

WASHBURN VALLEY & MID-WHARFE CHURCHES

M A Y 2 0 2 0 ~ I S S U E 4 2 8



Washburn & Mid-Wharfe United Benefice

Farnley, Fewston with Blubberhouses,
Leathley, Weston with Denton.

Anglican Clergy

Rector: Revd Stephen McCaulay
The Vicarage, Askwith LS21 2HX
Tel: 01943 513340

rector@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Hon Assistant Clergy

The Revd Michael Cleverley
Tel: 01943 851234

The Revd Stewart Hartley
Tel: 01943 464106

Email: sr.hartley47@gmail.com
The Revd Barry Miller

Readers

John Charman, Norwood Hall Cottage,
Norwood LS21 2RA

Tel: 01943 466712

Peter Wiggins, 32 Manley Road, Ben
Rhydding, Ilkley LS29 8QP

Tel: 01943 609599

Churchwardens

Weston: VACANT

Fewston: Cheri Beaumont
Tel: 01943 465977

Blubberhouses: Pat Anderson
Tel: 01943 880284

Leathley: Terry Bramall CBE
Tel: 07802 877799

& Liz Webster 01943 468376

Farnley: Peter Goodwin
Tel: 01943 969953

Denton - VACANT

Benefice Administrator

Hazel Pullan

Hours Mon, Weds, Fri, 9.30-11.30am

admin@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk
01943 466098

Methodist Ministers for Norwood & Timble

Rev. Lesley Taylor,
Tel: 01943 462308

lesleytaylor221@gmail.com

Norwood Retreat Centre

Norwood, Otley LS21 2RA,
Tel: 07946 423309

norwoodretreatcentre@gmail.com

Methodist Chapels are in the circuit of
Wharfedale & Aireborough

Websites:

Leathley Church

www.leathleychurch.org

Farnley Church

www.farnleyallsaints.org

Fewston and Blubberhouses

www.fewstonwithblubberhouses.org.uk

Weston Church

www.westonchurch.wordpress.com

Norwood Retreat Centre

[www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/
people-places/norwood-retreat-centre](http://www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/people-places/norwood-retreat-centre)

Our Magazine

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Please send any articles to Anna
Bowman (Editor), by email:

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Front cover image Credit.
"Bluebell wood" - Anna Bowman

The View from the Vicarage

I have been spending a lot of my time on my knees lately. You might think this a strange thing for a priest to say. Surely, I always spend a lot of time on my knees, in prayer. And I have been praying a lot recently, a lot more than usual, but so has a large part of the population. Even though our churches are shut there has been a surge in internet searches about prayer and about the spiritual life in general. None of us have ever experienced anything like this pandemic before, so it isn't surprising that many are trying to find some meaning to it all through prayer.

However, much of my time on my knees hasn't been in prayer. Thirteen years in the Army cured me of any desire to run, and I have not owned a bike in years, so I have been taking my daily exercise by gardening. My garden has been a bit neglected over the past couple of years and is awash with perennial weeds including bindweed. So I have been spending time each day on my knees working over my garden foot by foot. I dig up soil in front of me with a small hand pickaxe then pull out the roots of all those terrible weeds. I know that they will come back, but not as vigorously, and filling up bucket after bucket with weeds is so satisfying. When all this is over I will at least be able to look at a neater garden.

Prayer and exercise, these make up part of the fabric of my day. Along with eating well and getting enough sleep they are key to coping with the situation we are in just now. But they all should be part and parcel of our life anyway. Bishop Stephen Cottrell who will become Archbishop of York in June, recently said that this time is going to help us all to re-evaluate our lives; perhaps to think about living simpler lives in the future, lives where we travel less, work fewer hours, rush around less, spend more time with family, with friends, give more time to ourselves. It is worth a thought. As the old saying goes, 'when life gives you lemons, make lemonade,' though I prefer 'when life gives you lemons, mix a gin and tonic.' Whatever, let's use this time to think about what is important to each of us, to think about how the future can, and will be better. And as we do this let's remember to care for those around us as well, so that not just the future, but the present can be as good as it can be.

With my prayers and blessings.
Stephen



Church Services Note from Reverend Stephen McCaulay

All Church of England services
have now ceased and all churches are closed until further notice.

The Washburn and Mid-Wharfe Benefice is producing a weekly newsletter with ideas about how you can continue to pray and worship from home and up to date information about the ongoing situation.

If you would like to receive this newsletter can you email Stephen on rector@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk



Christian Aid Week 2020

Christian Aid ... with Hope

You will hardly be surprised in view of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic that this year the normal Christian Aid Week activities cannot take place. No house-to-house collection - which is our major effort - no shared lunch. All for the same reason that you are reading this Magazine online instead of the normal printed version, and there are no Church Services or Group activities in this edition. How long? At the time of writing (6th April) we have no idea.

Christian Aid's work, with and for people struggling in many countries, of course needs money as ever. Christian Aid Week focuses giving for many people and is the main fundraiser. Some £7million were raised last year across the country. If totally absent this would leave a huge gap in what can be achieved! Hopefully, we can help individually to

plug that gap.

At the time of writing, Christian Aid's offices are all closed and staff are working from home. (Re-organisation was happening this year, anyway, with a reduction in offices and staff. The Leeds regional office will close finally in June.) We are asked not to send cheques because there is nobody to deal with them. If, like me, you would like to send a gift there will be advice later on how to do it.

