



# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**SEPTEMBER 2020**



**SERVING THE PARISHES OF**

**ALL SAINTS'**  
Baschurch

**HOLY TRINITY**  
Weston Lullingfields

**ST MARY'S**  
Hordley

**50p**  
Per issue

## High Flight

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air . . .

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark nor even eagle flew –  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillespie Magee

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## SUBMISSIONS FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE

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

**15th SEPTEMBER 2020**

to: **churchfamilynews@gmail.com**

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Front cover: A WWII Spitfire has been flying over hospitals giving thanks to the NHS for their work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

These flights started in the south of England and are working their way northwards.

# THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you but I'm struggling to believe we are heading into September and the back end of the year. It seems as though we have missed much of this year because of not being able to do the things we usually do. I do hope though, that most of you have at least by now been able to see family and friends, even if it is within your gardens.

As we enter September it is usually a month when things once again begin after the summer break and in some cases this is true even this year. In our churches we will see all three with many of their services back, albeit with some changes and still with limited numbers. Schools are welcoming back pupils, students are hoping to return to universities and many who have been working from home will be hoping to go back into their work premises. However, there are still many things we won't see returning just yet, our social gatherings and functions being some of them.

September is also the time of year when we think perhaps more deeply about creation and give thanks for it as Harvest services begin to happen. In the Anglican Church it is the Season of Creation.

This year many of us have had the chance to enjoy God's beautiful creation. As you've cycled or walked you may have stopped to see what the farmers are doing in the fields, or to see the young animals enjoying the chance to explore. Many have tended their gardens with renewed interest, taking the time to watch and nurture flowers, vegetables and fruit and then enjoyed the fruits of their labour as they have harvested them for their table. But how many of us have stopped to wonder about where God's creation is really heading?

Earlier this year we witnessed torrential rain, with our towns and many local villages suffering severe flooding. Then just as we were getting over that lockdown hit and we suddenly found ourselves in a heat wave, followed more recently by yet another one. Creation is no longer following the pattern we expect as the climate changes. This in turn affects the whole of nature with plants, trees, and even crops, coming into season at different times, some earlier, some later and some just not surviving at all.



God created the world and everything in it, but He also created humankind to care for it and to nurture it. I wonder what God thinks of our efforts, or maybe that should be lack of effort?

When the world entered lockdown and people stayed at home, pollution levels began to drop and in some places by fairly significant levels. The world began to breathe again; the smog lifted, and there was a period of healing in creation, albeit it small, but it was there.

How we live, what we use, how we care for nature and each other plays a big part in how well God's creation does. We are all connected as a planet and the decisions we make locally, nationally and internationally affect the whole planet.

Recently Boris has encouraged us all to think about our own health and well-being. We know this virus targets anyone and everyone, but it is particularly bad news for those who are overweight and unfit because our internal organs have to work harder and are therefore under more stress and strain. But actually by eating less and exercising more not only are we helping ourselves physically and mentally but we are also helping our planet.

In this season of Creation let us give thanks to God for all that we have, for the land that provides and for those who work the land. May we learn to pay more attention to the world in which we live, ensuring that it remains healthy with enough resources for the next generation. Amen.

May God bless you richly in this Season of Creation.

*Linda*

To see a world in a grain of sand  
And a heaven in a wild flower  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
And eternity in an hour.

*From a poem by William Blake*

# Services for September

## St Mary's Hordley

13<sup>th</sup> September --9.15am – Worship for All - followed by APCM

27<sup>th</sup> September – 9.15am – Holy Communion

## Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

6<sup>th</sup> September - 9.30am – Worship for All

20<sup>th</sup> September – 9.30am – Holy Communion

## All Saints' Baschurch

6<sup>th</sup> September – 11am – Holy Communion

13<sup>th</sup> September – 11am – Holy Communion

20<sup>th</sup> September – 11am - Worship For All - followed by APCM

27<sup>th</sup> September – 11am – Harvest Festival with Holy Communion

At the time of print these dates are correct but the format of the actual services are not confirmed for Weston Lullingfields or Baschurch.

**Please do check regularly on the website, Facebook page for each church, noticeboards and your email (for those who use) as they will be updated and changed as things move. Obviously this will continue to be the case, as we do not know what will happen in the months ahead.**

From September whilst services are taking place in all 3 churches the **Online Service** will still continue but will move to a new time of **4pm**.

