

## War Memorial Centenary

One hundred years ago on 22 April 1920 the Mursley Village War Memorial was dedicated in the sight of God to those villagers who fell defeating an enemy who had invaded other nations and taken what was not theirs to take.

On 22 April 2020 Mursley villagers sought to commemorate this anniversary without compromising the COVID-19 lockdown. These individual acts of remembrance whether conducted at home or through pausing at the memorial when exercising constituted an appropriate and shared act of remembrance which was topped off by our Rector Simon Faulks capturing a short solo service on video which he later posted on Youtube.

The link can be found:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCidQa07ucA>

A local Army Officer Lyndon Robinson was seen at 11am commemorating this Act of Remembrance with a salute.

Church Warden Andrew Cowell said: "The Mursley community is very appreciative of the efforts from Lt. Col. Lyndon Robinson and Rev. Simon Faulks who have ensured that this occasion has been well marked acknowledging the service and sacrifice of those now passed and giving thanks for those who continue to serve us today".



# Open Gates

June 2020

The monthly magazine for the 5 parishes

bitterness selfishness  
 revenge patience generosity derision  
 abuse goodwill peace greed  
 SCORN thoughtfulness grudge  
 avarice love care hope joy forgiveness  
 malice consideration enmity  
 hatred goodness loathing  
 disdain sympathy kindness sneering  
 contempt courtesy animosity  
 hostility politeness resentment  
 arrogance self-control prejudice  
 support

**Shine as a light to the world Mt 5:16**

## Contact Details

**Rector: Revd Simon Faulks**, The Rectory, Main Street, Mursley. MK17 0RT  
Tel: 01296 728531 Email: simon@5parishes.org.uk Day off is nominally Saturday  
**Associate Minister: Revd David Talks**, The Rectory, Drayton Road, Newton Longville. MK17 0BH Tel: 01908 366330 Email: david@5parishes.org.uk  
Nominal days Fridays - Sundays

**Retired Minister: Revd Jackie Brown**, 5 Berry Way, Newton Longville. MK17 0AS Tel: 01908 270159 Email: jackie.br@tiscali.co.uk

Please contact the Clergy or your Church Wardens to make arrangements for any special events eg weddings, baptisms or funerals or other pastoral matters.

## Church Wardens:

<b>Little Horwood</b>	Vacant		Vacant	
<b>Mursley</b>	Andrew Cowell	720425	Bey Christian	720630
<b>Swanbourne</b>	Jill Bailey	720498	Vacant	
<b>Drayton Parslow</b>	John Preston	720426	John Perry	728847
<b>Newton Longville</b>	Stephen Creasey (01908) 648800		Anne Robinson	631109

## Churches in the Benefice

Little Horwood	- St. Nicholas
Mursley	- St Mary the Virgin
Swanbourne	- St. Swithun's
Drayton Parslow	- Holy Trinity
Newton Longville	- St. Faith's



## Information for July/August 2020 issue by 12th June please to

**Bey Christian or Caroline Pettit,**

Old Stocks Church Lane Mursley, MK17 0RS

Tel: 01296 720630 or

e-mail:- bey.christian@yahoo.co.uk

or your Village Contacts:

<b>Little Horwood</b>	Olivia Bull - 714061
<b>Mursley</b>	Caroline Pettit - 720785
<b>Swanbourne</b>	Jill Bailey - 720498
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**All articles in writing please**

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## Take a Pew.....going fast!!

There are only 4 x 10ft 6in pine pews remaining from the Mursley Church facilities project.

If these are too long for your requirements it is possible for you (with a carpenter) to shorten the pew to the desired length. We also have 2 x 6ft 2in units that could be used as a shelf.

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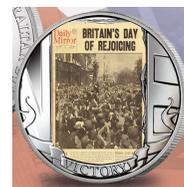
Andrew Cowell (720425) or Bey Christian (720630).

Donations are to Mursley Church, benchmark (groan!!) value seems to be around £200, delivery included.



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To celebrate this defining moment in world history, The London Mint Office is excited to reveal a fantastic commemorative coin, FREE TO THE NATION (plus £2.50 postage)



## We look forward to better days ahead

Mursley Village Hall, Sports Association and Church have had approaches about an event to mark the transition back to a more socially connected way of life post the Covid-19 lockdown.

The answer is a resounding 'YES' we will put something on. The committees are in discussions about what we do as a **non fundraising day** which gives us all a chance to meet up again. The format will depend on the time of year and the weather, we will look to provide a programme that enables all to take part in some way. In the meantime stay safe.



**CANCELLED**

Mursley Horticultural Show 2020

The Mursley Horticultural and Craft Show Committee regret to inform you that, due to the uncertainty of social events being able to take place in the upcoming months, they have had to cancel this year's show.

We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

Thank you for your support

**CANCELLED**

## Reflections from the Rectory

ΚΑΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΚΑΙΝΟΤΗΤΑΣ

We are encountering a new phrase in the media and from people we meet (at a distance!) which is 'The New Normal' referring, it seems, to the way we are currently behaving, and trying to manage life in the midst of a pandemic lockdown. What seemed alien to us many weeks ago – almost embarrassing at times – is now accepted by most. People are now talking about whether we will ever return to the 'old normal'.

As the church moves from the season of Easter to that of Pentecost (from 31st May) we also see the disciples of Jesus getting used to their 'new normal'. In John ch. 21 we read about one of many encounters they had with the resurrected Jesus. This time they are all going back to their fishing jobs on Lake Galilee, trying to carry on 'as normal' but knowing somehow that they will never be the same again after all they have been through, and trying to process a raft of emotions in the light of seeing Jesus again, alive, come and go amongst them. Would they ever return to 'normal'? We know the end of the story: they never did.

We learn from the record that as the 50 days pass from Jesus' resurrection to the day of Pentecost, so the disciples move from one level of belief to the next. Jesus has recently given them the indwelling Holy Spirit (Jn 20:22) who gives them an inner peace but also an unease with 'old normal' and a reorientation towards the 'new abnormal'! Following from Pentecost we see this Spirit empower them with new gifts and courage, in the face of stiff opposition, to share the Good News of Jesus with the world.

As for us, we may never return to 'old normal', even in years to come. To help to process the implications of all that, I commend to you the Spirit of Jesus to give both inner peace, and courage to rise to the challenges of the 'new abnormal' ahead. He is always present and waiting for your invitation to him to become part of your life!

David



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## Mursley Women's Institute

Details of next meetings:- Till further notice.



Our meetings commence at 7.30pm in Mursley Village Hall.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to our Institute, you may come as a guest in the first instance and we will pick you up from your home if required (if local). Why not see if the Institute is for you? For further details of our Institute please contact Beryl Dickens on 720348 or you may log on to [www.bucksfwi.org.uk](http://www.bucksfwi.org.uk)

### Learning to trust in times of trouble

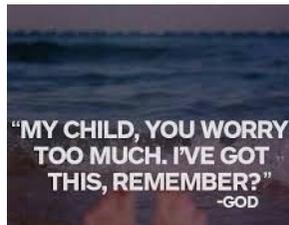
A friend, writing about the challenges she is facing, says: "We never cease to have invitations to trust, do we?" I tend to agree. Almost every day we face circumstances that we cannot control, and for which the only way to find peace is to trust in the loving wisdom of our faithful God.

Yet trust is never easy. It seems easier - and more natural - to worry or to be afraid. It's as if we feel we ought to be anxious, as if we really must fret about things. Not to do so would be to not care. It's our duty to carry the weight of the world on our shoulders. But is it?

Jesus seems to offer us an alternative. He says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me." (John 14:1) He offers Himself to us as someone who is trust worthy, one who is absolutely reliable and who will see us through. We are invited to entrust Him with our concerns, and to hand over to His care the things that trouble us.

In his book *Ruthless Trust*, the writer Brennan Manning says: "Sometimes it may mean more to God when we say, 'I trust you' than it does when we say 'I love you.'" When things are going well, the sun is shining and the sky is blue, it is easy to love God. But when the storms are blowing, and the clouds are dark, it takes a very special kind of faith to say, "I don't understand God, but I do trust you."

This kind of faith delights the heart of God. Every trouble we face presents us with another invitation to place our trust in Him.



Editor: by the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Hertfordshire, and a former communications director with the CofE.

### Blessed are the truth-tellers (during the pandemic)

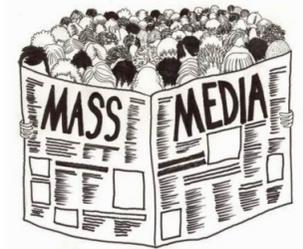
ITV News journalist and presenter Julie Etchingam, a practising Christian, has defended the role played by journalists during the Coronavirus pandemic.

She told the Christians in Media website, "Reporters are coming in for a lot of flack for the questions they are asking government. But what else are we for? We all get that this is a crisis like no other; that few in government have ever had to navigate such a challenge.

"But, if we're still attempting to function as a democracy in the face of this, then scrutiny is clearly crucial. Many in our frontline services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf. We don't always get it right. This isn't a moment to trip people up, but urgently to get to the truth."

As a Christian who has worked in communications for around 50 years, I strongly support Julie Etchingam's view. Now is the time for truth and accuracy to be at the centre of all our communications.

So, yes we need to be praying for and supporting the front-line health service staff, the public health experts, the scientists researching vaccines to combat the virus, and the key workers keeping our societies running.



But we also need to be praying for and supporting the men and women working in and with the media to publish, upload, broadcast and distribute the most accurate information, without spin or distortion.

So here is a prayer for the media in these challenging days.

Loving God,

We pray for everyone working in and with media in these challenging times.

Encourage all who seek to explain and interpret the fast-changing world around us.

Embolden the truth-tellers, truth-seekers and fact-checkers.

Promote coverage that builds our shared humanity and where everyone has a voice.

Bring clarity where there is confusion

Bring knowledge where there is speculation

Bring wisdom and insight when the way ahead seems unclear.

And bring us all to a knowledge of truth that sets us free, and helps keep us safe.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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**Terry Waite - on coping with lockdown**

Terry Waite spent four years in solitary confinement in Beirut. He says: "In isolation, it is easy to become introspective and depressed. All of us, when we are honest and examine ourselves critically, will discover things about ourselves of which we are not especially proud. I had to learn how to grow a greater acceptance of myself and work towards a deeper inner harmony.

"... Today in lockdown, it's important to keep yourself well. Don't slob around all day in pyjamas and a dressing gown. Dress properly and develop a routine. It's important to have a structure - get up at a certain time, eat regular meals and so on.

"If you have faith, then that will give you resources to draw on", especially if you know some hymns, psalms and prayers by heart. "When I was captured, they were there to call on."



Beirut hostages John McCarthy, Brian Keenan and Terry Waite and campaigner Jill Morrell.

Mursley Sports Association  
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**Pig Racing 27 June Postponed**

Mursley Church, Sports Association and Village Hall had planned to hold a Pig Racing Night in Mursley Village Hall on Saturday 27 June. This has now been postponed to Saturday 24 October when we hope we will be able to gather together.

More details as the lock down easing unfolds.

Mursley's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
"Acting today for a better tomorrow"  
May 2020 Update

Despite the unusual and challenging times, we are facing due to the current lockdown, the Neighbourhood Plan continues to be shaped in readiness for consultation with the Parish.

What we are missing is the opportunity for the NP Steering Group (SG) to meet face to face to discuss, agree and update our key documents. This will happen as soon as governmental regulations allow.

The drafts of our key documents need input and agreement at a full SG meeting are :

1. Drafts of our Policies have now been to the PC for discussion and recommendations have been made including a Policy on "Protecting our Community Facilities."
2. Our Pre-submission plan in six sections which has been prepared by our external consultant and is a detailed technical document to support our case.
3. Our Site Assessment Report covering our 10 sites and describing the process of consultation and decision making.
4. The SEA(Strategic Environmental Assessment) report produced by AECOM across our 10 sites. This now also includes feedback from Buckingham County Council and the Environment Agency. We await feedback from Natural England and Historic England

We are on schedule to produce a final draft of our Neighbourhood Plan by September 2020 provided the government restrictions on freedom of movement have been lifted allowing the regulatory requirements of consultation and publicity to be safely met.

Visit: [www.npmursley.wordpress.com](http://www.npmursley.wordpress.com) to read about our journey.



@mursleynp



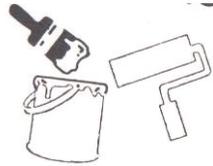
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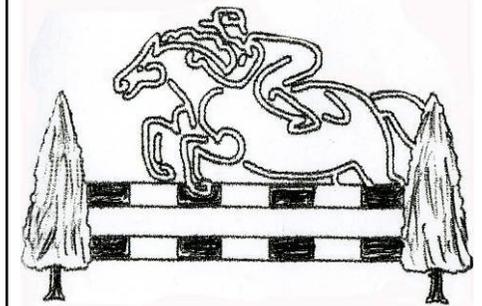
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Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: "Simon, my vicar, was completely unfazed by the closure of his church in March. The very next week he'd set up 'Zoom' and many of us have been weekly attenders of his 'virtual church' for the weeks now. I realise that many other churches are doing the same, but we've had people join us from all over the place! Of course, we all look forward to getting back to St Mary's, but it has brought the congregations together in ways that we could never have imagined. This poem began one recent Sunday morning when I said to my wife, Carol, "let's go and worship at St Sofa's". That inspired her and so the first verse of this poem is hers, not mine!

**St Sofa's**

We worship at St Sofa's now  
Since Covid came to stay  
We don't dress up or do our hair  
But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap  
A Zoom with his IT  
And so we sit down ev'ry week  
And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty  
With praise she does not ring;  
But still her people gather round  
To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing  
Yet it has helped us see  
The church is NOT a building  
But folk like you and me!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton



Planted in the love of the Father

Planted in the love of the Father  
You can grow, dear one,  
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit  
His fruit you'll show,  
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,  
And the thorns threaten,  
And the storms around life's  
garden blow –

Your roots will hold,  
And hold secure,  
Because you're planted in the love  
of the Father.

By Daphne Kitching



**Holy Trinity Church Toilet Extension update**

We have just been notified by the Garfield Weston Foundation that we have been awarded a grant of £10,000 for the church extension which will be paid once we have the balance of the funds in place. This is in addition to a pledge of £2,500 we received from the Elizabeth Laing Trust at the end of last year and a grant of £3,000 from the Allchurches Trust. In total we have raised over £66,000 and having spent just over £10,000, we now have funds of nearly £56,000 available. So we have nearly 50% of the funding we need in place and just need the other 50%! Please contact Richard Wemyss 720741 or Wendy Preston 720426 if you have any questions, comments, ideas for funding or are able to contribute in anyway.

**Church Fete 2020**

Unfortunately our Church Garden fete scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> has had to be cancelled this year due to Covid-19.

**Mousefest2**

Mousefest2 has also been cancelled and we await news of how the lockdown will be eased before we can reschedule this event.

As you might appreciate, the mice have found social distancing very difficult, but the good news is that Supermouse has recently joined them and they are all virus free!





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# Swanbourne News

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To book The Village Hall, please phone  
**07582 967171** and leave a message.  
We will return your call within 24 hours.

**Swanbourne History Website**  
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## Swanbourne Church Fete cancellation

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this year's church fete as it is doubtful that we will be out of lock down by the 6th June.

This is the church's main source of income that enables us to keep the church open. So, it looks like our finances may be rather bleak in the future.

Going to church may not be a regular activity for you and we have no desire to make you feel guilty. The church belongs to the village and in times of need can be both a place of comfort and a place of celebration. We welcome all those with a Christian faith, those with a different faith or those of no faith. It is a place for Sunday worship but also for christenings (baptisms), weddings and funerals. The local schools use it frequently throughout the year and many villagers pop in for quiet moments, to say a prayer or to sit a while. We also have many who come from a far to look and find out information regarding their relatives who once lived in the village.

So, if you would like to help keep the church going by making a financial donation, either now or in the future, we would be glad to receive it. This might be a one-off gift, or you may wish to set up more regular giving with a standing order. If you are a UK tax payer, we are able to claim back tax thus making your gift worth more by 25%.

If you would like to know how to go about this, or for more clarification, please do get in touch with us at [stswithuns.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stswithuns.treasurer@gmail.com). We will be happy to answer any questions.

Can we also encourage you to support our fund-raising efforts once lock down has ended? We think that with your help we can continue to keep the church open, not only for those who want to worship there on a Sunday but also for those one-off occasions and for the local schools. Please can you help?

Though the building is closed at the moment we are still here during the lockdown, please let us know if we can help you in any way during this time.



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## Smoky spinach shakshuka

Nadiya Hussian's easy, spicy shakshuka recipe is a great way to get your protein and vegetables for breakfast. Delicious served with yoghurt and toast.

From Nadiya's Family Favourites

### Ingredients

- 3 tbsp olive oil;
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 spring onions, thinly sliced
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 4 tomatoes, roughly chopped;
- 2 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 200g/7oz baby spinach leaves
- 4 free-range eggs
- 1 tsp red chilli flakes

To serve: Greek-style yoghurt; toasted sourdough/warmed flatbread

### Method

Place a large, lidded frying pan over a high heat. Add the oil, and as soon as it is warm, add the garlic. Reduce the heat and add the spring onions.

Add the salt, tomato purée and tomatoes and cook for about 5 minutes, or until the tomatoes have softened, adding 2 tablespoons of water if they start catching on the bottom of the pan.

Add the cumin seeds and smoked paprika and cook for a few minutes.

Add the spinach, a handful at a time, and mix as best as you can. Put the lid on the pan and allow the spinach to wilt. This will only take a few minutes.

