

# July 2020

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Winchcombe Parish Magazine is available at 50p, or £5.00 by annual subscription for ten issues (£15.00 by post). If you would like to subscribe, please contact Sara Collins: email [lesandsara.collins@live.co.uk](mailto:lesandsara.collins@live.co.uk)

Views expressed in the magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the church leadership or other church members.

## Note from the Editors

Dear Readers,

We welcome you to the third on-line edition of our Parish Magazine. We are pleased to know that many of you are enjoying the variety of articles as well as the colour photography that we are able to bring to you and we hope to be able to continue such innovation when we are in print again. We are sorry that we have not been able to reach so many of you in our usual printed form; alas we have not been allowed to print and distribute our magazine. We hope this decision will have changed by September when we hope to be with you again.

This month we're featuring a few of the superb photographs from the *Virtual Gardens* display. More details can be found on page 10 . We hope you enjoy the magazine.

Happy reading and stay safe!



*Peace and tranquillity must be found in this lovely garden of Jules Redgers!*

### The Editorial team



*Jo Rees*

*Lynne Horton*

*Jennie Davies*

*Cathy Wilcock*

(most of us but not all!)

## Foreword

It's hard to believe that I have been in Winchcombe for two years now which means I am two thirds of my way through my curacy. As I write these words, we are still in lockdown although when you read them, I believe things will have eased more. Hopefully, our churches will be open for private prayer, perhaps pubs and restaurants will have been able to open their doors. I can't imagine how exciting it will be to actually go out for a meal. But there is so much uncertainty still. Will there be a second wave, will we have to go through lockdown again? What will church services look like? In a more personal way for me, I am wondering where I will go next and when. The future is shrouded in uncertainty and one of the biggest challenges for me in the past few weeks and going forward is how to live with that uncertainty.



I'm not the only person to feel this though. Many of you have spoken to me about your fears and concerns for your families and friends, your jobs, your health. There has also been a sense in which people have been grieving, mourning the things that lockdown has taken away and knowing that when they return, they might look and feel very different to before. Perhaps we all feel a little like strangers in a strange land.

There is a tension in not projecting ahead too much as there are things we simply can't know, and we need to *live in the moment*. My spiritual director once remarked dryly that an awful lot is talked about the importance of *living in the moment* but in her experience very few wise souls are able to do this successfully.

So I have been rooting myself in the small, solid joys that I do have. Walking in the countryside, the love of family and friends, reading, waking up bathed in birdsong and, of course, prayer and faith in God. The Bible has so many comforting, strengthening verses, but I think the one that has sustained me of late is from Paul's letter to the Philippians 4: 6-7.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Do let me know if you are in need of prayer.

Reverend Rachel Murray



*The cool waters in Pookie Shaw's garden*

## **Coronavirus**

The national Church of England has published guidance to churches about coronavirus. It is based on the official government advice from Public Health England. The Church guidance can be found at [www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus](http://www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus)

## The Front Cover

We are very grateful to Jason Hobbs of *The Corner Cupboard* for submitting this month's photograph for our front cover.

Please keep your photographs coming! It's lovely to have a colourful seasonal picture of Winchcombe on the cover; not necessarily of the church.



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## Our Parish Magazine



We welcome any contributions to our magazine but **please remember to send them to us by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, using "Word"**. Unfortunately, copy submitted after this date will not be able to be included until the following month.

The Editorial Team would welcome any suggestions, ideas or contributions. Contact us at [magazine@winchcombeparish.org](mailto:magazine@winchcombeparish.org) or speak to one of the team.

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Selected services at St Peter's can now be heard via <https://myradiostream.com/winchstpeters>



## **Prayer: Thanksgiving For Our Times**

Prayer doesn't always have to be telling God how wonderful He is (He knows that already); or telling Him what miserable sinners we are – (He knows that too). The current crisis makes us consciously aware of the love which is God's nature, and those who embody it – as Jesus did - those who love their neighbour, as so many people have done during these last few months – doctors, nurses, carers, cleaners, neighbours and many more. So let us thank Him for His presence amongst us.

Lord of all creation  
we thank You for those who have looked after  
this wounded body of humanity  
during these painful months.

We thank you for their sacramental care,  
the constant risks they take  
and their unending patience.

May the evidence of their healing devotion  
Remind us of the essential unity of humanity,  
Which You expressed to us through Your Son,  
In whose name we give you thanks –



Bishop Peter



## Lichens at St. Peter's

There are some beautiful abstract patterns in subtle colours in our churchyard. Have you sometimes glanced at the gravestones as you wandered down the path through St Peter's churchyard? Or maybe you've been more adventurous and wandered off the path? If so, you may have been admiring the lichens that are abundant here.

So, what is a lichen? For more than 100 years it has been known that a lichen is the product of a symbiotic relationship between two partners – a fungus and an alga. Although recent scientific evidence suggests that it is more complex, this essential relationship still holds. They are all slow-growing, some very slow-growing, which is why undisturbed churchyards are good sites to find them.

Lichens are beautiful and interesting organisms in their own right, found in all continents of the world, including Antarctica. Most produce a fascinating range of chemicals, many of which have yet to be fully evaluated for their beneficial properties for human beings. Several have been used for dyes for hundreds of years in many parts of the world, including Europe and India. For about a century also, it has been realised that lichens could be useful as pollutant monitors, some being very susceptible to atmospheric pollution.







*Verrucaria baldensis*

There are three main growth forms, named after their appearances: crustose (crusty), foliose (leafy), and fruticose (bushy). They grow on three main substrates – stone/rock, tree bark and the ground. Some lichens will only grow on certain types of stone, while the majority are not too fussy. The prevalence of

lichens on both the gravestones and our church building indicates that they certainly like limestone. They are easy to appreciate low down on the church walls and are there high up too, perhaps softening the profiles of the grotesques slightly as they look down on us.

In the UK we are lucky enough to have over 2000 species of lichen. Unfortunately, though, very few lichens have common names as our birds, flowers and trees do, so here are the Latin names of a few of the most noticeable lichens at St Peter's.



*Xanthoria parietina*

We can appreciate the patterns made by lichens even from a distance, but if you peer at them with a magnifying glass, they reveal wonderful miniature worlds. An appreciation of lichens adds another dimension to our appreciation of the natural world around us – one that for many of us has indeed increased during our coronavirus-imposed home confinement.



