

# Parish News



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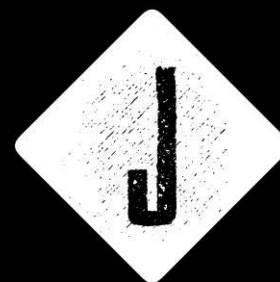
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## Reflection by Alison Lewis, LLM



We often give and receive gifts of perfume and other beautifully-scented items such as candles and soaps for Valentines, birthdays and other special occasions to show our appreciation and love for someone. Scents and different smells can evoke memories; I love the smell of freshly baked bread, cakes and coffee.

As you may know, we are in the season of Lent. In the days leading up to Good Friday, we encounter a woman in the Bible, who came before Jesus with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume (Mark 14: v3). Jesus was at the house of Simon the leper, when an unnamed woman

anointed Jesus with a fragrant oil called spikenard. (This comes from honeysuckle and has the most beautiful fragrance).

The jar had a seal in its neck and once that seal was broken, the fragrance is immediately released. It is believed that, at the time, it would have cost the equivalent to a year's salary. Now that is a lot, but this woman willingly poured it out on Jesus as an act of worship. She gave her most valuable possession out of love. Others who were present, criticised her, believing it to be a waste, but Jesus defended her for what she had done.

This strong, fragrant perfume would normally be used to anoint dead bodies, so perhaps this woman was motivated by God to do such a thing; little did she or anyone else know that, by the end of the week, Jesus would be dead, having been crucified on Good Friday. His body, like the seal on the jar, would be broken. So just think if she had delayed, she would have missed the opportunity entirely. I can't help but think that, as Jesus was imprisoned, tried and tortured, that the beautiful scent of the perfume would have lingered on his skin and clothes, evoking memories of freedom and time spent with friends.

In the great scheme of things, that jar of perfume was small, but to this woman, it was costly. What she did lasted a few moments, but the effects lasted forever. Here we are, still reading and reflecting on this story in the season of Lent all these years later.

At Easter, