



**Dementia
Friendly**

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

JUNE 2020



Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Matthew 6: 29.

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HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S
Hordley

50p
Per issue

Introducing your new curate

Hello, my name is Steve Alston. I am to be the new curate for the benefice starting in late summer. Some of you might remember me as I did a 10-week placement with you in the summer of 2018 as part of my ordination training. I remember how warmly I was received by you all and am looking forward to getting to know you all better.

Linda has asked me to tell you a bit about myself so here goes. I was born in London and spent most of my life there. Ten years ago, I moved to Shrewsbury with my wife Rosie and two sons Jack (now 20) and Ben (now 19). Both Rosie and I are teachers, Rosie in primary school and I in secondary. We both spent many years working in inner London comprehensive schools. Currently Rosie works for the Shropshire Music Service and I at Concord College as a Biology teacher.

I have a passion for the natural world and, in a former life, worked as a research scientist in the Natural History Museum in London. Of all God's creatures, fish are my favourite and most of my research was on fish and their diseases. Family holidays also usually involve nature, we love climbing the Welsh peaks, sailing on the Norfolk Broads and peering into rockpools in north Devon.

My other, more important, passion is Jesus. In my late teens he changed my life, he has walked with me and my family over the years and has called me to serve his church. I am excited about the prospect of joining with you in telling and living 'Jesus' story' in Baschurch, Weston Lullingfields and Hordley. One of my greatest joys is seeing people encountering Jesus and growing into deeper relationship with him. He is my hero and I want everyone to meet him!



Being your full-time curate will certainly be a change from being a teacher, but I have been informed that I do not have to dye my hair pink to work in the benefice! I am excited at the prospect of joining in with what God is doing in your community and am looking forward to contributing and learning loads from Linda and the team.

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SUBMISSIONS FOR JULY CFN MAGAZINE

Please send your stories, pictures or notices for the next issue by

15th June 2020

to: **churchfamilynews@gmail.com**

I hope we shall be producing a proper printed version of the CFN before long, but meanwhile this is the best we can do. It is a small inconvenience compared to all the terrible events caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Front cover: A beautiful display of lilies seen in a church on the Welsh coast last year.

THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

As we hit the beginning of June, we've come to the end of the Easter season in the church year, the end of May is Pentecost and this first Sunday in June is Trinity Sunday. After this we have a long period of what we call 'ordinary time', when the altar frontals on our altars (if we could see them) would be green. It is a time when not much happens in terms of the church's year, or at least in the terms of 'special celebrations'. However, this time of year is usually a time when there are many celebrations going on in people's personal lives, weddings and baptisms to name two, obviously these can't happen with the present situation. Please do remember those couples in your prayers who were due to marry this year, for them there has been the added stress and in some cases expense as venues have been less than sympathetic or accommodating to something that was not of their own making.

This time of year is also a time of growth, a time for relaxation and refreshment, as we would normally be thinking about holidays. Not many holidays are going to be happening this year and we are all going to have to think about new ways to find that relaxation and refreshment that is so much needed. So get your thinking caps on and be creative. It is rather appropriate that the church colour for this season is green because as we stop and unwind it is a chance for us to feed and grow our spiritual lives. Yes as Christians we should strive to do this continually, but we all know that 'life' often hinders our good intentions. At the moment, when so many people are at home and we can't get away on holidays, it is a really good time to think about where we are with God.

The one thing the church normally rejoices in at this time of year is the ordination of new Deacons and Priests; sadly this year it has been delayed from the end of June to the end of September. Ordination comes after a considerable amount of time by the individual in discerning God's call on their life. It is a rigorous process that involves many conversations, discernment by others as well as the individual and then eventually a period of study, it can take many years to reach this stage. This year, as you will know, we are to welcome a new curate who was to be Deaconed at the end of

June. His name is Steve Alston and he has introduced himself on page 2. Steve will still be joining us but not as a curate until the end of September, in the meantime he will be licensed as a Lay worker. How this will work out in the present situation we are not sure but do look out for him. Steve will not be living in the Benefice but will commute from his home in Shrewsbury once it is safe to do so.

But what is a Deacon you may ask? Well primarily a Deacon's role is one of preaching the Word of God and service to others; a Deacon cannot preside over Holy Communion; that comes when and if you are priested. Some people feel their call is to a permanent Deaconate and they remain as a Deacon.