*Diploicia canescens*

Michael & Jennie Davies



## Late Summer Gardens

The mellow warmth of July and August is cruelly revealing of any weakness in a garden. It's not too difficult to have a fabulous display in May and June: if you plant tulips, alliums, peonies, roses, nepeta and lavender, you are virtually guaranteed a continuous show throughout. Late summer, however, needs more planning, both in terms of forward thinking and of day-to-day maintenance.



Late summer is when annuals such as cosmos, tithonia, antirrhinums, nicandra, nicotiana and larkspur come into their own. If you have a greenhouse, conservatory or just a sunny windowsill, it's worth filling trays with seeds of these eye-catchers in late April and May. They can then be planted out in June, once any danger of frost is past.

Favourite cosmos of mine are the dead-white 'Purity', which from tiny frail seedlings will bolt to five foot, with stems as thick as posts. I also like the smaller, daintier, pale lemon 'Xanthos' and bright red 'Dazzler'. Tithonia rotundifolia 'Torch' is a recent discovery. I first saw it at Hidcote three years ago, and then a friend mentioned he had grown it successfully. It's a terrific plant for late summer, with a yellow-centred, reddy orange daisy-like flower. Growing to about three or four foot, with delicate stems, it needs good support. A gardening neighbour gave me a handful of nicandra seeds when I first moved to Winchcombe, and I've been growing it on from those seeds ever since. It's a pale blue, fluffy flower, with a hooded, attractive seed head, and a dozen or more plants can be squeezed into a pot.



Even the best managed gardens face some kind of flowering hiatus after June. Nepeta, for instance, should be chopped back fiercely in July to allow it to put on a new blue flush in August. Otherwise, it will just become leggy and unsightly.

Lavender won't reflower, but is worth trimming now (don't cut into the wood) to give it a nicely rounded shape along the edge of a border. Similarly, cut back hardy geraniums to allow their new foliage to create interest, contrast and texture.

It's well-known that serious dead-heading is important before a late summer holiday, but I had always been a bit timid until last year. As we went away for three weeks from mid-August, I plucked up courage to strip every rose, helenium, dahlia, knautia, cosmos, tithonia, sweet pea and antirrhinum of its blooms, filling two buckets of flowers for a friend. The garden was entirely green when we left, but, on our return in early September, it was a veritable feast of colour. Not much of a tip, perhaps, this year, when no one is likely to be going anywhere, but, if you are prepared for a lull in colour, it might be worth trying it in August for a September treat.

Vanessa Berridge

## Virtual Gardens

Please take a look at the amazing garden



photographs that have been submitted and displayed on our website. I have been up-dating it daily; here is the link:

<https://www.opengardens-winchcombe.com/2020-virtual-tour>

Because of the set-up of the website all Blog pages can only hold 25 submissions, so therefore as more photographs are added some of the earlier ones will automatically move into the archive area - so see the link to the right of the screen.

*The glorious garden of Pat and Philip Barton, Gloucester Street*

Rosie Green



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## **MABEL**

You'll all have heard of Mack and Mabel; well, after MACS, (Mike's Alphabet of Church Speak), comes MABEL, (Mike's Adventures in Bible Land!)

This month Mike brings to a close his adventures with some more characters from the Old Testament.

## **Prophets**

The next section of books, and the last in the Old Testament, are the Prophets. However, before we look at the books it would be helpful to say something about prophets in general. The prophets were a part of Jewish society for centuries, sometimes listened to and admired but often ignored or even abused. There are 17 prophetic books but there were many more prophets than that; the most notable one without a book is Elijah who we met in 1 Kings.

As to what they did, the most important thing to notice is what they did not do, which was to prophesy the future. Their role was to pass on to people the word of God, simply that. It was not an easy calling as the voice was often one of challenge. When things were going well, and people were following God, there was no need of prophets. It was when there were problems or when people were turning away from God that the prophets' voices would be heard. And their voices were often strident, calling people back to God, condemning injustices, condemning the rich and powerful, and offering a vision of the consequences if nothing changed. No wonder they were so often unpopular!

But they were and are a counter to a religion of vested interests and thoughtless rule-following. Even today, their voices challenge us to live better!

## The Fifth Gospel

The first prophetic book is Isaiah, not because it is the earliest but the longest! Isaiah is well-known to Christians and is quoted in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament book. Among his prophecies, Isaiah predicts the coming of the Messiah and quite a bit of what Jesus' ministry would look like. Jesus seems to have been very familiar with Isaiah's words. It is even possible to select passages from Isaiah which seem to tell the entire story of Jesus – hence the description as the fifth gospel!



*Prophet Isaiah by Ugolin di Nerio (documented 1317-1327)*

But Isaiah is much more than this. The first part of the book is a condemnation of the then current corruption in Jerusalem with a warning of coming disaster. The disaster, of course, came in the form of the exile. The second part of the book, possibly written by a different prophet (second Isaiah), is addressed to the people in exile and is a message of hope; a promise of

return and restoration. God may have allowed the people to be taken into exile, after all they had behaved pretty badly, but he had not abandoned them and still cared for them. Finally (third Isaiah?) is a section addressed to those who had returned to Jerusalem after exile, encouraging them to build for a great future. And throughout, some of the most beautiful and inspiring poetry and imagery in the whole bible!

## The Long Ones

The books of the prophets are normally talked about in two groups, the major prophets and the minor prophets. This isn't

about their importance, but the length of the books; the major prophets are much longer! We've already come across the first of the major prophets, Isaiah, but what about the others?

Next comes Jeremiah, another prophet from Jerusalem just before the exile, again warning of the impending catastrophe. His message is not popular and he finds himself in trouble repeatedly. However, once the disaster has happened he writes to those in exile urging them to stay faithful to God. Lamentations was traditionally thought to have been written by Jeremiah. As its name suggests, it is a poem lamenting the fall of Jerusalem.



*Jeremiah, as depicted by Michelangelo from the Sistine Chapel ceiling*

Ezekiel was a priest and one of the first to be exiled to Babylon. He has messages for those in exile with him and for those still in Jerusalem. It would be fair to say that he is one of the most eccentric of the prophets, prophesying through unusual actions as well as in words. Daniel is the story of an exile who rises to high position and struggles to balance his Babylonian role with his Jewish background. Some of the book consists of visions of the far future but overlaid with difficult -to- follow imagery.

## **The Short Ones**

The remaining twelve prophetic books are the minor prophets, i.e. the short books! Some of them, like Hosea and Amos are quite well-known, others you may never have even heard of. Most of them were living around the time of the exile or just



before, though Haggai and Zechariah write about the time of the return from exile and Malachi later still. All I can do here is give you a flavour of each book.