We have hope that the coronavirus pandemic will end sooner rather than later. There is hope that in spite of it Christian Aid's work will be enabled to go on. We shall be able to help to see that it does.

Thank you for reading this. With all good wishes,

Michael Cleverley
Voluntary Local Organiser



LOCAL LIBRARY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

This flyer summarises the North Yorkshire County Council library services you can access at home during the crisis.

See overleaf for details of how to have library books delivered to your home

ACCESSING DIGITAL BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND MORE

Did you know that your library card gives you free access to thousands of e-books, magazines, digital audiobooks and graphic novels?

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, YOU CAN JOIN ONLINE AT:
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/how-join-library>

Browse through our digital catalogues to find your next item to read or listen to from your computer, tablet or other mobile device.

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/download-e-books-e-magazines-and-digital-audiobooks>

For more information on library services, please call us on 01423 714953. We are open 10am-4pm Monday-Friday, and there is an answerphone to take messages out of hours.

HAPPY READING!



In partnership with



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All in the month of May

It was:

200 years ago

- on 11th May 1820 that the British Royal Navy sloop HMS Beagle was launched. This was the ship that took the naturalist Charles Darwin on his scientific voyage around the world (1831-36).
- on 12th May 1820 that Florence Nightingale was born. This Italian-born British social reformer and statistician saved thousands of lives and became the founder of modern nursing. We know have three new "field" hospitals named in her honour.

175 years ago, on 12th May 1845 that Gabriel Faure, the French composer was born.

170 years ago on 1st May 1840, The first stamp the "Penny Black" went on sale, Rowland Hill vision revolutionised communications in Britain. The Penny Black was an instant hit and the stamp had become an icon, a symbol of national pride.

125 years ago: on 20th May 1895 that R J Mitchell was born. This British aeronautical engineer designed the iconic Supermarine Spitfire fighter plane as well as several racing seaplanes.

100 years ago: on 17th May 1920 that the Dutch national airline KLM's first flight took place, from London to Amsterdam. Scheduled services began in 1921.

90 years ago, on 24th May 1930 that British aviator Amy Johnson became the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

85 years ago May 19th 1935 T. E. Lawrence, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia" died in Dorset from injuries sustained in a motorcycle crash.

80 years ago, 1940: WORLD WAR II

- on 2nd May 1940 that the 1940 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, were cancelled, due to the War.
- 10th May: Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned after losing the support of many Conservatives in the House of Commons. Succeeded by Winston Churchill.
- 10th-28th May, in what was called Case Yellow, Germany invaded Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.
- 10th May, Germany dropped its first bombs on England, at Chilham and Petham in Kent.
- 13th May, Winston Churchill gave his first speech in the House of Commons, saying: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."
- 14th May, The Home Guard was established, nicknamed Dad's Army as it was comprised of volunteers who were ineligible for military service, usually because of their age.
- 26th May-4th June, The Battle of Dunkirk. Allied forces launched a massive evacuation of troops from Dunkirk, France, across the English Channel to England after they were cut off by approaching German forces. Nearly 340,000 soldiers were rescued in a hastily assembled fleet of 800 boats.

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All in the month of May ... continued

75 years ago, 1945: WORLD WAR II

- 2nd May, The Battle of Berlin ended. Allied victory which led to the surrender of all German forces by 8th/9th May, and the end of the war in Europe.
- 8th May, VE Day (Victory in Europe) – celebrated as a public holiday.
- 28th May, British-born Nazi propaganda broadcaster Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce) was captured by the British Army and taken to Britain to face trial. (He was convicted of treason and sentenced to death on 19th September and hanged on 3rd January 1946.)

70 years ago, on 13th May 1950 that the first Formula One World Championship race was held, at Silverstone in England. (This race is also known as the 1950 British Grand Prix.)

60 years ago, on 23rd May 1960 that Israel announced that Nazi Adolf Eichmann had been captured in Argentina. He was responsible for organising the mass extermination of Jews in WWII. He was tried, sentenced to death and executed in June 1962.

50 years ago;

- on 8th May 1970 that the Beatles released their final album, *Let it Be*.
- on 22nd May 1970 that the song 'In the Summertime' by Mungo Jerry was released. By June it had reached Number One on dozens of record charts around the world.

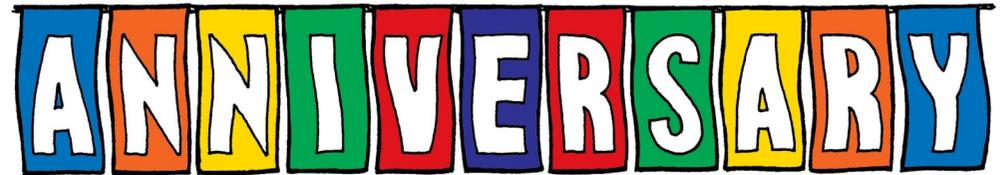
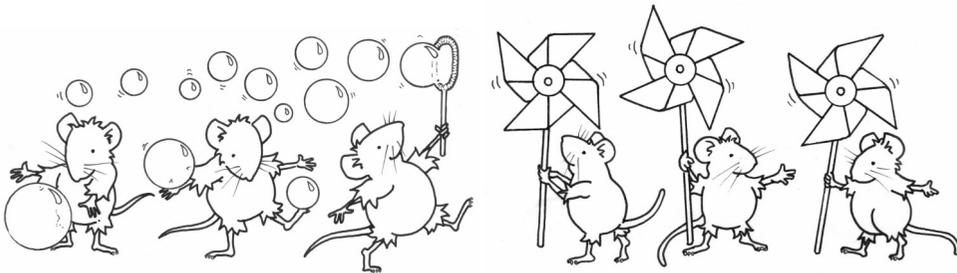
40 years ago, on 5th May 1980 that Operation Nimrod took place, when the British SAS stormed the Iranian Embassy in London after a six-day siege.

