing from the high branches and Jenny wren lower down in the scrub: what a remarkable bird is the wren, weighing just a third of an ounce, 9g, it belts out a tune far louder than its little body ought to be capable of. Add in robins, blackbirds, tits of many kinds, chaffinches and goldfinches and even fieldfares and redwings in winter feeding on the haws, it becomes apparent that little oasis's like this are very important for wildlife.

From June through to August there are butterflies aplenty with skippers, meadow browns, commas and gatekeepers, and numerous dragonflies and damselflies. An entomologist would doubtless find many types of beetles, flies and other insect life in this small but valuable ecosystem. It's just a relatively tiny area but ecologically important, as are many other places around the country that appear to be just waste ground. We need to hang on to all of these wild areas as so many larger ones are being destroyed.

And so the midsummer sun has crossed the Rubicon and slowly, imperceptibly at first, the nights and mornings will start to creep in. The warmth of July and August negates this feeling of the advancing year as the land and sea have warmed up and retain some residual heat into the night. I just love these long summer evenings in July when you can sit outside and have a conversation with friends and family sharing a drink or a bite to eat, watching the bats flit around and the last sweep of the house martins and swifts silhouetted against the first twinkling stars as darkness falls.

It's a great time for nature watching too, be it on a heath looking for the elusive nightjar, by a pond listening to the frogs, or in woodland where the senses are sharpened by the call of an occasional night bird and an unknown animal rustling in the undergrowth. Deer, badgers and foxes are all abroad in the evenings along with many smaller mammals, making the most of the cover of darkness. Summer smells different too, and changes with the passing of the month – there are still scents of sweet cicely, honeysuckle and elder at the start of the July but once August arrives plants are starting to look tired, flowers are fading and the countryside falls silent as migrants feed up for a long journey ahead. Enjoy the season before it's time to hunker down again; as we get older time passes too quickly. Hopefully I shall see my song thrush again next spring.



A.J.Selby -Kindly submitted by **Barrie Audis**

LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF WORCESTER



The importance of a long-term view

Up and down the country there are great houses set in beautiful parkland, some of them designed by Capability Brown and others of his time. Here and there you will see avenues of oaks, planted by people who knew they would never live to see them grow to their full stature.

Our cathedrals and great churches are the same: begun by people who knew they would never live to see them finished. Saint Wulfstan began the beginning of the present cathedral at Worcester in 1084, and the final dedication took place 134 years

later, on 7 June 1218. Theirs was a patient age, content to think that the future, because it was in God's hands, was quite out of their own reach.

We live in a less patient, less faithful, less hopeful age. Short-termism is the bane of so much political and economic activity. There is always an eye on the next election or the next renewal of contract. This does not help society address the longer-term issues that face us all.

One of the tasks of the Church (which is a very long-term project indeed) is to remind society of the need to believe in the future, to believe that it is worth our while building a better world, not for ourselves, but for those who come after us.!

Peter Atkinson Dean of Worcester,

MORNING PRAYER

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

July

05.07.23	Hampton Lovett
12.07.23	Ombersley
19.07.23	St Marys, Crosway Green
26.07.23	Doverdale

August

02.08.23	Elmley Lovett
09.08.23	Elmbridge
16.08.23	Hartlebury
23.08.23	Rushock
30.08.23	Hampton Lovett

Diana Glendenning

CUTNALL GREEN AND DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL



CUTNALL GREEN COFFEE MORNING

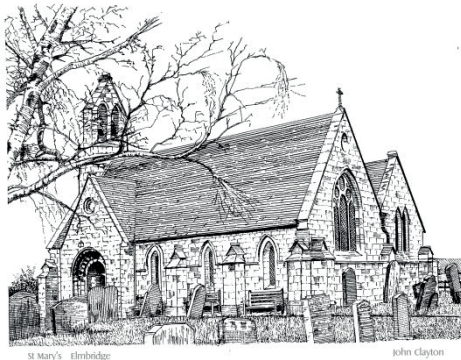
At

Cutnall Green and District Memorial Hall

To be held on
Thursday 21st September
At 10.30 am until noon
Coffee, tea and biscuits
£2 per head

Everyone welcome

To be followed up by monthly meetings on the 3rd
Thursday of the month. Make a date in your diaries



ELMBRIDGE NEWS

JOB DONE!

Thanks to some incredibly hard work by our two 'stonemasons', Geoff Stone and Rob Carr the much needed work on the church wall is now finished.