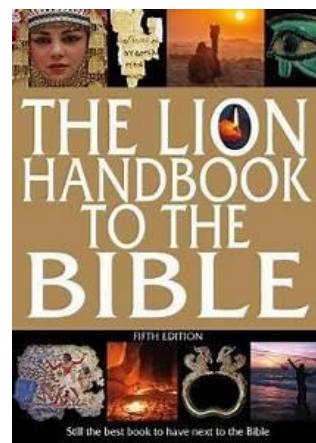
Hosea, from the Northern kingdom, like Ezekiel prophesies through action as well as by words. He is very concerned to communicate the depth of God's love. Joel interprets the meaning of a disastrous plague of locusts for the people. Amos is the most plain speaking of the prophets. He challenges, unthinking, automatic following of rules without understanding God's desire for holiness and care for the poor. Obadiah predicts the end of Edom. Jonah tries hard not to be a prophet but God catches him anyway. Micah warns of the consequences of injustice but also offers hope.

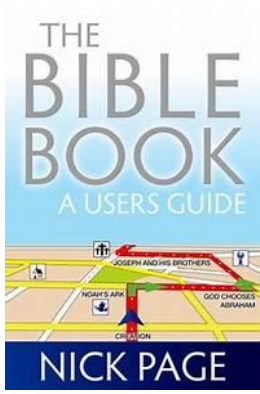
Nahum tells the story of the destruction of Assyria. Habakkuk tries to make sense of why the exile has happened. Zephaniah warns of the disastrous 'Day of the Lord.' Haggai tries to encourage the returned exiles, as does Zechariah, but Zechariah's visions can make strange reading. Malachi reminds the people of their importance to God, however difficult things are right now.

## Guidebooks

Although we are finishing this trip through the Old Testament, what about further trips? Here are some guidebooks to help you find your way next time you visit.

An old favourite now, but still very helpful, is *The Lion Handbook to the Bible*. It's got lots of information and pictures too. It's easy to follow whether you dip in or sit down and study. Similar in scope but a bit more serious is John Drane's *An Introduction to the Bible*, also published by Lion. Fewer pictures and more words but very helpful and a book that repays careful reading.





A different and shorter book, but one I find really helpful, is Nick Page's 'The Bible Book,' published by Collins. It's newer than the others and written by a fan rather than an expert. It's honest, not at all pompous and fun to read.

If you want more detail but still easy to read, you cannot get much better than Tom Wright and John Goldingay's 'Bible for Everyone' series. Each book in the series covers one book of the bible and provides wonderful insights from two of the Church's best biblical scholars and theologians.

Mike Holloway



*Sue Milton's colourful patio pots*

## **Film Review: A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood**

I saw a wonderful film a few days ago that I want to share with you. It's the latest Tom Hanks film. It tells the true story of a famous American children's presenter called Mr Rogers whose show 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood' ran from 1968 to 2001 and was beloved by generations. The show encouraged children (and grown-ups) to talk and think about their feelings. In the film a hard-bitten journalist comes to see Mr Rogers and plans to write a mocking review of him. But he was utterly disarmed by Rogers' sweetness, idealism and wisdom. He wrote 'What is grace? I'm not certain; all I know is that my heart felt like a spike, and then, in that room, it opened and felt like an umbrella'.



Mr Rogers affirms all he meets. He tells people that they are great, just the way they are and of course he talks about love. How we are all loved into being. Have you ever stopped to think about all the people who have loved you into being? It is an immensely powerful thought.

Mr Rogers was passionate about public service broadcasting. About teaching children (and grown-ups) positive ways to be. It is probably no coincidence that he was also a Presbyterian minister and that faith permeates what he does and shines love and acceptance on all he meets. He totally and utterly values all the people he meets. I hope you can see this film. It was one of the most joyous films I have ever watched. My soul felt better for watching it. So what I want to leave you with is Mr Rogers' message. That you are a wonderful person, just the way you are and you have been loved into being, not just by those who have loved you, but also, I would add, by God.

Rev Rachel Murray



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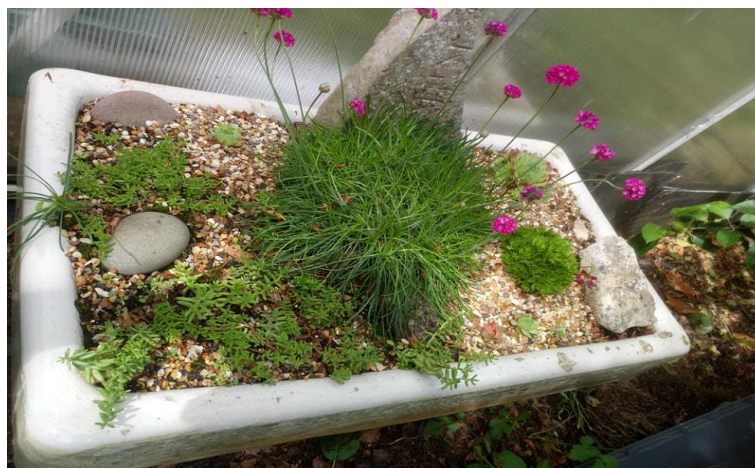
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## Remembering David Crow

Martin Gorman remembers well-known and loved David Crow for us:

I first met David sometime after we had arrived in Winchcombe in April 2013, though David and Anne moved to Winchcombe in 2012 and volunteered to be church stewards soon afterwards. David enjoyed chatting to visitors about Winchcombe's history. Lynn and I got to know him pretty well and

enjoyed his company, usually accompanied by Anne and Simba.

I had many conversations with David over the years and these ranged across various different topics, before the curse of dementia increasingly eroded his faculties. I now realize that in his time he had been a man of many parts and talents of which, sadly, we in Winchcombe only experienced a small part.

David read poetry at the Winchcombe Day Care Centre, and he participated in concerts such as *Voices from the Trenches*. I well remember David's rendition of the poem *War, Modern War* in his mellifluous and sonorous voice in that commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War. He also participated in other local celebrations, *Gloucestershire 1016-2016 A Celebration*, *Winchcombe Remembers*, and *A Cotswold Christmas*. He was a valued volunteer at Winchcombe Museum, and a member of the Local History Group and the U3A.

David got on very well with his step- family in Cheltenham and enjoyed their times together including visits to the Cheltenham Literary Festival, Gifford's Circus, and All Things Wild.