The 8am and 6pm service at Baschurch will not take place for the time being, but these will be reviewed. However, for the 8am to recommence we are in need of a 'Server' who would open the church and prepare the building ready for people to come and then clean down and lock up afterwards. This is due to the sad news of Steve Boulding's departure to Spain this month. Steve has carried out this role for a good number of years but family

circumstances have forced the move of himself and his wife Sue. We would like to thank Steve for all his work and commitment to All Saints' over the years, it won't be the same without him, but we wish him and Sue all the best and send them with our love and prayers. We will say a proper good-bye to them at a service just before they leave.

If you think you could help with this role of 'Server' please give Linda a ring. The 8am service takes place twice a month and it need not be the same person for both services.

### **Readings for Sundays in September**

6<sup>th</sup> September – Ezekiel 33: 7-11 or Romans 13: 8-end

Gospel reading – Matthew 18: 15-20

13<sup>th</sup> September – Genesis 50: 15-21 or Romans 14: 1-12

Gospel reading – Matthew 18: 21-35

20<sup>th</sup> September – Jonah 3: 10-end of 4 or Philippians 1: 21-end

Gospel reading – Matthew 20: 1-16

27<sup>th</sup> September – Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end or Philippians 2: 1-13

Gospel reading - Matthew 21: 23-32

Harvest Service readings will be different from set readings for the day.

### **Ordination of our Curate Steve Alston**

As you will be aware Steve's ordination was delayed due to the Pandemic, but is due to take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Details are still being finalized, but it is hoped that congregations may be able to watch via a link, once we know what is happening we will let people know. In the meantime please do pray for Steve as he prepares for this very big step.

**WATCH OUT FOR EMAILS AND MESSAGES ABOUT HARVEST AT BASCHURCH AND CELEBRATING STEVE'S BIG DAY!**

# TREASURED POSSESSIONS

## **Bishop Clive's pastoral letter for August 2020**

During this period of lockdown, with no evening meetings to attend, I have been watching more television than before – and have become acquainted with some wonderful programmes, such as The Repair Shop. For those of you who haven't discovered this gem, 'The Repair Shop' is a barn inhabited by the widest range of skilled craftspeople you could ever imagine; able to repair and restore every conceivable kind of object. Every week, four treasured possessions in a terrible state of malfunction or dereliction are brought by their respective owners. And every week four miraculous transformations occur, as the objects are skilfully and lovingly restored to the best possible version of themselves they can be.

What gives the programme its power is the story that is connected with each object, for invariably the possessions are treasured because of the memories associated with them, memories which often link family members from one generation to another.

So when the owner comes to the Repair Shop to collect their restored object and is astounded by the transformation that has been brought about, tears often flow, in the Shop and on the nation's sofas, because in repairing the treasured possession, a treasured relationship has been honoured, strengthened, even brought back to life.

The Repair Shop has caused me to reflect on the way in which relationships can be expressed through inanimate objects, especially in the light of the recent debates about the place of statues and memorials in churches and in other public places.

In truth I have always had a problem with any kind of memorials in churches because all of them, whether commemorating an individual's faithful service to God or benefaction to the church, are in essence honouring '(wo)man' whereas the whole point and purpose of a church is to honour God. At best memorials are inappropriate distractions, at worst, in the case of the most ostentatious and self-regarding ones, they are surely blasphemous.

The difficulties that arise with statues in public places result from contested views as to who is worthy of honour and of our shared history. As we have seen with the debates sparked by Black Lives Matter, the more that we subject individual lives and past history to scrutiny, the more questions arise. And whoever we put on plinths, philanthropists or generals, nurses or clergy, there is always the possibility that they may one day be judged unworthy, for which of our lives would stand up to the closest examination ?

As Jesus said, in response to the rich young man, 'only one is good' - i.e. only God. It is He alone that is worthy of unambiguous honour and praise. He alone who is impervious to shifting moral, cultural and historical perspectives; for He represents absolute goodness, truth and love, which cannot be relativized in any way.

**+Clive, Bishop of Wolverhampton**

## **Thank You**

The PCCs of St Mary's Hordley, Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields and All Saints' Baschurch, would like to say thank you to all who have responded to the letter/email about the financial situation in our churches. Your donations, along with those given by people in the community, in appreciation for help and support during lockdown, are very much appreciated and will help enormously as we continue to seek to pay the bills. Currently we have no idea when fund-raising events will once again be able to take place as many of our events involve social gatherings.