At the ordination service the Bishop speaks these words to those who are to be ordained as Deacons.

'Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.'¹

Please pray for Steve, his wife Rosie and their family as they prepare for this way of life that God has called Steve to.

But it is not only Steve who God calls; he calls each one of us. At the beginning of the Ordination service the Bishop addresses the congregation with the following words:

‘God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God’s love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.’ ²

During this season of growth, as you take the time given to us to reflect on our lives, listen for God’s voice speaking to you and listen for what God is really saying. At Pentecost God sends the Holy Spirit to equip us for His work, it is not something we are called to do alone. How is God equipping you? What is he equipping you for?

Maybe you are someone who has never dared to step forward to offer your gifts before, is now the time?

Whoever we are, whatever our gifts, God calls each one of us, and in order to sustain ourselves in this call we need to rest and nourish ourselves, both physically and spiritually. Over the next couple of months, rest and nourish yourselves in the presence of God, opening your hearts, ears and minds to his voice.

May God bless each one of you,

Linda

¹ & ² *Common Worship: Ordination Services*: Copyright ©The Archbishops’ Council 2007

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals:

Ian Trevor Gunn (known as Trevor) -
Aged 87 years— died May 5th . Funeral at Emstry
Crematorium.

Freda Elizabeth Sides—Aged 92 years—died May 10th.
Funeral at Ruyton Road Cemetery, Baschurch.

George Morris—aged 98—funeral 27th May at Emstry
Crematorium.

**Our thoughts and prayers go to all those in our
communities who have lost loved ones during the past
two difficult months. May God enfold you in His love and
give you His peace.**

Stay Alert to God—Love your Neighbour— Change the World

In May the Government changed its messaging on Coronavirus from ‘Stay at home’ to ‘Stay alert’. This new slogan has received mixed reviews. Some think it is a bracing call to common sense and personal responsibility; others that it is just vague and confusing. Needless to say, *Twitter* had strong views on the matter. I make no judgement here on all that, but I do want to commend the practice of being alert. Throughout the Scriptures God’s people are called to stay alert – not in an exhausting and fearful state of high anxiety but in a posture of prayerful attentiveness to God.

Jesus warns his disciples to “be alert at all times” to the coming judgement of God. St Paul writes to the Corinthian church and says, “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.” Christians are not only to be alert to potential threats (like a virus) but also to the challenge of faithfully living out the Gospel in the world.

So how might we need to be alert in these times of pandemic?

As those who love God with our heart, soul, strength and mind, we must be, above all, alert to what God is saying to us and to the Church and to the world.

Many of us have found ourselves re-evaluating our lives in recent days. Some of us have had our faith in God tested; others have found that we have had more time to reflect on matters of the Spirit. What has God been saying to you in, and through, the challenges of this present time? Perhaps we will want to live differently as a result of this crisis because we have learnt afresh that our sure hope lies not in our possessions or our job or our health but in the God who is with us even to the end of the age. Perhaps we have rediscovered, in new ways, the value of the God-given gifts of family, friends and community? Is this a “teachable moment” and am I alert to what God wants to say to me?

And as those who are commanded to love our neighbours as ourselves, are we alert to the ways in which this crisis is laying bare, in sharp ways,

the profound inequalities that scar our society?

NHS staff, delivery drivers, care home workers, supermarket staff, cleaners - many of whom are paid a pittance and whose work is undervalued - are now revealed as essential life savers. To our shame, we are not surprised to learn that you are twice as likely to die of Covid19 if you live in an area of high deprivation. This pandemic is bad news for all of us but it is especially so if we are poor, sick, lonely or homeless. Perhaps we were not sufficiently alert to these things. Are we now? Much of what once passed for 'normal' is now exposed as cynical, cruel and unjust. Are we now alert to the possibility of creating a society that more fully anticipates the joy and hope of God's coming Kingdom?

"Stay alert!" There is nothing vague or confusing about the Biblical command to have hearts that are receptive and attentive to the movement of the Spirit. God is passionately, intimately and fully engaged with the world in this time of change and challenge.

So here's the message: Stay alert to God – love your neighbour – change the world.