The hardest part of the job was in the rear corner nearest Fiona's Broomfield's cottage where the wall was covered in ivy, bulging and very near to collapsing. Total rebuild was necessary here – not easy considering the wall was over eight feet high at this point. Because of the height, an extra internal block wall had to be built to take some of the pressure off. In addition a considerable amount of repointing had to be done.

Our sincere thanks go not only to Geoff for the very professional job he's done but also to Rob Carr for giving so much of his time and energy to help. In addition our thanks also go to Max and Bob Needham who were 'borrowed' now and again to help with the lifting of some of the heavier stone blocks which weighed well over two hundredweight. Altogether, the job took about five weeks and although it took three tons of gravel, two tons of sand, twenty two bags of cement and a week's hire of a mixer the job still came in within budget.

Again, very many thanks to all involved.



Job to be done



A good team



Stonemason Geoff Stone



Near the end



A tricky corner



The finished job

OVERBURY COURT GARDENS



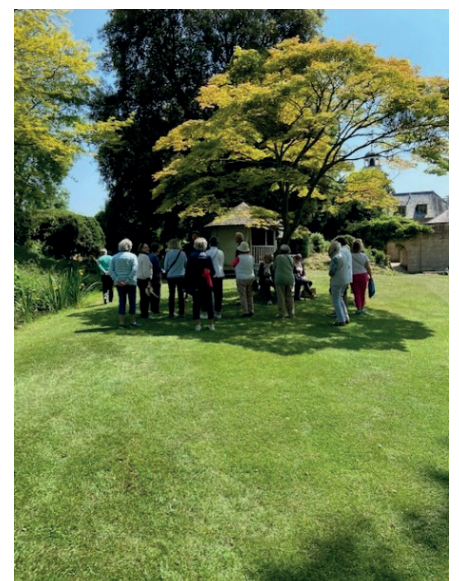
On a beautiful summers day about twenty of us enjoyed a wonderful morning tour of the gardens of this period house near Pershore on the edge of Bredon Hill.

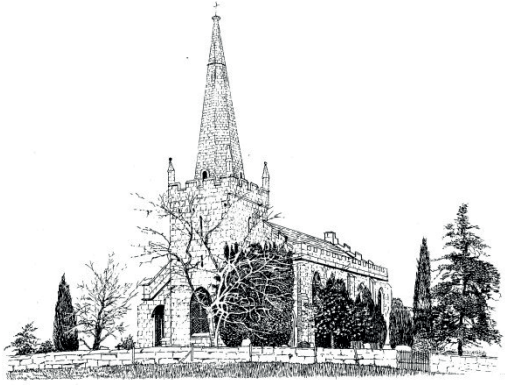
Home to the Martin family (of banking fame) since the early 18th Century the estate comprises some 5,000 acres and a number of cottages within the surrounding villages.

A Grade II listed building, it is built in two storeys of golden ashlar faced Cotswold stone.

With the sun shining and red kites flying overhead we were led round the beautifully manicured gardens by the head gardener Harry Green. There were 28 gardeners employed in the 18th century – now reduced to 4 and these (with a little help from an automatic mower!) keep the lawns and gardens immaculate. We saw stone terraces, walled garden, vegetable gardens, a pictorial meadow garden, tulip trees and some of the tallest plane trees in the country standing some 50 metres high. The estate and village have their own water supply and a stream winds its way from a grotto over vast lawns, falling gently into pools before disappearing underground.

Altogether it was a wonderful experience on a beautiful day. The majority of the party ended up in Beckford to enjoy some delicious refreshments. Thank you, Carol and Tony Lloyd, for organising such a memorable morning.





ELMLEY LOVETT NEWS

Our Church Needs You!

We are raising money for building work including underpinning the porch and vestry to stop it moving away from the tower.

Therefore, the PCC would like to invite you to the Elmley Lovett fundraising dinner with Entertainment and more

on

Saturday, 26th September

7pm for 7.45pm

at

Cutnall Green Memorial Hall

There will be plenty of bubbles and canapes on arrival.

Dinner, kindly donated by Lord Lee, is a choice of;

Chicken in a Local Honey and Whole Grain Mustard, Panache of Vegetables and New Potatoes
or

Tagine of Root Vegetables in Honey, Garlic, Ginger, and Mustard

accompanied by a half bottle of wine.

Followed by Pudding, Cheese Board and Port

Carriages at 10.30pm-11pm

Tickets at £30pp available from the Post Office, Nick 07968 531216 and Marzena 07775 800186

Come and join us for an evening of great food and fun and help us to make our church whole again!



HAMPTON LOVETT NEWS

Rogation Sunday

As promised last month, here are some photographs taken by various attendees at our special service which was hosted at Stockend Farm by Ruth and Bill and led by the Rev Stephen Winter.