Regular giving, however small or large is what will help sustain our churches. If you have not yet had chance to read or respond to the letter, provided you are financially able to do so, it is never too late.

Thank you,

*Linda*

# A JOURNEY THROUGH

## **Bishop Sarah's pastoral letter for September 2020**

I recently watched a film called 'Patriots Day', a dramatic retelling of the events surrounding the Boston Marathon bombing of April 15th, 2013. I felt a deep connection with the events depicted in the film and over the next few days I began to process what was going on in my own mind and emotions. I come from Manchester and on December 3rd, 1992, two bombs were detonated in Manchester city centre, one of them very close to the Cathedral where, later that month, Peter and I were married. On June 15th, 1996, whilst I was involved in an event at the church where I served my curacy, the IRA detonated a lorry bomb in Manchester city centre, only 2.5 miles away. All of us at the church fete heard and felt the huge explosion and saw the dust cloud rise over the city. These traumatic events were a public and a private tragedy for our city and for individuals and families.

The watching of this film had brought to the surface again some of the emotions I had felt when these events had occurred. It took some time to recognise this and to begin to think and pray through. I was greatly helped by articles produced by the 'Tragedy and Congregations' Project. The purpose of this project is to resource Christians to respond with integrity, courage and compassion to the impact of tragedies, local and global. At this time, as we journey through the COVID-19 pandemic, when we are all dealing with and processing the effects of a world-wide tragedy, their resources speak directly to our situation and the challenges we face and I commend them to you.

*'So what of this Covid 19 situation? In a sense it's the trauma that keeps giving. Or like an earthquake with aftershocks. We do not know yet what may happen further down the line. The problem is that there are no maps available to us to help us navigate through this crisis...'*

*'In response to the initial phase of the pandemic, we have certainly seen heroic and inspiring responses; amazing self-giving in those who have volunteered to help neighbours and communities, healthcare and frontline workers, clergy and congrega-*

*tions serving those who are in need and ministers learning to record and live stream services and finding many creative ways to engage with congregations and local communities. Many are now tired, emotional, increasingly frustrated with the loss of liberties, with the denial of the usual comforts of contact with families and friends, of going out and just being normal. Losses are mounting up and realities are hitting home. ...Some just want to get back to normal and others are fearful of coming out of lockdown too quickly.*

*'And it is at this point, when energy levels are depleted, that we as communities and churches are being asked to be creative all over again in finding ways to develop a 'new normal', which may only be temporary, to cope with requirements of social distancing, and won't feel 'normal' at all. Perhaps this is a transitional phase in which we try to function as best we can with the uncertainty of not knowing if we will be on a gradual trajectory out of this crisis or find ourselves back in lockdown again.*

*'This is where we are at the edge of our known world so far. ... It will be important for us to chart our journeying and to be kind and forgiving to ourselves and one another, for there is much to learn and endure as we travel, and we will need time and space to reflect on and integrate our learning. Wiser living is not a final destination, but it is the fruit of hope, trust and love shared amongst companions on the Way.'*

*'Mapping the journey communities are taking through COVID', Hilary Ison, June 2nd, 2020.*

May you know God's presence, peace and blessing as we continue to journey through this time together.

+Sarah  
Bishop of Shrewsbury

## Battle of Britain

I hope readers will excuse me (*editor*) for all of these references to the Battle of Britain, but it is something that I was brought up with as my father was a pilot at that time and took part in the Battle; I have his log books from the whole of his 22 years of service.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, which is remembered every September 15th. The iconic aircraft on the British side was the Spitfire, although the rather less elegant Hurricane was more numerous.

## High Flight

John Gillespie Magee was born in China in 1922 to American and British missionaries. He was at school in England and won the Poetry Prize at Rugby School in 1938. He was a great admirer of the poet Rupert Brooke who had won the same prize a generation earlier.

He was visiting America when war broke out in 1939. Unable to return to England he finished his schooling in America but then travelled to Canada to join the Royal Canadian Air Force. He qualified as a pilot and then returned to England to train as a combat pilot on Spitfires. It was after one such training flight that he wrote the poem featured on page 2.

He flew on a number of operations over occupied France, but it was on a training flight that he was involved in a mid-air collision and was killed after bailing out from too low an altitude. He was just 19 years old.