30 years ago, on 22nd May 1990 that Max Wall, British music hall, stage, film and TV comedian, and actor died. Acclaimed for his serious roles as well as his comic talents.

20 years ago:

- on 3rd May 2000 that Ken Livingstone was elected as the first Mayor of London.
- on 12th May 2000 that the Tate Modern art gallery was opened in London.

10 years ago, on 6th May 2010 that the British General Election ended in a hung parliament. A coalition government was formed by the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats, with Conservative Party Leader David Cameron as Prime Minister and Liberal Democrat Nick Clegg as Deputy Prime Minister.



May
2020

From our Community Police Officer

Hello, I hope this message finds you all well and coping with the restrictions currently in place during the Coronavirus pandemic. Since I last wrote to you, there have been a small number of crimes within the area.

Overnight on 8th March 3 outbuildings were broken into at Leathley, one bike was stolen but recovered abandoned nearby. Bikes from another outbuilding were removed as well as fishing tackle from another, ready to be taken. It is believed the offenders were disturbed and made off empty-handed. Please ensure that you lock your outbuildings using good quality locks and wherever possible install outside lighting to deter such crimes.

Across the Knaresborough Rural area we have received some reports of dogs worrying sheep so if you are out walking please ensure you keep your dogs on a lead when crossing land with livestock.

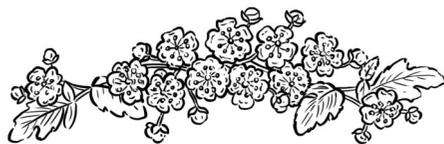
I went to my local supermarket the other day and the queue was winding around the carpark. Everyone was so patient and

respectful to each other; despite the difficulties I have found that people are pulling together really well at this difficult time, it's lovely to see others passing the time of day and helping their neighbours whilst ensuring they following the social distances rules.

Please be assured that the police are still here to help you, working 24/7 to keep you safe. Please ensure you help us, and the NHS, by following the government guidelines and only leaving home for those essential journeys.

If you wish to report an incident please ring 101. If a crime is in progress or you feel you are at risk ring 999.

PC187 Marie Scott
Knaresborough Police Station



Editors note

The following are extracts from fraud advice leaflets, for individuals. If you are part of a group, providing support to people in need please email me and I will send you a copy.

Coronavirus: Scammers and fraudsters

In neighbourhoods up and down the country people are pulling together and demonstrating a real sense of community, and that's something we should all be incredibly proud of.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus has also seen a rise in the exploitation of vulnerable people, and on the unease, uncertainty and anxiety that many of us are understandably feeling at this time.

These 'Bad Samaritans' con people into thinking they are helping them, or take advantage of people's good nature and their desire to help others.

Many of these scams are not new, but we may be more likely to fall victim to them given these uncertain times. With more time spent at home, scammers and fraudsters also have more chance to contact us - either on our doorstep, by phone, or online.

We've listed some tips to help prevent you becoming a victim of crime.

Tips to prevent you becoming a victim of crime

If someone offers to shop for you set some boundaries and stick to them

If you are unable to easily get to the shops, you may accept an offer from someone to do your shopping for you. Although most people may be honest and well-intentioned, sadly not everyone is. They may take money or your cash card, but not return with your shopping. Scammers may even claim to be from helpful or reputable organisations or charities, offering help, taking money and not coming back.

It's always best to ask someone who you know and trust to help you, such as a family member or close friend. However, when this isn't possible, set some boundaries and stick to them. You can:

Ask for ID

If someone claims to be from an official organisation like the British Red Cross, ask to see some employee identification such as an ID card. Do not let them into your home before seeing it. If you're at all suspicious, ask them to leave your doorstep. You can always call the organisation and ask them if they have helpers operating in your area before handing over any money.

Insist on payment upon their return

If someone offers to help with shopping or buying medication, request that you pay when they return. People who are genuinely trying to help will generally understand why this is a good idea.

Ask to see the receipt before paying

Ask to see a receipt showing how much your shopping cost before handing over money. If they are hesitant to do this, explain that you are just being cautious and want to make sure they are given the right amount.

Be wary of any emails saying they are from official sources which ask for money

Scammers are getting in touch with people, and claiming to be from health organisations such as the Centre for Disease Control, World Health Organisation or public health bodies. Do not respond to these emails or do as they request. Remember:

Any requests for payment are a sign that this is a scam

They might claim to have a list of people in the local area who are infected, at a cost. Public bodies such as this would never ask for money for information. Any information they make available to the public is free of charge.

Your personal information is valuable

Remember, any data provided to scammers could be used at a later date to try and trick you out of money. Be careful with what you provide, and to whom.

Don't respond to offers of medication and health screening

In some countries there has been an increase in scammers claiming they have access to a vaccine, treatment or cure for the virus – of course, at a cost.

There is currently no vaccine against coronavirus, and no specific treatment or medication available. Any offers of a treatment or vaccine available privately at a cost will likely be a scam.