The service was attended by over 40 adults, plus several children and young animals. Readings and prayers were said for the livestock, orchard, villages, fields and the churches and Nick Wright provided us with music accompaniment for our hymn singing.

At the orchard site an apple tree donated by David Farmer was planted and then blessed by Stephen.

After the service people enjoyed refreshments, a walk around Ruth's lovely garden and a chance to purchase plants which Sophie Maiden had helped to grow. She raised over £30 for Cutnall Green School. Well done Sophie!

Thank you to everyone who took part in this lovely service, brought their animals or just took part. We hope you all enjoyed it.



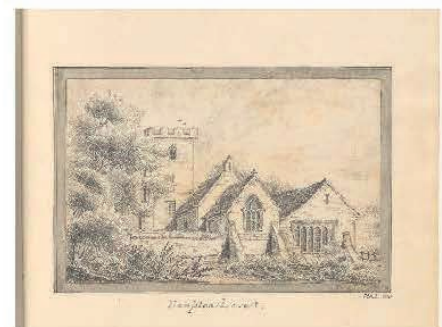




Creativity Unwrapped
Hampton Lovett Church
Saturday 9th September 2023
10.00am – 4.00pm

The theme of the 2023 national Heritage Open Days programme is 'Creativity Unwrapped'. Please come along and help us in celebrating examples of the creative spirit of Hampton Lovett through the ages. Exhibits, displays and demonstrations will include:

- *Renowned sculptors and their works*
- *A demonstration of stonemasonry*
- *The works of a local artist – blacksmith*
- *The secret works of a 17th century writing group*
- *Local craft pottery*
- *The artist's view of the church*



Have a wander around and learn about our wider heritage and discover what is currently going on in the tower!

Coffee, tea and cakes as well

WC Parking Nearby



Hampton Lovett Parochial Church Council (PCC) are delighted that thanks to National Lottery Players we have got funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This grant together with funds from The Hampton Lovett Trust and funds raised by the PCC means that our two-year project 'If These Walls Could Talk ... Revealing Secrets at Hampton Lovett Church' is now underway. The project involves major work to repoint and conserve the tower and to improve access to this part of the church as well as a range of activities and experiences to encourage many more people to visit and engage with the church and our local community heritage.



The contractor Midland Conservation Ltd started the repair and conservation work to the tower at the end of May and this will continue into the autumn. They have opened up the original door to the tower located in the SW corner of the nave, levelled the ground by the existing external door and started the big task of repointing and repair to stonework.

Alongside work to the fabric of the building, the PCC has started planning activities which are funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant. These include the following;-

Monday 17th July 10am-4pm Lime Mortar Skills Workshop

Midland Conservation Ltd is running a lime mortar workshop at the church, with introductions and refreshments taking place at Hampton Lovett Parish Rooms.

Following a talk on the theory behind the use of lime mortar, participants will be able to take part in a practical hands-on session, including some repointing at the church.

Safety glasses, gloves and a pointing iron will be provided as well as hot/cold drinks and a light lunch. Participants should wear sturdy footwear.

There is no charge for this session but places must be pre-booked.

If you would like to attend please contact Rachel Wyatt: rachel@moatcottage1.plus.com or 01905 779091 or Jerry Hartley: froxmerehartley@btinternet.com or 01905 381990

Friday 18th August 10am - c12 noon Scaffolding Tours

On Friday 18th August between 10am to approx. 12 noon, Midland Conservation Ltd will run 2 short scaffolding tours. Various organisations have been invited to attend but we hope to have a few spaces available for other interested parties. Please let Rachel or Jerry know (contact details above) if you are interested in attending one of these tours. Participants must have a good level of fitness, including a 'head for heights'. Hi-Viz jackets and hard hats will be provided and again participants should wear sturdy footwear.



Saturday 9th September 10am - 4pm 'Creativity Unwrapped'

Please see our separate poster but just to say we are looking forward to hosting another Heritage Open Day at the church when we will celebrate the creativity of local artists and crafts men and women from the past and present day.

A stonemason will demonstrate some of the skills and techniques used in and around the church over the centuries, including during the current work on the tower.

There will be displays featuring the work of a local potter; of artefacts made by Alan Knight the great artist-blacksmith who worked in Hampton Lovett plus information about Joshua Marshall, the 17th century English 'master' mason and sculptor who created the recently restored Henry Hammond Monument.

To thank Lottery players whose support has made the grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund possible, we will give a small gift to any visitor who brings a current lottery ticket with them.