He loved dogs, and enjoyed meeting people and their dogs out walking and in various pubs.

Although one's final memories of David are somewhat sad, thankfully, one's abiding memories are of a friendly, caring and cheerful person and of someone who had lived a varied and interesting life.



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Occasion(s): .....

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*Donation (£5 minimum per evening) £.....cash or cheque to "Friends of St Peter's Church Winchcombe". Please read below and sign and return this slip with your remittance to St Peter's Centre, Gloucester Street, Winchcombe, GL54 5LU, at least two weeks before the requested date.*

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Signed:..... Date: .....

**Notes:**

- In exceptional circumstances the Friends' Committee reserve the right to decline a request.*
- Dates are not exclusive and in the event of more than one request for a particular date the later applicant will, where practicable, be informed and may be offered an alternative.*

## **All Change!**

God called the prophet Jonah to go where Jonah did not want to go and his story is all about how Jonah deals with God's interruption of his everyday life. Interruptions, large and small are very much part of our own everyday lives and how we work through them can be life changing.

Back in 2014, my life was interrupted in an enormous way: a car accident left me with a broken neck and a life that felt 'like a bowl of tossed salad.' There was nothing recognisable left: for the many months of recovery I struggled with who I was in this new place and whether my life had any purpose or point. Complete healing began only when I realised that I could not go back to the 'me' I was prior to the accident. The work I had been doing was no longer manageable and the way of life, which had filled each day, was beyond me. That was a very challenging time.



*Morag Adlington*

So here we are in 2020. Yet again, our lives have been sorely interrupted, and it is questionable whether or not the lives we have previously enjoyed will just click back into place or even if the virus will ever cease to be a threat to us. So how do we deal with this interruption? In many ways it has been a lovely time for me: I have caught up with many of the house-related chores left undone as a result of an overly busy life; many postponed DIY tasks are now complete; heaps of unread books are much smaller than before and I now meet and chat with many more of my neighbours. I've caught up with far-flung friends and family via the wonders of Zoom, WhatsApp and even snail mail.

But it goes on - and on - and on! The rules become more confusing, the infringements more alarming and the inconsistencies of Government announcements more

incomprehensible. I really do not recognise this world where, according to the BBC online News, it is right to give Premier League footballers tests for the virus twice a week but care home workers cannot be tested weekly! Thank God for gardens and parks where I can now meet the Grandchildren. I've found life increasingly challenging as the weeks have gone on and my diversions diminished. Feelings of uncertainty and inner questioning begin to rumble in the background. A new way of living beckons - whatever that may be and however it looks. Reading this poem today has filled me with hope that all will be well and that God still has a plan for my life.

Morag Adlington

### **Patient Trust**

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.  
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.  
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.  
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.  
And yet it is the law of all progress  
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—  
and that it may take a very long time.  
And so I think it is with you;  
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,  
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.  
Don't try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)  
will make of you tomorrow.  
Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be.  
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself  
in suspense and incomplete

By Teilhard de Chardin

# Joy



It may seem strange to think of Joy as we battle our wretched invisible foe at this challenging time, but I have come to feel that there is now all the more reason to ponder its mysteries than ever..

In my research I discovered that in no other religion is joy as conspicuous as in Christianity and The Bible. Physically and psychologically speaking, it is the criterion of health whereby all the powers and affections are enriched, and harmonised. So it denotes the satisfaction of the soul at attaining its desire, and Christianity stands firm so long as people who have it are invested with joy.

The word itself conveys such a positive feeling, I believe an unique feeling... there are synonyms, of course: delight, rapture, exultation, bliss, cheer, jubilation and the lovely French expression *joie de vivre*, but they, to me, convey a slightly



different feeling...I have always enjoyed the sensation that different reactions are conveyed in each of us by the same word, depending on the nuances of our

respective experiences...one of the great beauties of language. The verb to rejoice is a colourful one, and I have always loved adjectives derived from the root of joy: joyful, joyous, and, perhaps in particular, jocund! Whatever words we employ, the effect on our souls is innately positive...

I think joy is our response to something bigger, something eternal; it can often come from conquering ourselves and enduring suffering, insults, pain, humiliation or hardships for a virtuous cause, ( if that doesn't sound too pious!) so true joy nourishes our souls even when our lives are proving difficult.



Not surprisingly, it was The Romantics who really put joy on the poetic map, tho' Chaucer had done his bit, and John Donne, the libertine who later in his colourful life became Dean of St. Paul's, knew a little about joys, both physical and spiritual! But the Romantic voices sought to write of their own experiences of life, rather than those of shepherdesses, wood nymphs and heavenly bodies, (in the metaphorical sense!). William Blake, an unusual character in so many artistic ways, led the way here, realising that joy cannot last for ever, at least in this life, when he wrote:



William Blake 1757-1827

*He who kisses the joy as it flies*

*Lives in eternity's sunrise*

and Wordsworth put his own stamp on the emotion's capacity to catch us unawares with the fact he had been *surprised by joy*, also the title of a very fine study of his marriage to a real-life Joy by C.S. Lewis. Lord Byron, in perhaps uncharacteristically generous mood, said *All who win joy must share it*.



John Keats 1795-1821

John Keats, my own favourite among The Romantics, knew a thing or two about suffering, the antithesis of joy, but that made him all the more grateful, as I am sure it will us, when the pandemic is finally vanquished, to celebrate joy when it came to him. His great poem,

*Endymion*, written after a mighty earthquake, opens with the magnificent: *A thing of beauty is a joy forever*, and, to me, those words, like all great writing, art and music, have ever-more resonant a sound as we go through life. I am not a great fan of lists, though Shakespeare was, but rather than comment on all the following, I shall just pen them for your lenient eyes

to peruse at leisure, aware that different lines will appeal to different eyes:

*Truth illuminates and gives joy.* - Matthew Arnold

*Joy is the best of wines.* - George Eliot, *Silas Marner*

*O, running stream of sparkling joy*

*To be a soaring human boy.* - Charles Dickens

and we cannot leave out The Bard: *Joy's soul lies in the doing.* - *Troilus and Cressida*

There are, of course, many other literary references to joy, from Coleridge, Shelley, Dryden, et cetera, not to mention the German heavyweight, Schiller, and the French author, Guillaume Apollinaire, who believed *La joie venait toujours après la peine*, (Joy always comes after pain); I am sure you will have your own choice of words/thoughts on the subject...