Take off the lid and cook for another few minutes on a medium heat until all the moisture has dried up.

Make four cavities in the tomato mixture. Crack an egg into each cavity, then put the lid on and leave on the heat until the whites are cooked but the yolks are still runny. This should take about 4 minutes. Take off the lid and sprinkle over the chilli flakes.

Spoon an egg and some of the smoky spinach onto each serving plate, and serve with yoghurt and toasted sourdough/warmed flatbread.



## A Scientist Reflects on God's Heart for the Suffering

It's difficult as a scientist to hear information that is fascinating, but which also involves so much suffering for other people. I worked for a time in a leukaemia research lab. We had to let other people's pain drive our research without it crippling our ability to concentrate on our work. But, writing this under lockdown, I have found myself – as a biologically-educated bystander – avoiding looking into the science of COVID-19 because the reminders of its impact on people's lives are everywhere that I look.

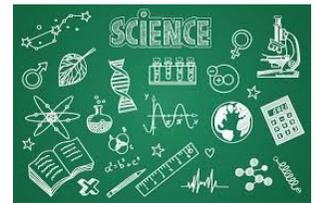
One of the ways I have been managing my own feelings during the pandemic is by digging deeper into what God has revealed to us about His character, letting that fuel my faith, my prayers, and my actions. For more academic types like myself, study – particularly of the Bible – can be one of the primary ways we connect with God and hear from Him. It's not wrong to be comforted by books, so long as the contents turn our eyes upwards and outwards.

First of all, God hears: "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted" (Psalm 34:18a). In Jesus God took on human form, and He showed us His heart for the world. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept (John 11). God is "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Human sin has affected the whole of creation, and I believe this is largely the direct impact of our mismanagement of creation and mistreatment of each other. COVID-19 may well be another animal's friendly virus, pushed by human activity into causing havoc in bodies where it doesn't belong.

But God's world remains good. It is still fruitful, praising Him, as Psalm 19 describes. Even pictures of a deadly virus can seem beautiful – especially to a biologist! These good things are hints of the promised "new heavens and new earth" mentioned in the New Testament. One day "creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay" (Romans 8: 21), and for everyone who follows God, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 21: 4).

Behind the debates about suffering is sometimes the assumption that God doesn't care. My experience is that God does care deeply, and He invites His Church to care for those around them – especially the most vulnerable. He is with us, He hears us and grieves with us, He helps us and promises a better future.



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### House Arrest

During this lockdown, we're all getting yet more used to the 'four walls' inside our houses. On the other hand, many of us are also discovering the wonderful paths and woods which surround our village. It's great to have the freedom to get out and ramble in the (mostly) good weather ... even if we know it's just temporary, and that we will invariably need to return to daily 'house arrest' for the foreseeable future.

### House Arrest



To counter how claustrophobic this may make us feel, we can count our blessings that we have houses, gardens, food... when so many in our society – some just a few miles away – are going without, or are living at poverty level. One unemployed ex-offender lives on the Lakes Estate with his partner and four young children, in a small third-floor flat with no access to a garden. Fortunately, he is a Christian from an African Evangelical background, and has a boisterous, cheerful outlook on life. However, their living conditions are challenging, to say the least, and his children are now facing the prospect of lockdown with no school for another month.

His situation brings to mind the Biblical story in Acts of Paul and Silas, imprisoned in Philippi after being arrested and beaten. Despite the no doubt dire conditions in the jail, the two men were singing songs of praise at midnight when all of a sudden an earthquake struck and the cell doors swung open. The jailer was so shaken and fearful that the prisoners would escape that he drew his sword and was about to stab himself. Paul stopped him and preached to him the way to eternal life... and that man's life was changed in an instant – much as Paul's had once been, on the road to Damascus.

So let's make the most of this time of 'imprisonment'; living simpler lives, singing songs of praise (for, amongst other things, the fact that our 'cells' are more comfortable than those of many), and walking the glorious paths of righteousness and peace. Remembering and helping those who are not so fortunate.

Tom Bartlett

*Editor: Jane Brocklehurst on the value of going through our 'sentimental' stuff...and finding some wonderful memories.*

### Looking for Hope Amongst the Clutter

In this strange locked down season, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, I've noticed a change in the type of pictures posted on social media. In place of the look-here-at-me selfies are snapshots of buds opening to display the colours of spring.



Such hopeful images counterbalance gloomy statistics in the news media. There are also more memory pictures – this is what I was doing on this day years ago with people I love – I wish we could be together now.

