

THE

CRAYFISHER

June 2021

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

No.73

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Valley

**Front Cover Picture: St Mary Cray Action Group in Action
by St Mary Cray Action Group**

PARISH LETTER

May 23rd was the feast of Pentecost – the birthday of the church. Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season and celebrates the day on which the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples in wind and flame. They were filled with the Spirit's gifts and burst out of the room in which they had been hiding to speak the Good News of Jesus to the crowds in Jerusalem. The people were gathered from many nations and all heard the Good News in their own language as the Spirit gave the disciples the ability, at that time and in that place, to speak in that way.



The disciples had been locked down since Jesus' death, venturing out on a few occasions but still living in fear of the Roman and Jewish authorities. The Holy Spirit, which Jesus had promised them at his ascension, gave them hope, courage and the words to say to share God's love with all gathered in the city. Then they followed Jesus' instruction and took the message out wider and wider to the ends of the earth. Without the Spirit's help the account of Jesus' life would never have been passed down to us.

As we continue with the gradual lifting of lockdown, we might be fearful too; worried about how and when to venture out, who to meet and who to let into our homes, how close to let anyone get and who to keep away from, when our regular activities will restart and when they do how different they will have to be?

Like the disciples the Holy Spirit to help us. I can't promise that we will be able to speak many languages, but the Spirit gives us, like the disciples, the gifts we need at the time we need them. St Paul tells us that the fruit we show when the Spirit is within us are these – love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control – and I'm sure we could all do with some help to demonstrate some of these.

The feast of Pentecost may be past, but we can ask the Holy Spirit to come and help us today, maybe not in wind and flame, but with peace and God's love. Then, like the disciples we can become part of God's story and keep on spreading the Good News of Jesus, so it reaches to the ends of the earth or even just around the corner. *Jessie*

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN JUNE

- Sun 6th Samuel 8.4-11 [12-15] 16-20 [11.14-end]
 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1
 GOSPEL: Mark 3.20-end
- Sun 13th 1 Samuel 15.34-16.13
 2 Corinthians 5.6-10 [11-13] 14-17
 GOSPEL: Mark 4.26-34
- Sun 20th 1 Samuel 17. [1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49
 2 Corinthians 6.1-13
 GOSPEL: Mark 4.35-41
- Sun 27th 2 Samuel 1.1, 17-end
 2 Corinthians 8.7-end
 GOSPEL: Mark 5.21-end

COLLECTS FOR JUNE

- Sun 6th O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 13th Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 20th Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 27th O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

SERVICES DURING JUNE

Sunday Services will be in Church **and** on Zoom for June

Sunday 7th St Mary's at 10am

Sunday 14th St Andrew's at 10am

Sunday 21st St Mary's at 10am

Sunday 28th St Andrew's at 10am

THE DEADLINE FOR THE **JULY ISSUE OF
THE CRAYFISHER IS **MONDAY 14 JUNE**. PLEASE HAVE
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING
RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL
THE NEXT ISSUE**

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

We were delighted to meet together in Muriel's home in May. We continue to pray for all in need and now we can meet in person to do so..

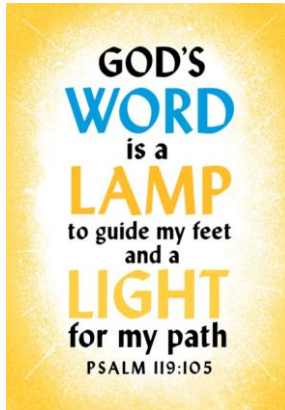
FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

SOCIAL EVENTS

AT **ST ANDREW'S AND **ST MARY'S** IN 2021**

We are hopeful that we can do some social events in 2021. WATCH THIS SPACE!



WISHING HER MAJESTY WELL ON HER
OFFICIAL 95TH BIRTHDAY



Courtesy of Parish Pump.co.uk

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FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

St James the Least of All

On getting to church at a social distance

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15-room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.



Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verger now objects to standing outside during Mattins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring interesting

patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.

Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

SUDOKU PUZZLE

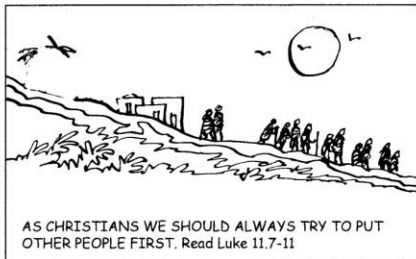
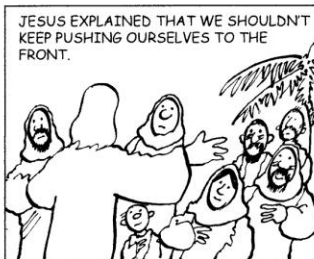
For all you puzzle maniacs. See how you get along with this puzzle.