Last year, I had the great good fortune to take the wedding of a young couple in Scotland, and I made joy the theme of the address. Since then, we have kept up a lively correspondence, and in his most recent letter, John, the groom, wrote of the importance of anticipation, when it comes to joy. He wanted to show how important is the looking forward to something, how much there is in the build-up, and his thoughts have great relevance to our Covid situation now: *During this lock-down we haven't only lost events themselves, but also the anticipation of those events. When we think of our lives, and our time ahead, we map this out with notable occasions: events and moments to look forward to. That's gone, for now... To be denied that anticipation is an imposition indeed, but one that seems to be saved by focusing on the smaller things.* He is so right and we are all, I hope, noticing the smaller things: the first bluebells, for those of us able to walk outside, but even a cup of coffee can become a highlight, not to mention a generous slice of lemon drizzle!

Chris Haslam

## Dame Julian of Norwich

*All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well....*

A well known quotation, and extremely welcome at this time – but how many of us know its origin? This reassurance came from Dame Julian, or Juliana, an anchorite who lived in Norwich during the Middle Ages.

What is an anchorite, you may ask? Well, it's someone who chooses to withdraw from secular society, to lead a very ascetic, prayer-based life. People still do it, in the twenty first century, for many and varied reasons.

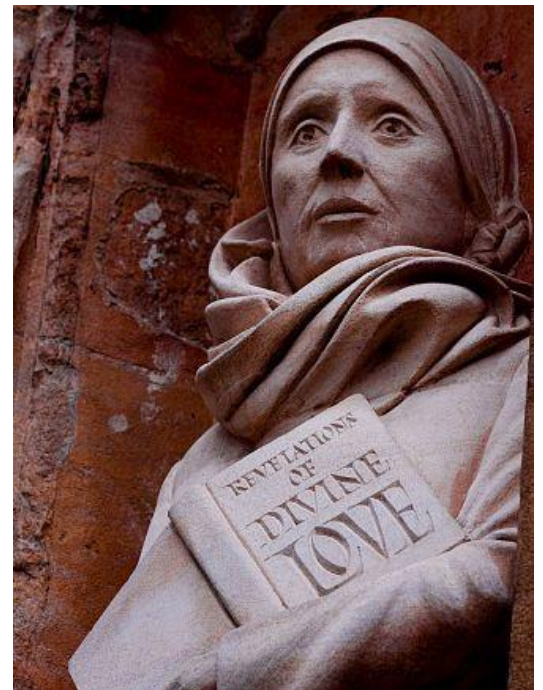
We know nothing of Dame Julian's life before she entered her cell, but at the age of thirty,

she became so ill that she was near death. During this time, she received visions, or *shewings* of the Passion of Christ, and she transcribed them into Revelations of Divine Love, the first book ever written in English by a woman. What a beacon for the emancipation of women, at a time of St Paul's dictum that *women should remain silent in the churches !*

Norwich at that time was suffering greatly, from poverty, famine, and plague, so it was a very difficult time to express a message about God's goodness. Her message was constantly one of hope and trust, that *all shall be well*.

Many centuries on, pilgrims from all over the world visit her shrine in Norwich. Modern writers such as Iris Murdoch, and T.S Eliot, reference her - you may recall him using our title quote, in the Four Quartets. Her message that everything that exists comes from God, and so is right, must surely give us strength in every difficult time.

Jo Rees



The statue of Julian of Norwich on the West Front of Norwich Cathedral, made by the sculptor David Holgate in 2014.

## **St Peter's Charitable Giving:**

### **Christian Solidarity Worldwide**

John Sutcliffe convenes a group that recommends to the PCC a list of charities to be supported in the forthcoming year, and the proportion of the total sum available to be given to each. This year the PCC agreed to the suggestion that each charity might be the subject of an article in the magazine. This month Sara Collins writes about Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSM).

This charity was set up over thirty years ago and its vision is a world free from religious persecution, where everyone can practise a religion or belief of their choice. The right to freedom of religion or belief is also known as the *first freedom* given to humanity by God. It is a basic human right, often serving as a *litmus test* for whether other rights are at risk of being abused. The CSW seeks to challenge and change the laws, behaviours and policies which lead to abuses of the right to freedom of religion and belief. They have a team of specialist lawyers who work in over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, to ensure that this right is upheld and protected.

The organisation gathers evidence and documents abuses by regularly visiting the countries they are working on, to gather first-hand evidence of violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief. Their research and analysis is used by politicians, policy-makers and international institutions around the world and regularly provides decision-makers in the UK parliament, United Nations, European Union, and US Congress with accurate reports on freedom of religion or belief. They work with activists, journalists, religious leaders and partner Non-Government Organisations in the countries on which they focus, aiming to build and equip networks of partners and communities, empowering them to become advocates for justice and create lasting solutions. They work extensively at the



United Nations, and with the UK and US governments, the European Union, and other regional and international bodies to support those in positions of power to bring about change.

The CSW has Christian values at its heart and is proud of its Christian heritage, identity and values which are the foundations in all they do. They believe that as Christians we must stand with everyone facing religious persecution. The organisation believes in the power of prayer to transform situations and encourage supporters to join them in praying for the cases and issues they work on.



Further information can be found at [csw.org.uk](http://csw.org.uk)

Sara Collins



*A sample of the lovely flowers in the garden of Andrew and Gill Worthington*

## **The Windhover**

### **To Christ Our Lord**



I caught this morning morning's minion, king-  
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his  
riding  
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding  
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing  
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,  
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and  
gliding  
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding  
Stirred for a bird, – the achieve of, the mastery of the thing.

Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here  
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion  
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!

No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough down sillion  
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,  
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.

Gerard Manley Hopkins May 1877

On my daily walks during lockdown, every so often I've witnessed a wonderful Kestrel hovering above ground sighting its prey and being rebuffed by the wind. I always think of the first few lines of this masterly poem by Hopkins as he captures the movement so precisely and perfectly with his words, in such a fresh and modern way. He was a Jesuit priest and the poem mirrors the intensity and passion of his relationship with his Lord.

Cathryn Wilcock

## The Organ Plays

Well, no it doesn't. Somewhere, a man or woman, boy or girl is sitting at a keyboard controlling the sounds that emerge from what Mozart described as the "King of Instruments". And those sounds might have been written down several hundred years ago or improvised by the player on the spot, imagined in an instant, never to be repeated.