While we're not allowed to make the kind of memories depicted in those pictures, we find comfort in memories we already have.

One thing I've done with this unexpected free time is to organize printed photographs into albums. The photos and the albums have been there for a while, waiting for me to get a round tuit. You remember the old joke? Imagine people finding their round tuits in cupboards and drawers all over the country. How would you use yours? To sow seeds that had not been planted? To read the book gathering dust on a shelf?

What else needs tackling? Now may be an ideal time to face the daunting corner where clutter lurks. Daunting because of what you may disturb among age-old piles of unsorted belongings. Looking squarely at the past may be an unwelcome prospect. It makes us face uncomfortable questions. Projects we may never finish, equipment we cannot use any more, objects of attachment from people we've lost. Isn't that like what we're doing as a nation in these unprecedented times? Issues we have been avoiding are suddenly highlighted through unfamiliar circumstances.

There is much talk about how we're looking forward to getting back to normal on the other side of this international crisis. Some people say they hope things will have changed, that normal will not look the same as it used to, because we have learned valuable lessons about what really matters in life. It's up to us whether or not we rise to the challenge, to reorganize society more fairly, to care more for the environment.

By myself I cannot change the world, but I'm determined to look after the little space that is in my care, not to let it be overwhelmed with needless clutter. Be brave. Use this negative time to make a positive change in your small corner. If you choose to sort it out, I guarantee that amidst all the mess you will find at least one thing, however small, to bring you joy – even if it's just a clean and tidy corner.



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Nkuringo is in south Uganda very close to the borders of Rwanda and the Congo. It is in the Biwindi impenetrable rain forest. Like the rest of the world, they are on lock down and are very scared. So many of them rely on tourism and with no work, there is no money for food. Without a support infrastructure, many have been starving and stealing food from those with small holdings.

"REAL LIFE ,BORN CRYING". Turinomuhangyi Damiano .  
 The year I will never forget (the year 2020)

Starting with March 2020 when I started hearing about coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic. My heart was on fire with my interest in education and reading books but unfortunately I started hearing about this terrible disease covid-19.

Step by step, step I heard of the bad news that there was break out of a terrible disease. I heard the information from the head teacher that our president has said that all schools must close and we go home to avoid pandemic this became new to my ears!!! There was nothing I could do, I just obeyed.

I went to my parents where am talking from now. This world will keep changing. When I reached home, the first thing my mum told me was that I should hold prayers on my heart, which I do, morning after waking up, when going to sleep and on Sundays. After morning prayers my mum prepares breakfast ie porridge from maize flour (poshu). This is not done daily but like twice a week if my mum has money to buy maize flour. If the maize flour is not available, we just accept the situation.

I think it is better today than early times because my mum tells me that in early times they used to go and gather plant roots as their food but now we are lucky we can grow some crops. After breakfast (if we have it) my mum brief us about what to do. This is done according to our daily routine (time table). Sometimes we go to weed sweet potatoes/plant yams or other activities. Wednesday is the day of working in our own gardens. I have a garden of pineapples, sugarcane and sweet potatoes and am still growing more.

Apart from sweeping the compound which is done by my young sisters, in the evening we should read books as our teachers advised us to do during this lockdown of corona virus. We were lucky at school we had solar electricity but at home not at all.

I myself I made local electricity (connecting dry cells) put wires and then bulb and we use that for light. I could use a lamp but it requires fuel which costs some money so I decided to use my little knowledge which I acquired from my physics teacher.

By the way this reminds me to thank my great teachers at our school in Nkuringo. After reading, I heat water for bathing at a maximum temperature (just making it warm). On heating, we use stove, charcoal plus saucepan because no water heater but the way you find your family background is the way you bear with the situation. At home am the last born boy leaving behind two girls while two brothers in front but one got married.

Our father gives us some heavy work and we try to do what we can manage. He pretends to abuse us but no matter the disappointment, for success one day comes.

I wouldn't believe that in my life I could know how to send a message on a computer but you see now I can.

REALLY ONE DAY A DREAM COMES LIKE A BLESSING

Damiano is in Secondary School and lives in the jungle on the slopes outside the village on Nteko Ridge.

Editor NB please see advert page after the centrefold for appeal.



## Garden Page

### Your Garden in June

Summer at last and the garden is putting on a huge burst of growth. Herbaceous borders are reaching their early summer peak and the veg patch is becoming productive, if it didn't suffer too much from the frosts in May.