If something seems too good to be true, it probably is

The outbreak of coronavirus has seen shops run out of lots of supplies such as hand sanitiser, face masks and toilet paper. As a result of shortages you might be shopping online, perhaps for the first time. To keep you as safe as possible follow the tips below, and remember if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Look for a name you know

You can generally trust the larger supermarket chains, but make sure you're on their real website. This will generally end in .co.uk or .com

Take a look at the reviews before buying

Before you buy on smaller websites, do some research. Check if they have positive reviews for their website, and how long they have been selling online. If they have only just started selling and they have no reviews there is a higher chance it could be a scam.

Check the price is about right

Look out for sellers offering prices at well below the normal retail price. If it's too good to be true, it probably is.

Seek advice from others

If you're not sure, ask a trusted family member or friend for advice before buying.

Use a credit card

If you do decide to purchase a product online, use a credit card as most credit cards provide protection under section 75 of the consumer credit act.

Be alert to scammers and fraudsters

The tips we've shared may seem frightening, but they're simply there to help you be aware of some of the tricks used by scammers and fraudsters.

We're all in this together and although it's important to stay alert to potential scams, it's also important to remind ourselves that most people are genuinely trying to help.

Support is available

You aren't alone. Victim Support are here to support you, and we will continue to do so throughout this difficult time. You can call our free confidential Supportline on **08 08 16 89 111**, or visit victimsupport.org.uk

Home Schooling

There are lots of resources for home schooling, if you would like to share something that you have found helpful please email the editor for inclusion in the next edition. I hope you find the following helpful.

Educations staff at a few Museums have created special resources for parents.

The Saltaire Collection, www.saltaircollection.org/schools/home-learning-activities/

Wakefield Museums and library staff have worked together on their resources <http://wakefieldmuseumsandlibraries.blogspot.com/p/schools.html>

Bankfield Museum, Halifax has lots of projects on there Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BankfieldMuseum/>



...I wonder if I could have a quick word with the flower arrangers at the end of this service...?

May's front cover

(the story behind the photograph)

The month of May provides almost too many options for the choice of image for the front cover. Usually the image would be printed in black and white so lambs would have been a good choice. I usually enjoy watching the flowers appear in the garden but this year this has become more significant. I chose the bluebell wood as May has always been the month of Bluebells and Asparagus to me. It was run a close second by a flower from one of our favourite Magnolia's.



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May Crossword Puzzle

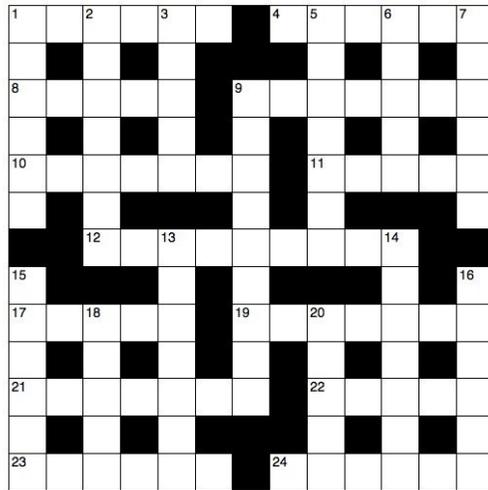
The answers will be in the next issue.

Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian gaoler put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anagram) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anagram) (4)

Down

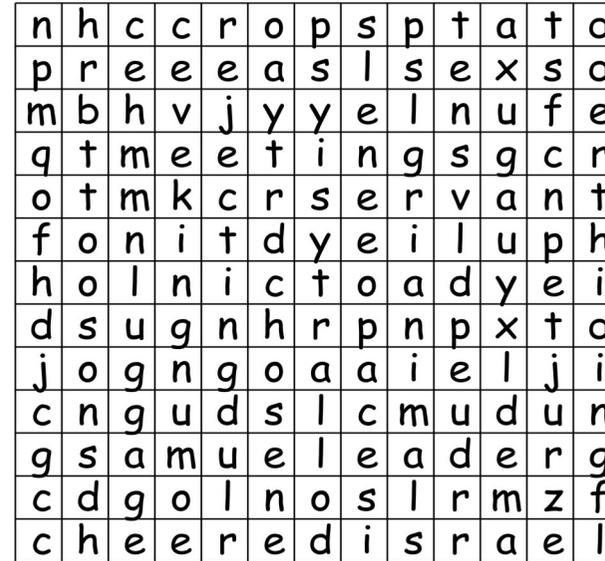
- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)



- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

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Word Search



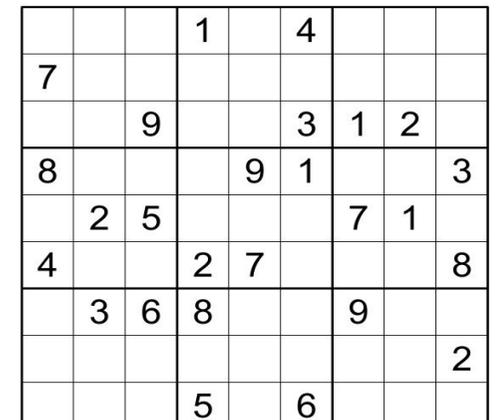
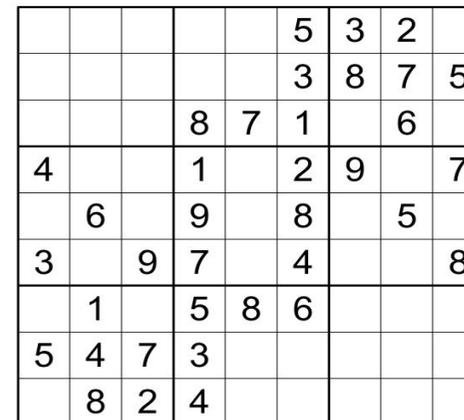
- animals
- cheered
- chosen
- crops
- countries
- daughters
- donkeys
- everyone
- found
- hiding
- home
- Israel
- king
- land
- Leader
- Luggage
- meeting
- other
- palace
- rejecting
- Samuel
- Saul
- servant
- sons