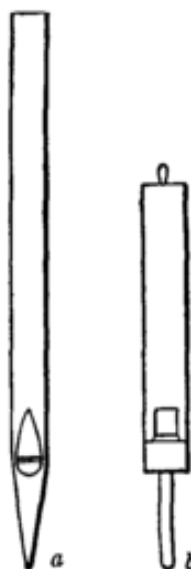
Oude Kerk – Amsterdam  
1724

All music is intimately entwined with the instruments on which it is played and the old "chicken and egg" question often arises – has the instrument changed in response to the music or have instrument makers responded to the demands of musicians?

The organ is no exception and we find John Stanley, say, writing for the English organ of his time, Francois Couperin exploiting the French instruments of his age and J S Bach doing things with his feet that his English and French contemporaries would have found impossible.

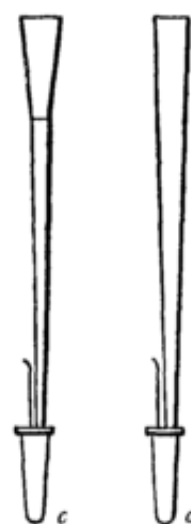
Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, organs relied on a man to pump enough air into the bellows and the number of pipes was limited by the strength of the player's fingers operating the keys which let the wind into individual pipes. But then engineers developed electrical and pneumatic motors to do the hard work, and the organ could grow almost without limit. And the musicians exploited that and composed music which asks for louder and more varied sounds. Organs found their way into concert halls and cinemas as well as churches and cathedrals.

Sitting at an organ with maybe only 30 pipes visible in the case, I have known visitors be surprised when told that there are perhaps a thousand pipes inside, out of sight. So what does lie between the player's fingers and the sounds you hear? The organ dates back to the Ancient Greeks. Originally one key made a single pipe sound (or speak); then more pipes were added to make the instrument louder. To aid flexibility, a system was devised whereby some of the additional pipes could be silenced so that the organ was not always playing at full pelt – probably the origin of the term “stops”.



Each stop controls a row of pipes and each key on the keyboard controls one of those pipes. The rows of pipes are grouped together into their own “mini” organs controlled from their own keyboard – hence instruments often have two, three, four or even five keyboards (or manuals) with pedals for the feet. Each of these “mini” organs has its own purpose, but it is the individual pipes that ultimately determine the character of the organ. Pipes may be made of wood or metal and are usually simple whistles (think of a recorder with no finger holes). Short

pipes squeak and tall pipes rumble; some sound mellow and fluty, others thin and stringy. The base of the pipe is known as the foot, it speaks, has a mouth, and may have a beard and ears. The most colourful sounds, like oboes, clarinets or trumpets, come from a different type of pipe – one with a reed which vibrates. The human connection continues as the reed has a tongue, housed in a boot, and the whole pipe may have a hood!



The organ is a complex machine and each one is different. The challenge for the player is to make music that explores the instrument and transports the listener into the sound world the composer created. Andrew Horton



# Local Walks with the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens



Although there are currently no guided walks taking place a programme is being prepared which we hope to deliver from August. Depending on how things progress these will be published on:

<https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/walking/>

Walks will have limited numbers and a booking system will be in operation, so check the website for details.

In the meantime, please try one of our many self-guided walks that can be found at :

<https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/walking/self-guided-walks/>

The walk leaders are very much looking forward to showing you the beautiful Cotswold countryside when it is safe to do so.

As there are no current guided walks available, on the following page we have printed a walk which can be found on the **Winchcombe Welcomes Walkers** site and which has all the details for a self-guided walk. Many thanks to them for allowing us to publicize the walk in our magazine.

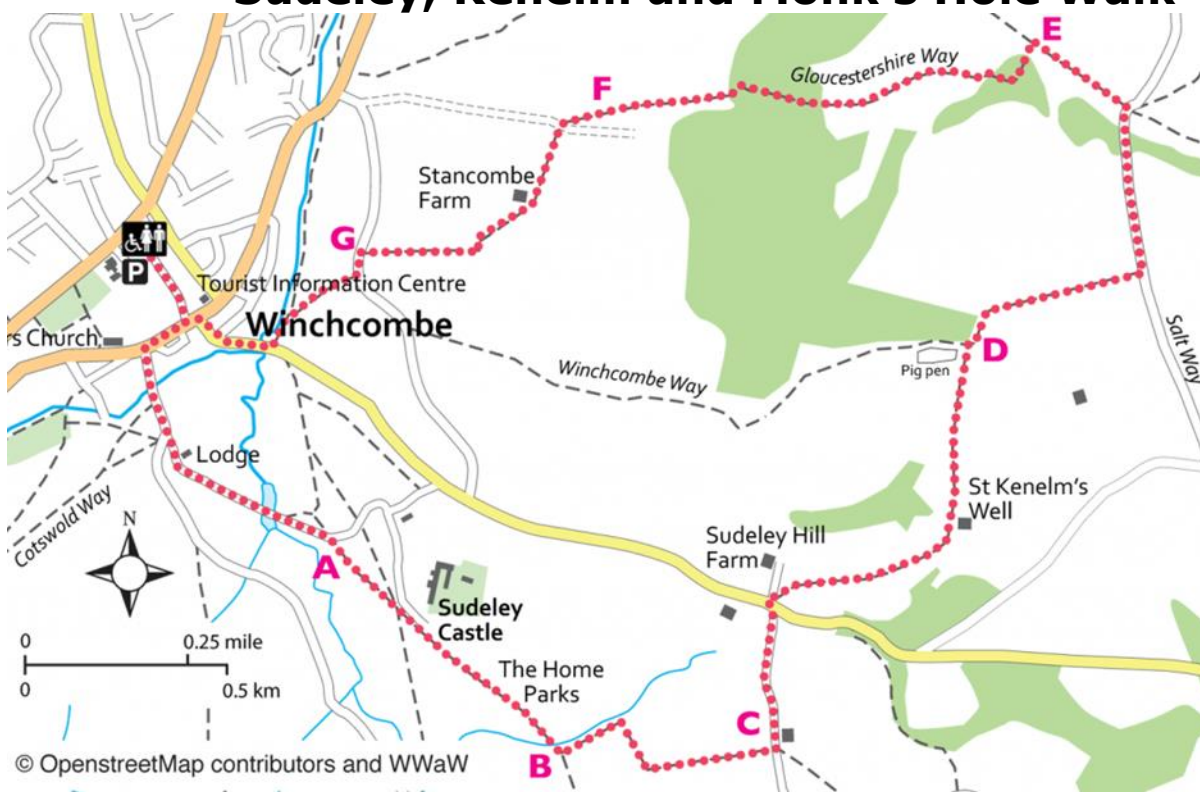


## A Local Walk

# Winchcombe Welcomes Walkers

TO THE WALKING CAPITAL OF THE COTSWOLDS

### Sudeley, Kenelm and Monk's Hole Walk



A circular walk past Sudeley Castle, St Kenelm's Well up to the Salt Way before returning via the Gloucestershire Way with airy views.