*The Ven Matthew Parker
Archdeacon of Stoke*

BASCHURCH NEWS

FOODBANK

Our Church is currently supporting the Oswestry Foodbank, as the Ellesmere one has temporarily closed down. As you are no doubt aware there is a huge demand on Foodbanks with people having suddenly lost their income and children off school, needing to be fed. We have delivered on 3 occasions in the last 8 weeks and are always grateful for donations. They can be left on our doorstep at 6 Westfields Close, Baschurch if you are in the area or we are happy to collect.

Thank you

Pat & Glyn Davies - 261081 or thepatdavies@hotmail.com

All Saints "100 Club" Winners

May No 32 Mrs J Sadler No 130 Mrs C Tunnadine

HOLY TRINITY

WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

It still seems strange not to be rushing about making plans and arrangements for social events, visiting family and friends, meeting up at church for working parties, going to the theatre and going out to the shops! I had no idea that I liked shopping and look forward to being able to do that again!

But we continue to keep in touch with friends in the village and enjoy the benefice services relayed over the internet. We have a strong sense of how fortunate we are to be living in a lovely rural area where it is not so hard to social distance. John and I have enjoyed our walks and cycle rides, watching the ways nature is changing as the weeks go by – there are more and more flowers, the hedges have slowly greened over to become an impenetrable wall; swallows and martins have reappeared although still small in numbers; more sightings of birds new to us; pipistrelle bats are back circling the house.

It has also been encouraging and heart-warming to see the way that people have rallied to support and help friends and neighbours – helping with shopping or sharing a food delivery; keeping in touch with someone who lives alone by telephone; finding ingenious ways to “meet” while still social distancing; even the simple strategy of not going out to the shops if you are over 70 or vulnerable.

We continue to give thanks for all those on the front line both in hospitals and all those involved in delivering social care to the housebound and in care homes; working in food banks to provide enough food for the increasing numbers of families who need help and for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. We look forward to seeing a measured approach to easing the lockdown and returning to what may well be a new normal.

Anita Weeks



HEATH SPEEDWELL



COW PARSLEY WITH RAINDROPS



HORSE CHESTNUT FLOWERS



THRUSH HAVING A BATH



RED CLOVER



SOUTHDOWN SHEEP

Thank you Anita for these photographs.

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner-city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument. Your stage-hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from 'Oklahoma', with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar. The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.

Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies – through years of experience – can now get five cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack

can last several months.

What you now do with 29 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

VE Day Celebrations

During all of my life I have never lived anywhere except where my mother-in-law called “in the middle of a field”. Consequently I have never, until now, taken part in a street party. But I now know something of what I’ve been missing. On Friday 8th May all the occupants of our street brought their lunch out into the road and what fun we had. Stories were swapped, memorabilia were produced, food and drink were consumed, all to the sound of Vera Lynn’s singing; observing social distancing, naturally.

This was a heaven-sent opportunity to foster good community relations and have fun at the same time. I wouldn’t have missed it for the world and maybe when this is all over we can repeat the experience.





Thank you Maureen Clarke for these pictures, taken on your dog walks around Ellesmere.

An Australian/Russian coronavirus story.

My son, who lives in Australia, sent me a link to an account of a group of typical outback Aussie blokes, who liked a drop or two of vodka in the pub. A few years ago they came up with the idea of singing Russian songs of the kind made famous a few decades ago by the Red Army Choir. They all live in a small remote town called Mullumbimby, which has a population about the same as Baschurch.



They had no previous connection with Russia and didn't know a word of the language, but they practised and you can see the result if you use the search term **australian-fake-russian-choir-dustyesky-goes-viral**.

They call their choir Dustyesky, which sounds suitably Russian, and made a recording of their efforts and posted it on social media; some time in 2017 it was seen in Russia, where it went viral, as the saying goes. They eventually received an invitation to go to Russia and perform in Red Square in Moscow during the 75th anniversary celebrations for VE day. Unfortunately, by that time the world was gripped, as it still is, by the coronavirus pandemic and so such a journey was not possible.



Meanwhile a group from the remote province of Udmurtia (no, I'd never heard of it either), which has about half the population of Wales in twice the area, decided to reciprocate by recording a version of Waltzing Matilda, sung in English. You can see their performance

by using the search term **waltzing matilda in Russia**. You can see from looking at them that time has moved on and coronavirus lockdown is in force: they are at home performing on Zoom, or some Russian equivalent.