#### Jobs for the garden

- ◆ Hoe borders regularly in dry conditions to keep down the weeds
- ◆ Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside. Make sure they are well watered preferably using collected rainwater.
- ◆ Mow the lawn weekly and apply a selective weed-killer which kill weeds but not the lawn. Be careful if you have wild flowers growing in it as it may mistake them for weeds.
- ◆ Plant out summer bedding into borders, containers and hanging baskets and fill gaps in borders with annuals
- ◆ Stake tall or floppy plants. Sweet peas can be trained onto their support to create a good display
- ◆ Prune spring-flowering shrubs and cut back/clean and divide spring flowering perennials
- ◆ Check roses for mildew, aphid, black-spot or other insect or disease problems and if they appear, take steps to control them straight away
- ◆ Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes. Earth up the rest and promptly plant any potatoes still remaining.
- ◆ Pinch out side shoots on tomatoes and tie in as required
- ◆ Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch

#### Grow your own new plants

With Garden Centres and Nurseries having been closed due to the lockdown, for many it has been difficult to get new plants. So why not propagate your own. Most plants can be grown from seed and is one of the best ways of getting lots of colourful annual plants. Most vegetables seeds should already be underway. This is the perfect time to take cuttings from hardy and tender perennials and a wide range of mainly deciduous shrubs. Make a cut just below the leaf joint or node. Remove the lower leaves, pinch out the soft tip and insert the base of the cutting with the first pair of leaves just above the level of the compost. Softwood cuttings have the highest rooting potential of any stem cutting and often provide the best chance of rooting species that are difficult to propagate.

Gill Gallon Potash Nursery [www.potashplants.co.uk](http://www.potashplants.co.uk)

PS. As you will see, we will be closing the Nursery at the end of June, with the aim of retiring. So a huge thank you to all our customers who have supported us and made running the Nursery so enjoyable. We now plan to enjoy our own garden for a while.

**Editor NB Our appreciation and thanks to Gill for her informative contributions since 2011. We wish Alex and her all the best in their 'retirement'.**

### Dandelions!

Many of us actually like dandelions. Their amazingly cheerful colour always brings a smile to our faces. The not-so-neat-and-tidy gardeners among us can simply enjoy flowers where they grow.



The name 'dandelion' apparently derives from 'dent de lion' – lions' teeth, owing to the tooth-like shape of its leaves. There are many different varieties of dandelion, but they all have the toothed leaves arranged in a rosette around the single flowers, each one made up of up to two hundred [yes, really!] tiny florets on a smooth stem, that when picked, releases a milky substance known as latex.

The golden heads, which close up at night, in wet weather, or if picked to go in a vase, give way to the seed-heads we all know as clocks. Who cannot remember proclaiming the time as a child, having blown the seeds away, counting each breath as an hour? And who, if this happened in the garden, remembers the reaction of a parent, or grandparent, to the efficient dispersal of the seeds all over the vegetable patch or flower bed!

In the past, dandelion drinks and concoctions have been valued for their medicinal powers in combating a variety of complaints, and the Victorians used to cultivate them in order to fill sandwiches with the young leaves. Fizzy drinks manufacturers still produce a variety known as Dandelion and Burdock, and intrepid wine-makers can use the flowers to concoct a heady brew.

The roots, some say, can be dried and ground up for use as a coffee substitute. It is those same roots, long and strong, that our grandmothers would water carefully, to the amusement of onlookers, in order to pull them up completely.

To many of us, dandelions are one of Nature's joys.

### Mursley Church Toilet and Refurbishment Project

The work in the church has progressed well during May and is now complete as far as we can go. The main outstanding item is completing the external drainage connection which is awaiting Anglian Water availability. This is a fairly important piece of the project!!

We have unfortunately had to postpone the dedication service planned for Sunday 14 June with the Bishop of Buckingham as our churches are unlikely to be re-opened by then. We are fixing another date for later in the year.

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Good Morning

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## Need help with your garden?

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**HELP**

The situation in Murrings is dire.  
Since the lockdown many people are without jobs. Without jobs  
they cannot buy food - no Furlough option in Murrings. Many  
dependant on trekking, tourism etc. for a living and are now  
struggling which means of course all the infrastructure of shops  
that sold them food, meals etc. are also struggling. Those  
families already affected by the landslides had their land washed  
away and cannot grow their own food. The Community  
Organisation has been allowed to distribute £600kg to the  
starving but it will not be enough.  
Let us ensure these people are fed during the lockdown that  
affects us all.