Reprinted and broadcast countless times, *High Flight* is regarded as one of the world's great war poems and the greatest anthem of aviation. It is the official poem of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Air Force. First year cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy are required to memorize it. Extracts have been quoted on a variety of occasions. The most famous example occurred in 1986, when President Ronald Reagan, speaking of the *Challenger* Space Shuttle disaster, closed his address with the sentence: "We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and 'slipped the surly bonds of Earth' to 'touch the face of God.'"



## WWII Metal Salvage

This poem, by Elsie Cawser, was inspired by the government's metal salvage scheme, introduced in 1939, to help in the production of weapons.

*My saucepans have all been surrendered,  
The teapot is gone from the hob.  
The colander's leaving the cabbage  
For a very much different job.  
So now, when I hear on the wireless  
Of Hurricanes showing their mettle,  
I see, in a vision before me,  
A Dornier chased by my kettle.*

### All Saints "100 Club" Winners

July 2020	No 69	Mrs E Woods
	No 138	Mrs G Revans
Aug 2020	No 102	Mrs B Davies
	No 111	Mrs J Bensley

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### Baschurch

Hazel Eileen Frances Mackenzie died 11<sup>th</sup> June aged 91

Margaret Evans, The Old Vicarage, died 5<sup>th</sup> July

Dorothy Brisbane died 16<sup>th</sup> August aged 97

Dennis Hockenhull died 14<sup>th</sup> August

#### Weston Lullingfields

George Henry Stockton died 10<sup>th</sup> July aged 93

# The Mayonnaise Jar & Two Beers...

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the two pints of beer.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly, and the pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed again that it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up the rest of the space. He asked once more if the jar was full, and his students responded with a unanimous “yes.”

The professor then produced two pint glasses of beer from under the table and poured the contents of both into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the grains of sand. The students laughed.

“Now,” said the professor, as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - your family, children, health, friends and your favourite passions; things that, if everything else was lost and only they remained, would still make your life full.”

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff.

“If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “There is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will

never have room for the things that are important to you.”

“Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children, take time to get medical checkups, take your partner out to dinner and play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the leaky tap. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities, because the rest is just sand.”

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented.

The professor smiled. “I’m glad you asked. It goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem to be, that there’s always room for a couple of beers with a friend.”

*(Reproduced by kind permission of Dan Collins, author).*

### **Are politicians the oldest profession?**

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: “Eve was made from Adam’s rib, and that surely was a surgical operation.”

“Maybe,” admitted the architect, “but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job.”

“But,” the politician pointed out in triumph, “somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!”

### **Political career**

American teacher to students: “Be diligent and steadfast, and you will succeed. Take the case of George Washington, our first ever president. Do you remember my telling you of the great difficulty that George Washington had to face? The big problem that could have been the end of his political career?”

“Sure,” said a student. “He couldn’t tell a lie.”

## Hordley News

St Mary's has been open successfully for prayer and reflection twice a week over the last seven weeks and the churchwardens have also been visiting regularly to make sure that all is well. The parish community has appreciated the opportunity to visit and it has been worth doing. In order to be open during these restricted times the church had to be specially cleaned; this was undertaken very conscientiously by Roger and Jan Paul and the churchwardens are very grateful to them for taking over this responsibility.

At the time of writing on the 17<sup>th</sup> August we have just enjoyed our first service in St Mary's since the beginning of March. How hard it is to believe that! It felt very good to be able to meet again, even though the service was very different from what we are used to. Services will now resume at the usual time of 9.15 am on the usual days – the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month (with an additional one on the 30<sup>th</sup> August).

Sadly our normal fund-raising activities have been curtailed due to the virus. However, Andrew and Mary Thomson are busy organising for Andrew and their daughter, Lorna, to undertake a sponsored walk from Salisbury Cathedral to Winchester Cathedral in late September. This is along "The Clarendon Way", which is 26 miles, to be split over 4 days. You can read more about it on the page opposite. Proceeds will be divided between St Mary's and The Severn Hospice.

Plans are afoot for a harvest service with a difference - to be held in early October in a local grain store where it will be possible to accommodate a larger congregation than in the church. More about this in the next issue!

The winner of the Lottery Draw in July was John Willis with number 13 and in August it was Linda Woolley with number 22. (it has not escaped my notice that our two churchwardens had the winning numbers in the consecutive months of June and July! A small reward for their extra responsibilities during the lockdown perhaps?)