HORDLEY NEWS

Last month Linda talked in the magazine about ways to continue supporting our churches financially whilst our services are suspended. Our Hordley treasurer, Christabel Edwards, has now set up an easy way of making donations online. I for one prefer to put money into the collection bag at each service and have been conscious that whilst there are no services I am not contributing to the running of the church. No fund-raising events are taking place but the bills still have to be paid. So I have used Christabel's system and it is indeed very straightforward. The link is: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8ccb08c7-f53b-450f-84bc-834e598232c2>

If one is able and willing for gift aid to be claimed, that is available on the same page.

We all look forward to being able to resume worship in St Mary's where we can meet the friends we may not have seen for some months. If services resume before the hairdressers are allowed to open we may not recognise one another!

The winner of the Hordley Lottery Draw in May was Brian Sinker with number 47.

"The sociologist Rodney Stark says that one explanation for the success of Christianity in the Roman Empire was its response to plague; while the pagans upped and ran... the early Christians tended to the sick.... Christianity in action defies the rules of nature. It is natural to step away from sickness; the Christian goes towards it." – *Tim Stanley, Christian writer and journalist*

"The coronavirus is about dying tomorrow. With climate change, we're talking about my grandchildren dying." – *Sir David Attenborough*

BRAIN TEASERS

1

Alf, Bert, Charlie, Duggie and Ernie were having a race. From the following information, can you work out their order of finishing?

Duggie finished three places above Ernie; Charlie was not last; Bert's and Charlie's places added up to 8; there were no ties.

2

Three football teams—A, B and C are each to play each other once. After some, or perhaps all of the matches had been played some details of the matches played, won, lost, drawn etc looked like this:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals for	Goals against	Points
A		0					
B					5	3	4
C						2	0

Find the score in each match if a win is worth 2 points and a draw 1 point.

3

A small business has three employees. They were Door-Opener, Door-Shutter and Worker.

The Door-Opener and Door-Shutter have got into the habit of telling lies, but the Worker does a good job and tells the truth.

They spoke as follows:

Ernie: "George is the Door-Shutter"

Fred: "Ernie is the Door-Opener"

George: "Fred is the Worker"

Find the jobs of the three employees.



Toad in a Hole!

We think of June as the month for flowers and butterflies but spare a thought for the amphibians which may rely on your churchyard. Wait a minute, amphibians; frogs, toads and newts, don't they live in ponds?

No, they don't, they breed in ponds, laying the distinctive jelly-covered spawn, but actually spend much of the year on land. Unlike reptiles, amphibians need to keep their skin moist so you may find them sheltering in shaded areas, perhaps under deadwood or amongst old leaves. The base of a stone wall is a great place to look for amphibians and also slowworms, hunting in longer vegetation for slugs, snails, beetles, worms and other invertebrates.

Frogs have such a porous skin that they can change colour depending on their surroundings. A frog which has hibernated in an area of clay will emerge in spring coloured quite a bright orange.

Churchyards are brilliant for amphibians as they contain lots of nooks and crannies for them to shelter in and hunt for food. Walls, shaded wooded areas, rotting leaves and also the gaps that appear beside monuments or the cracks within chest tombs or other larger memorials. In addition, they are free of the burden of garden and farmland chemicals such as slug killers, insecticides and fertilisers that are so commonly used elsewhere. These affect the animals via the food they eat and also get absorbed by their sensitive skin.

To help amphibians, try not to be too tidy! Keep some areas of long and tussocky grassland, pile up dead wood and loose stones into heaps. A compost bay is a great source of food and shelter.