To print
the Puzzles, just set your printer to landscape and both pages will print on one side of A4.



Sudoku

The answers for this months puzzles will be in the June Issue.



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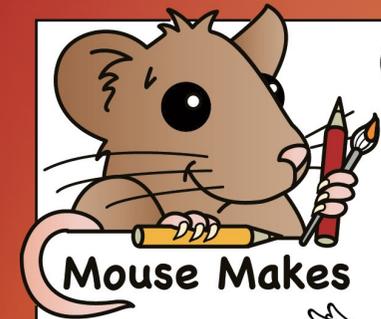
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...



Mouse Makes

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."

If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read Galatians 5:13-26



How many other words can you find using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?



U O
N T R V
G R A C E G O D
B T H E L P E A C E
T P A T I E N C E I
J G T R U S T R J
C R L O R D L E E
A K I N D N E S S
L O V E H O N T U
M J E R O D E K S
G O O D N E S S
C A Y M O E L S
O B L E S S I S
N F R U I T G P
D T Y H O L Y H I
A S E L F C O N T R O L
A U C O N S I D E R A T E O A R T M I E V E R
E B N I N T E G R I T Y O D Y C A R E S N E
B I C O M P A S S I O N E A C Y A N H T
A T O L E R A N C E S I E L O E I T H
Y G E N E R O S I T Y D T R R N S
F A I T H F U L N E S S Y D Y T
G O O D W I L L P

AMEN
GCHH
RRHEOD
JEEEEAPO
P SERVEV

Which symbol goes with which fruit?



- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
- AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
- PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
- GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
- FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
- SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

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Garden Visitors

Hope you're all coping OK with the social isolation, I've been spending most of mine in the garden so far, working on it or sometimes just watching...

In our garden, just by the conservatory, we have a bird feeder, one of those that has four hangers on it so we can offer a variety to our feathered friends, such as sunflower seeds, peanuts, fat balls and a mixed seed. It's a great time waster, I can spend hours just sitting and watching them flit in and out.

Our regular visitors include bullfinch, goldfinch and greenfinch, four

different types of tits as well as the usual blackbirds, robins and sparrows. During that unexpected snowfall a few weeks ago when the roads ground to a halt, I spotted another little visitor, a tiny field mouse, scurrying around picking up all the dropped seeds. There's always plenty on the floor as the finches in particular are either very fussy or very messy eaters – they seem to drop more than they eat!

I deduced that they live in the old, rotten raised bed by the wall under a heap of geraniums and clematis. Of course we soon also deduced there were two! They're very sweet, scampering about the foliage. I don't do the bigger versions, but I like seeing little mice.



He tried to get across on a tiny thin twig, it was quite amusing to see his tail waving madly as he tried to keep his balance. He obviously decided that wasn't going to work and tried a higher branch which got him neatly onto the peanut feeder.

I watched him for a while, then I had time to go up stairs, find my camera, change the lens, come back down and still had time to take lots of photos – he must have been there at least ten minutes! Isn't he cute...

Yesterday we were sat out enjoying the sunshine and a butterfly came and landed on me. I think it's a comma butterfly – I even saw the tiny white marking on the underneath of it's wings which gives it it's name! He would stay for a few minutes, sitting on my arm or my finger, flutter off for

a minute, then come back again. He spent the best part of half an hour with me. He is beautiful, it was nice seeing it so close too, his body is an emerald green colour in part!

This is the silver lining to social isolation – I've got time to sit and watch and enjoy the garden visitors! Hope you're all keeping safe.

Editors Note

As normal reports were not available from the WI meetings this month, for obvious reasons. Margaret Creek, who writes the Askwith and Denton WI blog (<https://askwithwithwestonwi.wordpress.com/>) kindly gave me permission to take a few extracts from her wonderful blog. If you would like to read more please click on the link above.

I hope you enjoy her writing as much as I have.

Local shopping services available during Covid 19

As we are getting used to the new normal of shopping, or ordering food, this page might be useful. If you have not found supplies that you need or want local deliveries the information below extracted from the Nidderdale plus (as they cover a larger area than the magazine covers) and Asquith and Denton WI blog, might be helpful.

Mackenzie's Smokehouse, Blubberhouses

Products: Fruit and veg, bakery, butchers counter, groceries, frozen chef's own ready meals etc

Telephone: 01943 880369

Web site:

www.mackenziesyorkshirefarmshop.co.uk

Services: Click and collect and local delivery - Order before noon for next day delivery or collection by phone.

Opening hours: 7 days 09:00 to 17:00

Fewston Farm Shop, Upper Cobby Syke Farm, Fewston HG3 1SR

Products: A range of locally produced marmalade, pickles and chutneys as well as

free ranged eggs, organic butter and milk - all from just around the corner. Own home reared shorthorn and Hereford cows providing great quality beef.