Facebook users might like to follow this link. <https://www.facebook.com/St-Mary-the-Virgin-Hordley-100822358228889>

## Clarendon Way Walk

I first came across the Clarendon Way while reading a novel by Tracy Chevalier, author of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. The book, *A Single Thread*, is mainly set in and around Winchester cathedral and includes a brief description of the central character, Violet, walking from there to Salisbury. When our long-planned holiday fell through we decided to rent a cottage in that area and for me to do the walk. So it was agreed that Lorna and I, with Mary as support driver, would walk about seven miles each day for four days, returning to the cottage after each day's walk. Seven miles a day may not sound much for a young person but for an 80 year old it will be quite a challenge.

Then came the idea of making it a sponsored event to raise money for St Mary's and to include the Severn Hospice, a charity that we have been supporting since its foundation in 1989. Churches and other charities have been missing out on their usual fund-raising activities due to the coronavirus restrictions. I am hoping to fill the gaps left by the church harvest lunch and the Sunday lunch put on by the Ellesmere Support Group of the hospice, which usually raise about £1000 each. We will not be able to offer the friendly company or the luscious food that is such an integral part of these occasions, but I hope that those who usually attend will give their financial support even without these attractions.

Donations can be made by clicking the link in the online version of this magazine, which readers can find by logging on to the benefice website. To find the website use the search term All Saints Baschurch.

Alternatively the old fashioned methods using cash or cheques (payable to PCC of Hordley) will be gratefully received, sent to Andrew Thomson, 8 Magnolia Drive, Ellesmere, SY12 9PN. For further information my email address is on page 34 and the web address for the fund-raising page is:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndrewThomson56>

If you are reading this on the web site you can go to the fund-raising page by holding down the Control key and left clicking on the blue link above.

# HOLY TRINITY

## WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

I am writing this at the beginning of August – a summer month and a time when many of us would be thinking of travelling on holiday, visiting beaches and National Trust properties, walking, eating cream teas and visiting family and friends. Even with the various unlocking measures put in place by the government many of these activities are not happening and there are of course fears that there may be further lockdowns. We have also noticed that there are different reactions to the lockdown/unlocking - some are sticking steadily to social distancing and avoiding shops and crowded places, some are so fed up with restrictions, don't believe we need to take precautions or obstinately refuse to tow any line which restricts them from doing just what they want to do. Hence we have seen crowded beaches and masses of people travelling to beauty spots.

We are very lucky here in the whole benefice with access to the Spar shop (and the Post office) and Moor Farm shop with their delivery services. We have Prescott Surgery in Baschurch too who have worked very hard to maintain appointments by telephone and delivery of medication to those who are social distancing. The bus service has continued to run for those who need it. Neighbours have been helping out with shopping or by keeping in touch with friends and neighbours by telephone or email. Our quiet country lanes have given us unlimited access to places to walk or cycle. Many of us have arranged social distancing coffee in the morning or tea in the afternoon by taking our own drinks and chairs to visit people.

And of course, although churches have only this month started to open for services, we have been blessed with online services from the rectory and the occasional Zoom coffee chats after the service – keeping us in touch with our faith and members of the three congregations. Special thanks to Linda, Deborah and, more recently, Steve for providing this every Sunday.

John and I continue with our walks, cycle rides and nature watching. Highlights have been another exciting view of a hare – fleeing very fast

## Time to Make Hay

August 2020

For those of us who love wildflowers, painful decisions are needed in July and August as this is the time to cut our wildflower meadows, whether in the churchyard or elsewhere. Meadows are left to grow long for about 14 weeks during the spring and summer and then cut with scythe or strimmer and raked up. The difficulty arises in that there are always lovely flowers still there when the cut comes, and it is hard to cut them down.

To help with this dilemma, remember that we are copying traditional hay-making, which takes place when grass is still green, vigorous and full of nutrients for stock to eat, but also when the weather is likely to be dry enough to make hay successfully.



But what about the seeds, dropping to the ground for next year's flowers? If we cut down flowers, there won't be seeds? Actually, most species within a traditional meadow are perennial, so they continue to grow from year to year regardless of seeding. This explains why the wildflowers persist in short mown grass in churchyards, provided the grass cuttings are removed so the soil doesn't become too rich for them.