Solution will be in next month's issue.

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A PICTURE PARABLE FOR YOU



The story behind the HYMN: ‘Lord, for the years’

Here are some of the verses of the hymn which can be found in full on the internet.

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.*

**Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name. ...*

By Timothy Dudley Smith

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: “I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I’m thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn’t find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!”

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children’s Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul’s Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius’s *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – ‘Lord for the years’ was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a ‘hit’ in the cathedral on the day and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as

Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, on his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrates her 95th birthday this month. She does indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

And so indeed the 'extra' verse added for the Queen has also held true:

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

All items in 'For the Young and Young at Heart' are courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

GETTING BACK TO NATURE IN CHURCHYARDS

Church communities and their visitors are being urged to join a week-long survey this summer of the creatures and plants that inhabit their churchyards.

Church land, which is often uncultivated or undeveloped for generations, is regarded by conservationists as a likely refuge for precious and endangered plants and other wildlife. Put together, it is



estimated to cover an area similar to a small national park.

The "Churches Count on Nature," between 5 and 13 June, is a citizen-science event in England and

Wales in which people are asked to report the animals, birds, insects, or fungi they find. The data will then be collated on the National Biodiversity Network.

The organisers, the conservation charities Caring for God's Acre and A Rocha UK, and the Church of England and the Church in Wales, hope to create links with schools and wildlife groups, and encourage people who might never have been in a churchyard to discover the quiet space they offer, especially in urban areas.

The Bishop of St Davids, Dr Joanna Penberthy, said: "Churches Count on Nature is an important and imaginative project open to all denominations. At the end of Genesis chapter one, we are told 'God saw everything that he had made and behold, it was very good.' Churches Count on Nature gives us a chance to see a little of what lives in our part of God's acre, and I do encourage you to get involved."

The Bishop of Reading, in Oxford diocese, the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, who is a member of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group, said: "We read in the Gospels that Jesus was deeply rooted in his natural surroundings, the rhythm of the agricultural seasons, the lilies of the field, the birds of the air.

"As Christians, we notice and celebrate the beauty and rich diversity of God's creation. And from our thankful hearts flows our deep desire to care for and protect it."

This article appeared on the Church Times website in May.

Submitted by Rev Jane

Photo is part of the graveyard at St Mary the Virgin at Huish Episcopi cum Langport, Somerset last summer.

For more information and to get involved go to

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/expression-of-interest-count-on-nature-2021/

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GARDENING TIPS

Did you know “No Mow May” is a campaign by the Plant Life charity which asks garden-owners to avoid mowing their lawn in the month of May? (This will also work for the month of June). Let flowers bloom until the end of the month, providing a feast of nectar for our hungry pollinators.

A six-foot long row of Ox-eye daisy have self-seeded behind a new daff. border in our lawn. This feels like a good opportunity to experiment with a wildflower space. I’ve dug up spent daffodils and heeled them in spare ground to die back. I bought a box of wildflower seed bombs and spaced them along a dug and weeded area and watered well, covering with mesh to protect bombs.

Fingers crossed - hopefully, photos to follow later in Summer.

Happy gardening

Rita McKay

POETRY CORNER

BIRDS

The Blackbird is the first to sing
At the break of dawn.
Other birds sing along
Greeting the morn.
Bluetits sweep and swoop
Across from tree to tree.
Starlings flock to feed
Chatting hungrily.
The Woodpecker descended
But found the feeders bare.
Alas the cheeky squirrel
Had already been there!

Joyce Ozsvald

IMPERMANENCE

Irretrievable past thoughts,
they melt away
like ice cubes in lukewarm drinks,
tomorrows become our yesterdays,
the present is all there is.

*Geraldine Ann Ford
May 2000*



After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.

Courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

POETRY CLUB NEW BOOK

A copy of the new Poetry Club book, 'Our Covid Calendar' is available at the Croft Tea Room. The cost is £4.95.

The book contains original poems and artwork by twenty-six local residents covering the period March 2020 to March 2021.

Our Covid Calendar

March 2020 to March 2021



Original Art and Poetry
The Croft Poetry Club and Friends

WELL DONE TO THE CRAFT GROUP

Over many years, the ladies craft group that I belong to made knitted toys, small and large cushions, quilts and coasters and pot holders. We meet in each others' houses and attend various craft fairs. During our times at the fairs we have sold many items that we had made and all profit went to Ataxia UK, a charity that helps disabled people.