Telephone: 07855 941863

Services: Local deliveries available

Opening hours: Wed - Sun 10.00 - 16.00 (The café is closed).

Pharmall, Killinghall HG3 2AS

Products: Pet supplies

Telephone: 01423 506615

Services: Ring to pre order then ring when you arrive at collection point. Ring out of hours and leave a message or order online.

Opening hours: Mon - Fri 08:30-17:30 Sat 09:00-16:00 Sun 11:00-16:00

Shopping in Otley

For readers who live near to Otley up to date information is available on www.otleybid.co.uk/covid-19-otley-open-for-business/, as this information is changing please check this page for up to date information.

Update on shopping; (extract from the WI blog <https://askwithwestonwi.wordpress.com/page/1/>)

The Otley Bid page gives the impression that there wouldn't be a market. There is! The council aren't putting the stalls up so the market men have to arrive extra early (about 4.30 am!!) to build their own stall! Both fruit and veg stall was there today (Saturday 28th March) The fish van was also there both days. Everyone is doing the social distancing and it's all pretty calm. Most stalls have contactless pay too if you are worried about using cash.

The butchers have all got plenty of meat, eggs were available from the Market stalls (Simon and Becky) or the butchers, milk is also available at Middlemisses, presumably the other two are the same. For those in Burley, apparently Spalls butchers is open mornings only as he is doing deliveries in the afternoon.

I do think we need to use our local shops as much as possible if we want them to survive. If you need them to deliver have a look at my post the other day to find the link re contact details.

All the smaller supermarkets, such as Waitrose, Booths and the Co-op sound to be fine and not too busy. The mini supermarkets also look quieter. Sainsbury's is still a bit crazy!



BTO Garden Bird Watch Free Offer



During this current period of uncertainty, many of us are looking to our gardens to enjoy nature and be outdoors, to learn, and to improve our well-being. BTO Garden Bird Watch (GBW) offers a great opportunity to learn more about garden birds and other wildlife, and to contribute directly to BTO's important scientific research on the value of gardens for wildlife. The more we know about how wildlife uses our gardens, the more we can make our cities, towns, villages and individual gardens better for nature.

The survey involves simply keeping a list of the birds you see visiting your garden over the course of a week, and then entering this into the BTO's online recording system. You can also record other garden wildlife, such as butterflies and mammals.

GBW is normally membership only, with an annual fee of £17, which includes an ID book and a quarterly magazine. The generous financial support of participants is what allows BTO to carry out its work monitoring garden wildlife and our scientific research.

However, we want to enable more people to get involved in garden wildlife recording under the current circumstances, to discover an enjoyable purpose in garden birdwatching, and to feel part of a community all working on the same project, even though all of us are confined to our own gardens. Therefore, we are offering free membership of the BTO Garden Bird Watch during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The free offer does not include the book or magazines and will be online only. It will include

- Access to the GBW online recording system.
- A regular e-newsletter with information on recording and identifying garden wildlife.
- Access the BTO's team of wildlife experts, to answer your questions.

The free membership will be valid for one year, after which it will expire or can be renewed at the normal rate. To take part in Garden Bird Watch, please visit <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw/join-gbw>

Garden Bird Watch is designed to find out how, when and why birds and other animals use our gardens. Participants send in weekly lists of garden birds and other wildlife, which are analysed by scientists working under the BTO's urban and garden ecology research programmes, to investigate the links between changes in wildlife populations and factors such as garden management, food, weather and urban structure.

Mike Gray gbwmike@gmail.com.



Photograph courtesy of John Ashton (a professional photographer)

Email: magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Email: magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Cats!

A "Marmite" topic if ever there was one.

Love them or hate them, they are undoubtedly garden birds' number one predator, but what is their true effect, are they really responsible for the ongoing decline in bird numbers?

It's difficult to get a handle on the true situation, but according to both the RSPB and the Mammal Society there is no scientific evidence that cats are responsible for the general decline in many garden bird numbers. Looking through academic (and quasi-academic) papers, the most salient fact is that the majority of trials run are local and lacking in rigour.

Domestic cats are rarely underfed, but most still hunt. There are also many feral and semi-feral cats around – but how many? Most trials count prey brought back to the cats' home territories, but what percentage is that of what they catch?

The most recent figures of how much wildlife is killed by cats are from the Mammal Society. They estimate that cats in the UK catch up to 275

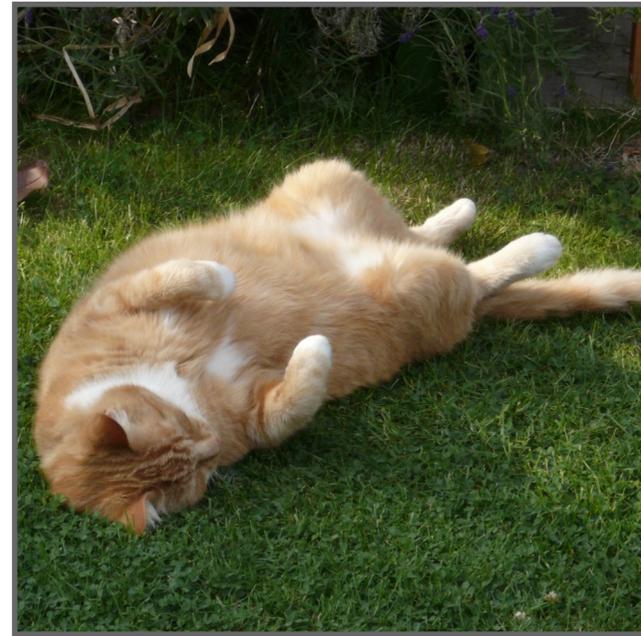
million prey items a year, of which 27 million are birds. This is only the number which were caught and brought home, though. We don't know how many more cats caught, but didn't bring back, or how many escaped but subsequently died.