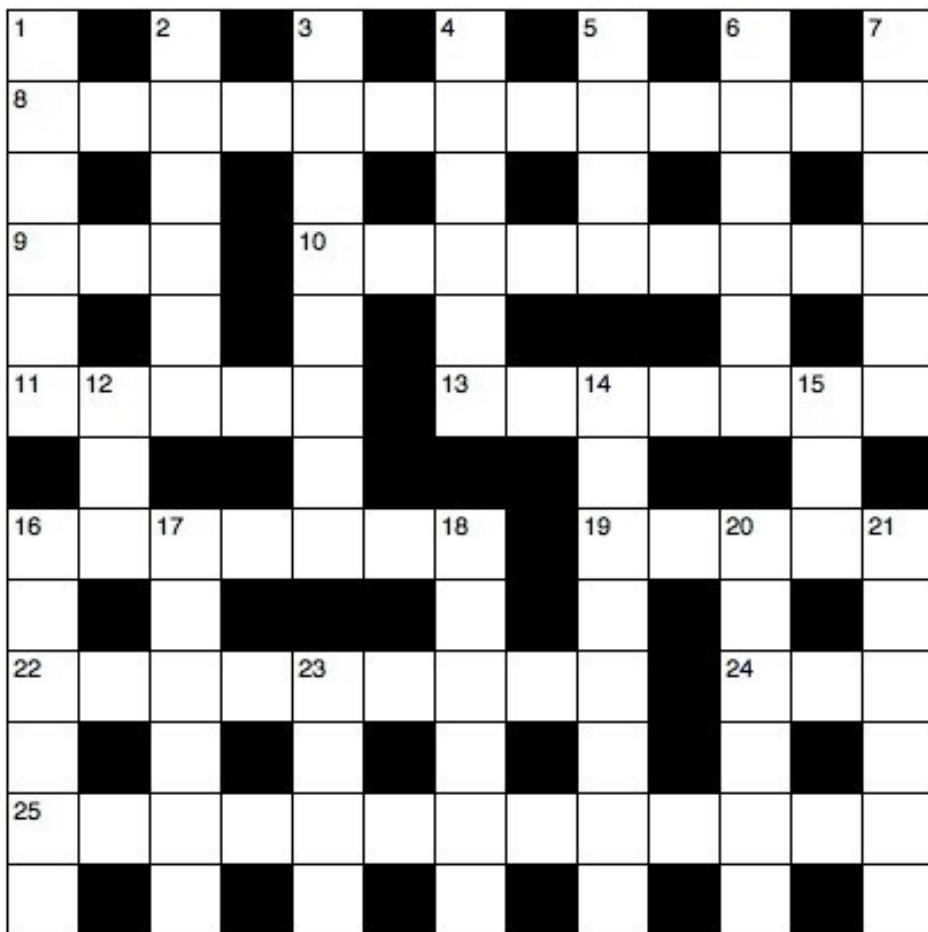
An exception to this is Yellow Rattle which is an annual so grows each year anew from seed. This flowers early and drops its seed in June or early July so won't be lost from the sward by cutting from mid-July onwards.

If you can't bear to cut down late flowering species such as scabious, then leave these patches for later, but do aim to have other meadow areas cut, raked and ready for the autumn fungi by mid-August if you can.

All the best

Harriet Carty,

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, [harriet@cfga.org.uk](mailto:harriet@cfga.org.uk),*



### Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years  
(1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger (John 8:6) (7)



- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

## Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across
- 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible’s shortest verse: ‘Jesus — ’ (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?’ (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 ‘Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem’ (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 ‘Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight’ (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 ‘Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

*(answers on page 23)*

## The Meadow Maker

September 2020

There's a brilliant plant that can really help you to manage your wildflower meadows; it's called Yellow Rattle and September is a good time to sow it. Yellow Rattle, or Hay Rattle is a British wildflower, also known as the Meadow Maker due to its ability to suppress grass, encouraging wildflowers to thrive.

Yellow Rattle is partially parasitic on grass, tapping into the roots of grass plants and extracting extra nutrition (as well as photosynthesising like most plants). This weakens the grass to such an extent that an area of grassland containing Yellow Rattle has a visibly shorter sward than the neighbouring patch without. So, less chance of flowers being overtopped and squeezed out, less grass to cut and fewer heavy grass cuttings to rake up and remove. It is an annual plant so doesn't overwinter but it sets seed in June or early July so seed will have scattered by the time you cut your meadow, once established it spreads itself. Listen for the 'rattle' of the ripe seeds in their pods.