Distance: 4.75 miles/ 7.7 km

Duration: 2.75 hours

Difficulty: Strenuous

Start/finish: Back Lane car park, Winchcome. (Grid ref: SP 025285) £1 all day. Toilets 20p in car park.

OS maps: Outdoor Leisure 45, Landranger 163

Ascent: 735 feet/224 metres

Leave Back Lane car park via the far corner access into Cowl Lane. Turn right and follow the road to the High Street.

Turn right and after approx 60 metres turn left into Vineyard Street. Cross the River Isbourne, head up the slope and where the road bends to the right, keep straight ahead to enter the grounds of **Sudeley Castle**, passing the castellated Almsbury Lodge on your left.

Follow the main driveway, crossing the lake by the bridge and continue gently uphill to meet a gate on your right **A**. Go through, keeping the play area/fort on your left, and head for a metal gate beside a field gate entering the next field.

Go through the gate and continue ahead keeping to the path to the left. Follow the path to the far left corner of the field and a ramp/gate. (The Home Parks). Go through the gate and turn left. **B** In 20 metres pass through another gate and walk ahead with trees and a farm track to your left.

In 200 metres follow the field boundary to the right and after a further 200 metres turn left over a footbridge and through a gate to walk gently uphill towards a house.

At the top, in front of the house, **C** turn left onto a lane. Follow the lane to a T-junction and carefully cross the road and turn left a short distance to meet a track leading to Sudeley Hill Farm. Here, opposite the Farm Shop sign, turn sharp right through a gate and walk up the field to a gate. Go through and continue ahead and meet a track; bear left on to the track, go through a gate and pass the stone building housing St Kenelm's Well on your right.



### **St Kenelm's Well**

Continue ahead and go through a gate beside a field gate, head uphill towards a gate on the

horizon, to the right of woodland and a pig pen. When you reach the gate go through into the next field via a gate **D**. Enter the next field and continue along the track ahead. The countryside changes from pasture land to open arable fields and the gradient levels out.

Follow the track, keeping the drystone wall on your right until you reach a lane (Salt Way). Turn left following the Winchcombe Way sign and follow the lane downhill to Little Farmcote Farm. Bear left on the gated lane (if you are lucky you might have a view of the Stanway fountain ahead) and 25 metres after the gate on the left is a path by a field gate. Turn left through the gate and you will follow the Gloucestershire Way back to Winchcombe.

Cross the field to the gate, go through into the next field and cross the next field to another gate, with glorious views looking towards Toddington, the Malverns and Winchcombe railway station below.

Continue ahead and go through a field gate, **E** before turning left up a short steep slope to a stile. Cross the stile and continue a short way to a gate on the edge of the wood. Follow the path through the trees before you start to descend down to another gate.

Go through the gate to leave the scrubby area and follow the right hand field boundary to the far side of this long field, looking for a gate on your right. Go through the gate and turn left, following the path down to some trees, with fine views of the Malvern Hills from here. Continue down through the trees, taking great care, as the path can be slippery in places.

At the bottom of the slope bear left and join a track which leads to a field gate, near a radio mast. Before you reach the gate, as the track turns left, **F** fork right down to a gate in some trees. Go through the gate and follow the path to another gate, and across a paddock to meet a gate by a lane.



Turn right onto the lane and then immediate left through a gate into a field, crossing it to the far side to a large sign 'PATH'. Go through the gate and turn right towards another large sign 'PATH'. Head to the left of the farm buildings to leave the field via a gate slightly hidden from view.

Go through and turn right to follow the fence on your right, before striking out across the field in the same direction to a gate on the far side.

Go through the gate and take care as you emerge onto the lane, (Rushley Lane). **G** Turn left along the lane to shortly meet a gate on your right, signposted Gloucestershire Way. Go through the gate and cross the field (ridge and furrow) diagonally to the left towards some houses in the distance. Head for a gate on the surfaced path by some buildings. Go through the gate, along the path between properties to emerge in Castle Street.

Turn right here and follow the road up to the top, where it meets the High Street. To return to the car park turn left and shortly cross the road to enter Cowl Lane leading to the car park.

## **Points of interest**

### **Sudeley Castle**

The castle has a well documented history and is a 15th century rebuild on the site of a 12th century castle.



### **St Kenelm's Well**

This conduit house has a two foot deep well fed by a spring associated with most of the country's most interesting saint.

In the 11th century the story of the saint is told. It relates that King Kenulf, King of Mercia and founder of Winchcombe Abbey (in 789 A.D) had an heir Kenelm. His half sister Quenride was jealous of her brother and being ambitious murdered him and had his body hidden in Clent, North Worcestershire. The Clent

monks removed this body and carried it to Winchcombe. Where the funeral cortège rested miraculous springs arose. Of these springs, only the two remain, that at Clent and here, the last resting place. The monks of Winchcombe claimed the body and established a pilgrimage place, the spring being part of this pilgrimage.

## **Salt Way**

These ancient routes radiated from Droitwich in varying directions and the salt ways predated Roman roads and drovers routes.

A route for the distribution of salt is believed to have been from Worcester via Toddington, Hailes and Winchcombe on through Lechlade and on to the coast in Hampshire, Winchcombe was very much a crossroads for trading routes.

The Latin word *salarium* linked salt and Roman soldiers. The *salarium* paid to Roman soldiers has defined a form of work-for-hire ever since in the Western world, and gave rise to such expressions as "being worth one's salt".

## **Monks Hole**

One winter with snow falling, a monk from Winchcombe was visiting his brethren at Hailes. On his return journey as darkness fell he reached the summit of the hill. Snow had driven into the hollows and hidden all trace of a path, the monk fell into one of the snow drifts, never to rise again. He was not found until the snow had melted.

WWaW hope you enjoy the walk, however the walk is undertaken at your have no responsibility injury or possible care has been information given was creation.