And of course we will be serving hot/cold drinks and delicious cakes created by our wonderful supporters and volunteers.

Just a reminder of some other forthcoming events during the summer and early autumn

Services will continue in church for the duration of the repair work.

Our Harvest service is at 6pm on Sunday 17th September.

Hampton Lovett's Harvest Supper is on Saturday 30th September from 7.30pm at Hampton Lovett Parish Rooms.

Please join us for a sumptuous supper of cold meats, quiches, salads, delicious puddings and cheese and biscuits. Coffee and tea will be provided but please bring your own drinks and glasses. There will be a raffle and a quiz. Tickets £10; £5 for children under 15.

Please let Rachel or June know if you'd like to come;-

Rachel - 01905 779091 or rachel@moatcottage1.plus.com

June - 01299 851452

The Butterfly

One day a man found the cocoon of a butterfly and the next day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to squeeze its body through the tiny hole. Then it stopped, as it couldn't go any further, so the man decided to help the butterfly.

He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining cocoon.

The butterfly emerged easily but it had a swollen body and shrivelled wings.

The man continued to watch it, expecting any minute to see the wings enlarge and expand enough to support its body.

Neither happened! In fact the poor butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around, never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required by the butterfly to get through the opening was a way of forcing the fluid from the body into the wings so that it would be ready for flight once that was achieved.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives.

Going through life with no obstacles would cripple us. We will not be as strong as we should and we would never fly.



A Few Summer Ponderings for all you Husbands out there

Husbands are the best people to share secrets with. They'll never tell anyone because they aren't ever listening.

Nobody told me that when you get a husband the ears are sold separately!

Husband: What's for dinner?

Wife: Nothing

Husband: We had that last night.

Wife: I know. I made enough for two days.

A husband can turn a regular sofa into a sofa bed by simply forgetting his wife's birthday.

The philosopher Plato once said "I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing.....
And that is I know nothing. I know that because my wife told me."

A single ant can live up to 29 years. What about a married one?

They're called man hours because women would have had the job done in 20 minutes.

And lastly a couple of cartoons



Margaret Vertigen

AFTERNOON TEA

CHAT AND LAUGH

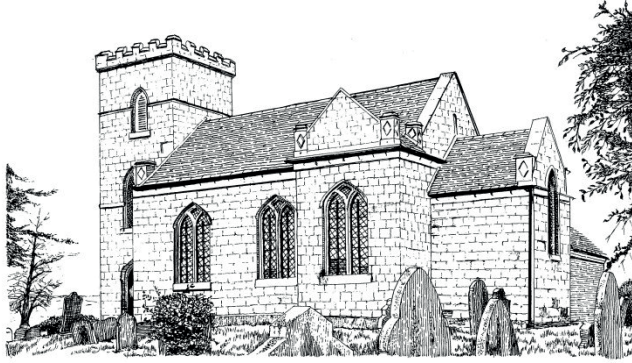
Hampton Lovett and Westwood Parish Council



Wednesday 12th July, 2 – 4pm
Hampton Lovett and Westwood Parish Rooms

Free to all, everyone welcome, raffle
Let's get the community talking...

For any additional information, please contact Janice 01905771872



RUSHOCK NEWS

Rushock Parish Council

Rushock Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Council AGM and an ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 11th May 2023. There was no election for Parish Councillors this year as we only had six candidates for seven places. John Nicholls did not seek re-election and Dave Pugh is now a councillor. Draft meeting minutes are available on the noticeboard and on the website. Points of interest were:

Highways: Our Lengthsman, Bill Waldron, continues to provide excellent service to keep the parish in order. Concerns were raised about the dangerous damaged verges on Park Lane. Some repairs were made by the Parish Council using last year's Lengthsman's funding but there is still more work needed. A meeting is to be set up with a Highways Engineer and our County Councillor. The timing of verge cutting was discussed and it was agreed that Highways be approached to delay cutting until after the wildflowers have died back to benefit local wildlife.

Biodiversity project: There has been a good show of bulbs and blossom on both the orchard and Rushock triangle with some new wild species being seen. Vegetation will be cut back in early July.

Footpaths: There have been some issues with footpaths. It was confirmed that landowners have no obligation to provide dog access at stiles. A dangerous stile was reported at the end of Court Farm drive but this has now been repaired. Fencing was erected across footpaths in a field off Elmbridge Lane. Countryside services have been in contact with the landowner and the temporary stiles will be replaced by kissing gates.

Finance: The Internal Audit Report for 2022-2023 has been successfully completed and approved thanks to the sterling efforts of our clerk, Bev Drew. The Parish Council were pleased to have sponsored the scones and Fizz for the Coronation Tea Party, thanks to a donation from our County Councillor, Marcus Hart.

Police: In response to a request from West Mercia Police to identify main areas of concern in the parish we decided on theft, wildlife crime and inconsiderate driving.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 7th September 2023 at 7.30 pm at Rushock Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to join in and details will be available from the parish clerk 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

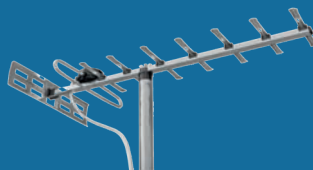
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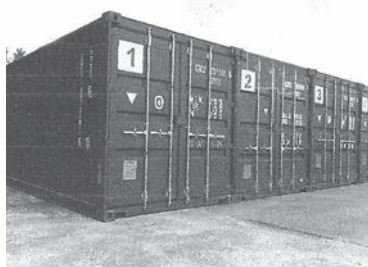
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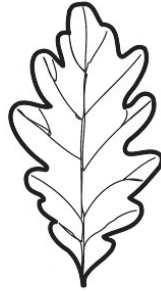


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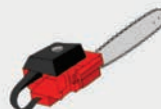
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JULY 2023

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
July 2nd	GREEN	9.00am	Hampton Lovett	4th Sunday after Trinity	HC-CW <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Judy Bowen & Margaret Vertigen	Kevin Jones & Evie	Sue Crow	Jer 28:5-9 Rom 6:12-end Matthew 10:40-end
		10.30am	Elmbridge		Family Service	Jan Taylor & Tom Hill		Kate Scott	
July 9th	GREEN	9.00am	Rushock	5th Sunday after Trinity	HC-CW <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Kevin Jones	Kevin Jones & Evie	Nicola Palmer & Tracy Hammond	Zech 9:9-12 Rom 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19,25-30
		10.30am	Elmley Lovett		MP-BCP <i>James Homer</i>	Marzena Cartwright		Richard Cartwright	
July 16th	GREEN	9.00 am	Elmbridge	6th Sunday after Trinity	HC-CW <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Sandra Bonham & Barbara Hankins	James Homer & Michele Powell	Sue Horton	Isa 55:10-13 Rom 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9,18-23
		6.30 pm	Hampton Lovett		ES-BCP			June Heaven	
July 23rd	GREEN	9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	7th Sunday after Trinity	HC-BCP <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Judy Bromage	Tim Goss		Wisd 12:13,16-19 or Isa 44:6-8 Rom 8:12-25 Matt 13:24-30,36-43
July 30th	GREEN	6.00 pm	Ombersley	8th Sunday after Trinity	Benefice Service ES-BCP				1 Kings 3:5-12 Rom 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

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

AUGUST 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
Aug 6th	GREEN	9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	9th Sunday after Trinity	HC-CW <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Trish & Jerry Hartley		Michele Powell	Gen 15:1-6 Heb 11:1-3,8-16 Luke 12:32-40
		10.30 am	Elmbridge		No Service				
		4.30 pm	Rushock		Pet Service				
Aug 13th	GREEN	9.00 am	Rushock	10th Sunday after Trinity	HC-CW <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Pam Cummins & Maureen Cooper	Jennifer Walker & Maureen Cooper	Clare Jennings & Claire Jennings	Jer 23:23-29 Heb 11:29-12:2 Luke 12: 49-56
		10.30 am	Elmley Lovett		MP-BCP <i>James Homer</i>	Tim Goss	Judy Bromage		
Aug 20th	GREEN	9.00 am	Elmbridge	11th Sunday after Trinity	HC-CW <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Craig & Lib Nicholl		Alison Ford	Isa 58:9b-end Heb 12:18-end Luke 13:10-17
		6.30 pm	Hampton Lovett		ES-BCP		Dee & Neil Cutler		
Aug 27th	GREEN	9.00 am	Elmley Lovett	12th Sunday after Trinity	HC-BCP <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Guy Cartridge	Ellie Cartwright		Ecclus 10:12-18 or Prov 25:6-7 Heb 13:1-8,15-16 Luke 14:1,7-14
Sept 3rd	GREEN	9.00 am	Hampton Lovett	13th Sunday after Trinity	HC-CW <i>Stephen Winter</i>	Ruth Yardley & Rachel Wyatt		Sue Winwood	Deut 30:15-end Philem 1-21 Luke 14:25-33
		10.30 am	Elmbridge		Family Service		Jan Taylor & Tom Hill	Anne Judge	

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