All the best

Harriet Carty,

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk

My World War 11 Memories

My recollections of the 2nd World War are rather limited as I was only eight on VE day, but as we lived in the suburbs of Birmingham quite close to the ammunition and aircraft factories at Castle Bromwich, I do recall vividly sitting under the stairs with my mother and two brothers during enemy air raids, hearing bombs whistling down followed by massive explosions. Mother would pray and sing hymns one of which I tearfully recall was 'Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep, keep Thy lambs in safety keep'. My father had served in France in the First World War, and being an ex army officer, was appointed area warden for the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) which kept him out most nights on duty. Windows had to be blacked out at night as any light showing could attract enemy aircraft and there were no street lights. My eldest sister gave up her high ranking job in the Civil Service to volunteer as a VAD Naval nursing officer (Voluntary Aid Detachment) or 'very adorable darlings' as they were affectionately called and spent the war years in Portsmouth. My two other sisters working in Birmingham often stayed late at their offices on fire watching duty which meant travelling home by tram, often during air raids, a frightening experience. I remember mornings following night raids, seeing firemen sitting exhausted beside the road after working all night. We had to take gas masks to school and had air raid warning drills in the playground. I recall father and some friends digging a massive hole in our back garden for an 'Anderson' shelter which, incidentally, we never used! Food, clothes, sweets, furniture etc were all rationed. It was, however, a time of great social cohesion with everyone pulling together, but it was also of course, a time of sadness. I lost an RAF pilot cousin and my two eldest sisters lost boyfriends, one at sea and the other in Sicily having just completed his officer training. He stayed with us on the night before he sailed for Italy.

Following VE Day, we had a great street party with bunting, long tables laden with food, a local band playing and a huge bonfire. There was great rejoicing.

David Morgan

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BRAINTEASERS

1. Ernie is the Worker, Fred is the Door-Opener, George is the Door-Shutter
2. A v B 2-3 B v C 2-1
3. 1 Duggie; 2 Alf; 3 Charlie; 4 Ernie; 5 Bert

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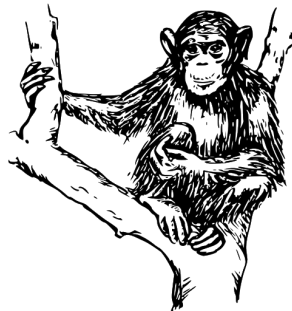
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ASSOCIATE MINISTER	Rev Deborah Coatsworth <i>deborahcoatsworth@btinternet.com</i>	01691 690261

ALL SAINTS' Baschurch	Wardens	Martyn Lake	01939 290777
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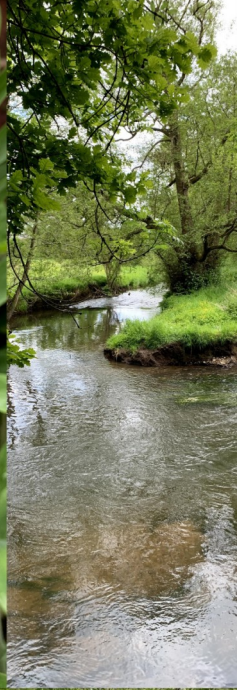
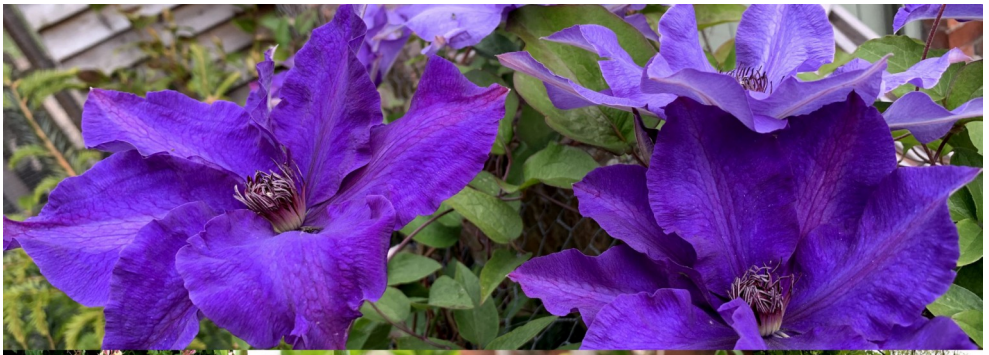
CFN MAGAZINE	Editor	Andrew Thomson <i>churchfamilynews@gmail.com</i>
	Advertising Co-ordinator	Mary Thomson <i>churchfamilynews@gmail.com</i>

FOOD BANK	Contact	Pat Lister	01691 623653
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Thank you Fenella Davies for this collage of photographs.



Barn Owl seen from my garden.



Mandarin on The Mere.



Family of Mallard on The Mere



Waterways reflections



We have volunteered for the Shropshire curlew and lapwing survey, so we were very pleased to see this near Ellesmere.



This ruined monument near Ellesmere makes me think of the poem *Ozymandias* by Shelley.

(Photographs by the editor.)