The most frequently caught birds, according to the Mammal Society, are House Sparrows, Blue Tits, Blackbirds and Starlings whilst the most common garden birds are Wrens, Robins, House Sparrows, Woodpigeons (a bit big for most cats!), Chaffinches and Blackbirds. Make what you will of the disparity in the two lists! Bird behaviour has lot to do with which are caught, and I suspect that birds in an area with large numbers of cats will, over time, change their behaviour accordingly.

The RSPB say " *We know that of the millions of baby birds hatched each*



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Number one must be to keep them in at night: it helps; we did so with our cats all their lives. This is particularly important during the breeding season when there are fledglings around. Inexperienced and hungry young birds, desperate for their first feed of the day are easy prey, and parent birds are all too willing to risk their own lives when feeding offspring. Lights out and cats out at bedtime is not a good idea!

year, most will die before they reach breeding age. This is natural, and each pair needs only to rear two young that survive to breeding age to replace themselves and maintain the population. It is likely that most of the birds killed by cats would have died anyway from other causes before the next breeding season, so cats are unlikely to have a major impact on populations. Those bird species which have undergone the most serious population declines in the UK (such as Skylarks, Tree Sparrows and Corn Buntings) rarely encounter cats. Research shows that these declines are usually caused by habitat change or loss, particularly on farmland."

What can cat "owners" do to reduce predation levels?

Collars fitted with bells or sonic devices have also been shown to reduce predation rates. It make take a cat a few days to get used to one though.....

If you'd like to read further, try *Floyd, L., Underhill-Day, J. C. (2013). Literature Review on the effects of cats on nearby protected wildlife sites. Unpublished report by Footprint Ecology for Breckland Council.*

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest, and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please contact me or visit the BTO Garden Bird Watch website www.bto.org/gbw.

Mike Gray (gbwmike@gmail.com.)

Email: magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Our Magazine

History

The magazine was created to link the communities of the Anglican and Methodist churches in the Mid-Wharfe and lower Washburn Valley. The Anglican churches of the United Benefice are All Saints Weston, St Helen Denton, St Michael and St Laurence Fewston, St Andrew Blubberhouses, All Saints Farnley and St Oswald Leathley. Norwood and Timble chapels are in the Wharfedale & Aireborough Methodist circuit

Contact information for all the churches is normally on page 2 of the magazine. The magazine is run by our Treasurer Ann, Distributers Cheri and Paul, and our Rector Stephen McCaulay.

The aim of the magazine is to keep you in touch with the churches, allow the organisers of events associated with the churches and Parish Halls or local charities to let you know what's happening and to keep you up to date with local news and some entertainment in the form of the various articles, cartoons and puzzles.

Your Subscription helps ... not just the magazine!

By subscribing to the magazine, you help us to pay for the printing and editing of the magazine. The cost of delivery (apart from postal) are covered by a willing group of volunteers who give their time and energy for free.

With the reminding funds the magazine contributes to the running of the Benefice office. If there are any profits the intentions would be to support the churches in the benefice to help maintain them or carry out projects. If you would like to help support the work of the churches and enjoy the magazine then please subscribe. The more subscribers the more we can pass on to the churches.

How to obtain the magazine normally

The magazine costs £5 a year to have 12 copies of the magazine delivered to your door, or £12 to have it posted. Please contact Paul Howarth Tel: 01943 465076 if you would like to arrange delivery and payments

Email: magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

During Covid 19

We have taken the decision not to print the April and May issues of the magazine (and will review the situation for the June issue), to keep the army of distribution volunteers (some of whom are over 70) safe.

The magazine will be posted online, www.fewstonwithblubberhouses.org.uk/church-life/parish-magazine/, at the beginning of each month. This is our Magazine Archive for past issues, but we want to make sure as many people can read the magazine as possible.

Our printer

We would like to thank Paul Cavanagh of Sharon Press (sharonpressuk@googlemail.com) who normally prints the magazine for us for his patience through this period of Social distancing. He happily abandoned the April print run at the last minute when we took the sad decision not to print.

Advertising

The revenue from advertising ensures that we can cover the cost of printing. We encourage local business that are happy to provide a service in our rural

parishes to advertise with us. Please contact Ann Johnson at ann@apmj.co.uk or Tel: 01943 880000 if you'd like to discuss advertising your business.

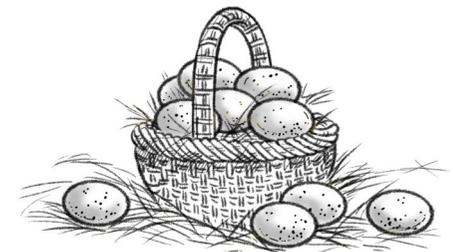
I would like to thank all the contributors and readers and I hope you and your families are well and staying safe in these strange times.