**£10**  
will buy a sack of Potatoes to keep a family alive

Donate to our charity bank account  
NECS-Primary  
S/C: 43-50-48  
A/C: 4932938  
Please put FOOD and your name as reference

THANK YOU  
[janetdunne@tandbank.com](mailto:janetdunne@tandbank.com)

Here are some excruciating one-liners...

What time of day was Adam created?  
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?  
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Catholic?  
Because they all have mass.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?  
Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?  
He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?  
No - just an apple.

Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible?  
He thought he saw a job.

Does God love everyone?  
Yes, but He prefers 'fruits of the spirit' to 'religious nuts'.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?  
He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?  
Absolutely ruthless.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.  
Mosquitoes come close, though.

What's so funny about forbidden fruits?  
They create many jams.



## All the events below presently suspended till further notice

### Fun, Food and Fellowship

A bimonthly meeting for ladies in Mursley and surrounding villages. Over a relaxed homemade meal we will share in an informal discussion about issues that affect Christian women. Open to ladies of all ages. Places are limited but you are all most welcome to come along. We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10 which will be shared between the cost of food and a chosen charity. Meetings will be in our homes. If you would like to come along and also if you are happy to occasionally host do please get in touch. For more information and to reserve a place please contact Ruth Jay Telephone **01296 728471** Text **07599268568** or email **ruthmary.jay@hotmail.co.uk**



### Hands on Wednesday at 10.30am to 12.30pm

At Old Stocks, 1a Church Lane, Mursley  
We will open weekly during term time only

No time to do all those unfinished projects you have in a corner! Here is a space & time to use for your relaxation!

Come & share skills or learn new ones

**Drinks & light cakes/snacks are served on a donation basis**  
For further information please ring Bey 720630 or Sue 720523



### Everyday Christianity Discussed over Dinner

Meet at 7.30pm for drinks at 9 The Beechams  
Over the starter - introduction of the topic Main course, Dessert & Coffee  
- discussion and issues raised

Open to men, £15 split 50/50 meal costs/Church Funds  
would be much appreciated.



**Due to catering please prebook with Andrew and Joy**

If you are interested in coming along, contact Andrew Cowell 01296 720425

## Information & Service details in the

**Benefice** A new email list for the Benefice, for sign up form either

click straight through to here <https://www.subscribepage.com/o9h0v3> or you can visit the website at [www.5parishes.org.uk](http://www.5parishes.org.uk) and click the link 'stay in touch' which you will find under the contact tab.

Please do pass this round to anyone you think might be interested, you can ask to be updated about just things specific to your parish or the whole Benefice (we would particular recommend including the Benefice at the moment as much of our online stuff will be for all). You can update and unsubscribe from lists at any time by clicking a link at the bottom of each email. The Services from the past few weeks is also available for viewing under the Blog section.



## Mursley - paper copy

If you require a paper copy for private use & weekly readings update please contact Andrew 720425 or 07990 534940 or Bey 720630 or 07751 964736.

## Mursley Post Office and Grocery

The Thursday morning Post Office service is now open again in the Rectory Room on Thursdays operating from 11am to 12 noon.

Services include parcel returns, cash withdrawals and paying in cheques to a number of banks.

Newton Longville stores who operate the Post Office have also offered to take grocery orders and deliver to the Rectory Room on Thursday morning. If you would like a grocery delivery please call 01908 374893 and ask for Jane. Best times to call are Mon or Thu 9am-5pm or Wed 9am-2pm

If you are unable to collect groceries from the Rectory Room the church will arrange delivery to your home, please contact Bey 720630 or Andrew 720425.

# A Psalm for people like us

Psalm 23 has been a source of strength for thousands of years. Let's pause and say it every day at 11 am through this crisis we now face.

*When we are isolated and alone, we remember God is with us; we place our hands in his hands...*

> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

*When we are tired and confused...*

> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

*When we are worn out with worry...*

> He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

*When we are sick and afraid and if we lose those we love...*

> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

*When we face difficulties today and we hope for a better tomorrow...*

> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*In the face of trouble & difficulty of all kinds, we remember Jesus' promise of life beyond death...*

> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.



Finish reading Psalm 23 with the Lord's Prayer. Bible verses used here are NRSV, the commentary is by the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford.

**Join us online at 10am Sunday morning Diocese of Oxford** The Diocesan live-stream will begin at 10am from around the Diocese and three of our bishops working together, each from their own homes (God willing).

- ◆ Download the order of service
  - ◆ Watch the service on the website, on Facebook or on YouTube
- Everything you need can be found at [oxford.anglican.org/livestream](http://oxford.anglican.org/livestream)