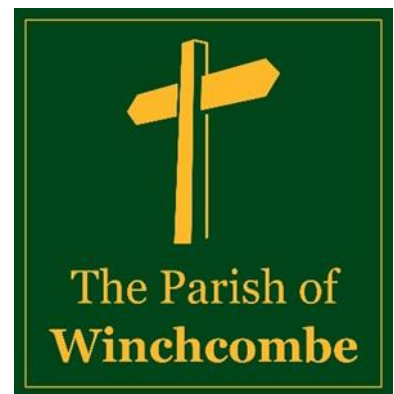
sole risk and WWaW for loss, damage, interpretation. Every taken to ensure the accurate at the time of

## Notes from the May 2020 PCC Meeting

The PCC met online via Zoom. JP said the opening prayer and then posed the following questions to take away and reflect upon:

- What have we lost that we need to regain?
- What have we lost that needs to remain lost?
- What have we gained that we need to hang on to?
- What have we gained that we are looking forward to letting go?

It was noted that Church buildings remain closed, but that they may be able to open under stringent conditions (following Diocesan and Government advice) in July. The PCC discussed the draft version of the post Covid-19 Parish plan and agreed that the plan should be circulated as several documents (starting with phase 1), along with an overview to show the PCC's intentions.



The PCC were informed that Shelley and Andrew were furloughed in mid-March, and Mark Mulley is working from home. Margaret Bearne has stepped down as Churchwarden and Simon Andrews is acting Churchwarden – with permission from the Bishop and Archdeacon. Thank you to Margaret for all her hard work as PCC Secretary, and then Churchwarden, over the past few years.

Geof Adlington updated the PCC on the 2020 accounts to date – income is down due to the Church being closed, although some savings have been made on expenditure such as photocopying, salaries for furloughed staff and magazine printing costs.

Simon Andrews updated the PCC on the work resulting from the Stanley Pontlarge quinquennial review. He has communicated with the Diocesan Advisory Committee regarding work on re-roofing, refurbishment of the pew base and damp from drainage. The pew work requires a faculty; the roof and

drainage work will be subject to List B consent. The paperwork for all 3 is ongoing. The grant application process cannot be started until DAC approval has been received; 2 of the authorities have currently stopped considering new applications. The PCC agreed to a resolution put forward by Simon to apply for a Faculty, or other relevant applications, for permission to support the works identified.

Other fabric issues were discussed - a tree inspection has been carried out at Christchurch, Gretton, and work will take place in June, the autumn, and next year. A range of maintenance work is taking place at our Churches including drain clearance, painting and vegetation removal. The St Peter's porch gates are being refurbished. The paperwork for the transfer of Gretton Old Tower from the Church to the Tower Trust is nearly complete.

The PCC learnt that the cabling work to enable wi-fi to be available in Church is nearly complete. Once connected it may be possible to stream services from Church.

JP updated the meeting on the proposed Parish website; Rachel and Mark Mulley have been talking to the administrator at Encounter who has agreed, in principle, to design the new site. The PCC agreed to a budget of up to £1500 for this work, which should start in a couple of months.

Finally, the PCC agreed to a proposed 2021 Parish fete date of Saturday 3rd July.

2020 PCC Meetings: 20th July (online), 21st September, 16th November  
2020 APCM: Post Meeting: Postponed until further notice

PCC Secretary Sara Collins



*The wild flower meadow at the home of Margaret and Nigel Bearne*



## Story: A Chance Encounter



The bench looked inviting after her walk. Sea view. The warm sun and gentle breeze of early spring. What could be nicer? Gratefully she sank down lifted her face to the sun and closed her eyes. How very considerate of her daughter to pick a seaside town for her university years. Not too far from home to preclude the occasional visit and a free lunch from her doting mother!

Pleasantly snoozing in the welcome warmth, her thoughts drifting in anticipation of the jolly afternoon ahead, she was rudely disturbed by the unmistakable feeling of being watched, - Hello - She opened her eyes. - You! - The years had not been kind but yes, it was definitely her. After all these years, the last person on earth.....

Words deserting her she stared open mouthed as the thoughts snapped directly back in time for this, **THIS**, was the woman who ruined her life, came like a bolt from the blue, or so it seemed at the time, and swept away the life she thought she had and would have for evermore. *This* was the woman who stole, not too strong a word, who stole away her husband, her security, her love, and left her young, destitute, alone and pregnant. So long ago, over and done, dealt with, recovered from, set aside and locked away in that corner of the brain marked *do not go here*.

The tendency in these situations, so she had learned, is always to blame the *Other Woman*. The man is enticed, led astray and the married man, however clear his intention never to leave the one he loves, with whom he has a cosy married if slightly dull existence, is captured in the whirl of excitement that is *The Affair*. Caught between two stools he eventually has to decide. Unfortunately her husband chose the exciting, glamorous older woman over the very ordinary, pregnant, young wife.

And so it was. Years of struggle as a single parent, the hurt, the anger, gradually subsiding into the everyday effort of life and the joy of her wonderful daughter. Endings and beginnings. A new life which was almost a new identity, a very successful one as it turned out.

Back in the present her mouth snapped shut. The look on her face must have registered because the woman's smile froze. She started to speak. Maybe she would utter that once longed for apology, but no, no words -just a gurgle and a gasp of pain as she gently slid to the floor beside the bench. A small crowd began to gather.

Is it a heart attack? Somebody call an ambulance –  
A young man stepped forward offering resuscitation and announcing himself a doctor, quickly taking charge. In what seemed like an age the paramedics arrived. Dead at the scene. Over. Corpse removed, crowd dispersed. How very odd that what she had once, in moments of overwhelming anger, fervently desired had come to pass now, when it didn't matter.  
-I hope she drops down dead – A curse come full circle? Foolish thought!

A cheery greeting, the wave of a hand. Here she was at last, late as ever but never so welcome.  
– Mum are you ok? - Yes of course, just a bit dozy in the sun – Hugs, kisses and linked arms. – Come on let's do lunch. And a large glass of wine! -



Lynn Horton

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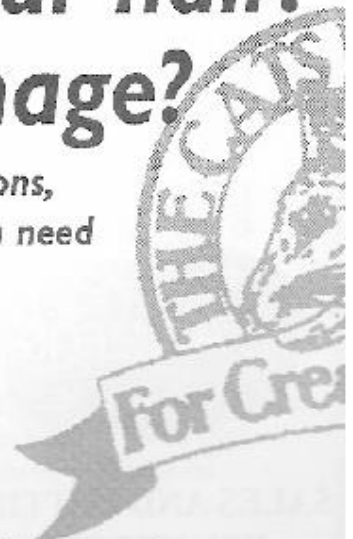
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