Yellow Rattle can be tricky though, it needs a little care to get it established but is well worth it:

- 1) Cut the area where you will be sowing really short, giving it a firm raking to pull out any dead grass that may be lodged there. Get down to the soil!
- 2) Sow Yellow Rattle seed from now until the end of November, making sure the seed reaches bare soil by scraping away the turf in small patches. Sprinkle a few seeds onto the soil and press down with your foot.
- 4) Give the area another short mow in the spring so the germinating plants have some sunlight. March or April are good times to cut.

All the best

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*



## The Glory of the Garden

Rudyard Kipling wrote 'Old Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees, that half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees. So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray, for the glory of the garden shall never pass away'.


Kipling's words came to mind when my wife Moyra suggested I write about the garden for CFN. In these troubled times, when we've been in lockdown for months confined to our houses and even our churches closed, gardens bring us much needed solace and comfort in a world that seems topsy-turvy and disorientated. It was Alexander Pope who wrote 'Happy the man whose wish and care a few paternal acres bound'. Well, we don't have a few paternal acres, but in our own small plot we can put the world's troubles behind us for a while and experience the joy of soil between our fingers, planting roses, disbudding, lawn mowing and yes, on our knees weeding! What greater therapy can there be than to breathe in the scent of roses, lavender or honeysuckle. For most of us gardeners however, there's little time to sit and enjoy the fruits of our labours, for no sooner having sat down, we spy a weed which needs pulling or a rose that needs disbudding. A gardener's work is thankfully never done! Even for those unfortunately without gardens, there are many magnificent public gardens now re-opening which can be visited locally and throughout the country.

I'll end with an old joke which many of you have probably heard before. A village vicar on passing the lovely garden of one of his parishioners remarked, you and the Lord have created a most beautiful garden, to which the parishioner replied, yes vicar, but you should have seen it when the Lord had it to himself!


### David Morgan.

**Crossword answers.**  
**ACROSS:** 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Milletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.  
**DOWN:** 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UN. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

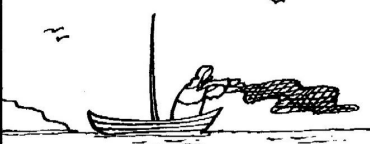
The parable  
of  
the  
Fish  
and the  
Nets



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS SAID THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WAS A BIT LIKE CATCHING FISH!



WHEN PEOPLE GO FISHING THEY THROW THEIR NETS INTO THE LAKE...



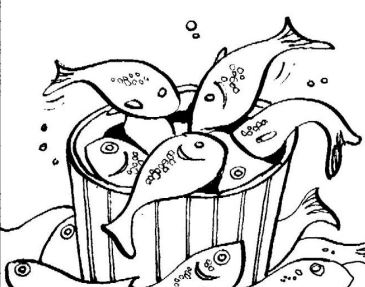
...WHEN THE NETS ARE FULL, THEY PULL THEM TO SHORE



ONCE ON SHORE THE FISH HAVE TO BE SORTED OUT.



THE GOOD FISH GO INTO BUCKETS



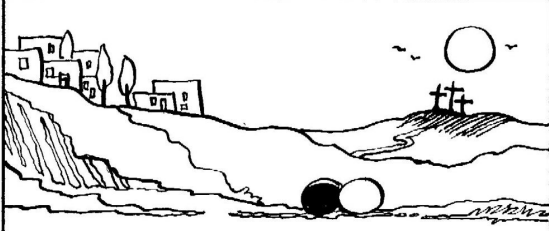
THE BAD FISH GET THROWN AWAY!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE TOO WILL BE SORTED LIKE THE FISH. WE CAN CHOOSE TO DO GOOD OR BAD THINGS WITH OUR LIVES.



BUT EVEN IF WE MAKE TERRIBLE MISTAKES - WE CAN ALWAYS BE FORGIVEN - THAT'S JESUS' PROMISE.



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before we had a chance to get out the camera; lots of interesting fungi and flowers; finally spotting some swifts in amongst the swallows and martins; more sightings of yellowhammers and the occasional reed warbler; seeing the development of acorns, nuts, berries and conkers on the trees.

I started this article with reference to summer but you may already have noticed that the trees particularly are showing signs of autumn – with berries turning red, blackberries ripe enough to pick and some leaves turning to autumn colours.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic and with the many scientists working hard to produce a vaccine against Covid 19. We can only look forward with hope and plan for a future where we can resume social activities, when our churches will be open again for the usual services and where we can travel to visit family and friends.

### **Anita Weeks**







Photograph by Edward Jones.