It was a big surprise recently to be presented with a certificate for raising £5,930.71 and I also received a shopping bag and medal.

Angela Procter





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REMEMBERING ‘YOUR HUNDRED BEST TUNES’

During the funeral of H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, my thoughts roamed to the long-running BBC radio series ‘Your Hundred Best Tunes’. It was broadcast on Sunday evenings and its host Alan Keith continued as presenter until his death aged 94 in 2003. The programme had started in 1959 on the old Light Programme. Richard Baker took over until the series was cancelled in 2011.

What was the thought association that occurred to me during the funeral ceremony? On my mother’s side I have many family ancestors whose professions were maritime. The family originated from Portsmouth and moved to Dover and Folkestone. So, I have always been especially stirred by the ‘naval’ hymn:

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.*

Alan Keith played many hymns on his Sunday night programmes and I always hoped to hear that one. It is wonderful word-poetry. I’m sure that in my childhood hymns like this instilled in me a love for verse and rhyme. The best-selling author Philip Pullman has echoed this experience, explaining that his all-consuming addiction to words stemmed from his singing hymns at school and coming across such wonderful lines as *pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise*. He declared: ‘You are not sure what it means. But it feels lovely and it sounds great. It is there to be enjoyed.’

Jerry Dowlen

CRAY VALLEY MOTHERS' UNION

We are suggesting that the normal Mothers' Union meetings will resume on Tuesday 1st June in St. Mary's Church Centre at 14.30 (2.30 pm). We are suggesting the Church Centre as it means that it is a safe place and does not compromise anyone's home. At this meeting we will be re-electing the Officers and looking at the times, days of the week and places of future meetings, (when, where and time of day), to try and accommodate all our members. If you are unable to attend, please inform us of any details you would like to be considered such as evening meetings, different day etc. and we will try to accommodate.

The current Officers are as following:

Branch Leader	Mrs. Muriel Unsworth
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. Tony Lathey
Membership	Mrs. Grace Fayomi
Committee	Mrs. Jackie Cook
	Mrs. Rosemary Lathey

All of whom are willing to stand again if elected.

A suggestion is to change the meetings to Wednesday to allow for the weekday Communion Service to proceed the meeting. What are your opinions on this change, would it be a good idea?

Also, in June we will arrange a programme for the rest of the year. Would you like us to have an evening zoom service occasionally for those of you who are working to enable you to attend a Mothers' Union meeting?

The increase in subscriptions this year was partly to cover the cost of a biannual magazine called 'Connected' if you have paid and not received this magazine, please let me know and remember it's your magazine so let the Mary Sumner House Staff know of your opinion of it or even send a submission to it.

As you will know some of us have been attending Farnborough's Zoom meetings over the last few months and enjoyed Jayne Calvert's services. Because of unforeseen events the Spring Members Meeting will be in probably June 2021

Wishing you all a warmer, sunnier June, and looking forward to seeing or hearing from you in the near future.

God Bless and stay safe.

Tony Lathey
(Cray Valley Mothers' Union Hon. Treasurer)

THANKS TO ALL KNITTERS

I would like to thank all the knitters who have been supporting King's College Hospital in their hat knitting campaign. We still require hats but would now also like to ask for knitted squares for the babies. These squares can be put in the cots next to the baby with breast milk on them so that they feel close to their mothers when separated. The knitting pattern is below.

ABBREVIATIONS

k = knit

k2tog = knit 2 together

st(s) = stitch(es)

yo = yarn over

Cast on 5 stitches. Knit 1 row.

Next row Knit 3, yo, k 2.

Next row Knit 3, yo, k 3.

Next row Knit 3, yo, knit to end.

Repeat last row until the sides measure 10cm.

Next Decrease Row Knit 2, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k to end.

Repeat last row until there are 7 stitches on needle.

Next Decrease Row Knit 2, k2tog, k2tog, k to end.

Bind off remaining 5 stitches.

Best wishes
Tracey MacCormack

Cray Valley Parish Fish 'N' Chips Group



Come and join us for our Fish 'N' Chips Group every fourth Wednesday of the month, 1pm at St Mary's Church Centre after our Midweek Eucharist and Healing Service at 11.30am which alternates between St Andrew's and St Mary's churches.

Dates: Wednesday 23rd June
 Wednesday 28th July
 Wednesday 25th August
 Wednesday 22nd September
 Wednesday 27th October
 Wednesday 24th November
 Wednesday 22nd December

Price: £6.50 (Incl. Main Meal Fish and Chips with tea, coffee and cake or biscuits. To be paid for in advance)

Please speak to Malcolm, Tony or Rosemary to book a space.

All are welcome