Articles

To all the budding writers, poets, cooks, comedians, artists photographers, puzzle or quiz setters who are at home during this period of "Social Distancing". Please send in items for the magazine that will uplift the mood of your fellow readers by the 5th May 2020.

Please send your contribution to me, Anna Bowman (Miss) (Editor), to the new email address: magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Thank you and stay safe



Book Club

Book reviews courtesy of Margaret Creek, who writes the Askwith and Denton

Women's Institute blog (<https://askwithweston-wi.wordpress.com/>)

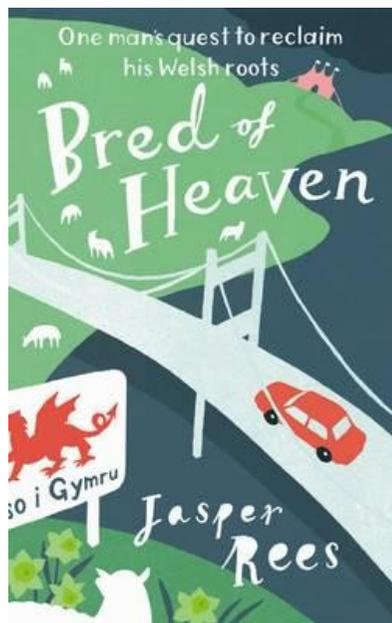
If you would like to send in a review of books you have enjoyed (or not) recently then this could become a regular feature of the magazine.

Title: A Spark of Light
Author: Jodi Picoult
Date: 2018

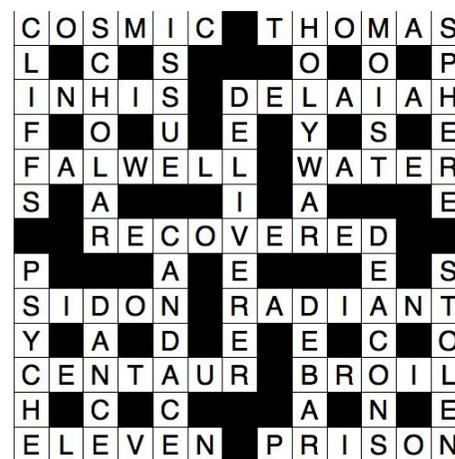
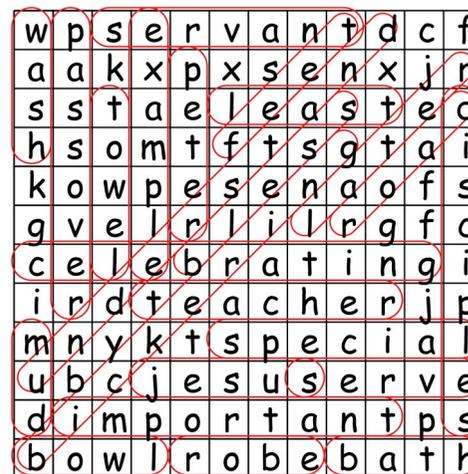
I have mixed feelings about this book, Jodi has tackled a sensitive and very personal topic in a well researched book about a siege in an abortion clinic in America. Of course you get the complete mix of hostages, from the young girl who wants contraception to the older lady wanting to talk through an ovarian cancer diagnosis, to an activist as well as someone who's just had an abortion and the staff who work there. It did make me realise how lucky we are here in the UK that within strict guidelines it is the woman's choice. I like Jody Picoult's style of writing but I found this one confusing as she started almost at the end of the siege and worked backwards, one chapter on each hour. I kept getting confused as to what happened next, I never did work out why one lady was shot! Some of the coincidences in the storyline were just a bit too far-fetched too.



Title: Bred of Heaven
Author: Jasper Rees
Date: 2011
Jasper always wanted to be Welsh, he had Welsh grandparents, but that's where it stopped, he is English through and through. He set out to achieve his goal by learning to sing, play (rugby) work (mines and sheep!) worship and the big one, to speak like a Welshman. Welsh is a notoriously difficult language to learn. He meets all sorts of Welsh people along the way, it's amusing, entertaining and informative too as he brings Welsh history and culture into it as well. I did laugh at his account of walking Offa's Dyke, a long distance walk, so much of it rang true from my own experience of walking these paths, especially the comment that any tourist place more than a metre off the path was not going to get visited! He has a similar style to Bill Bryson I think, an enjoyable and easy read.



Answers to Aprils Issue puzzles



8	7	4	6	9	5	3	2	1
1	9	6	2	4	3	8	7	5
2	3	5	8	7	1	4	6	9
4	5	8	1	6	2	9	3	7
7	6	1	9	3	8	2	5	4
3	2	9	7	5	4	6	1	8
9	1	3	5	8	6	7	4	2
5	4	7	3	2	9	1	8	6
6	8	2	4	1	7	5	9	3

3	5	2	1	6	4	8	7	9
7	8	1	9	5	2	4	3	6
6	4	9	7	8	3	1	2	5
8	6	7	4	9	1	2	5	3
9	2	5	6	3	8	7	1	4
4	1	3	2	7	5	6	9	8
5	3	6	8	2	7	9	4	1
1	7	8	3	4	9	5	6	2
2	9	4	5	1	6	3	8	7



Next Contribution Deadline 5th May

2020 Deadlines;

9th June, 7th July, 5th August

Edited by Anna Bowman

Email; magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Email; magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk

Email; magazine@washburnmidwharfebenefice.org.uk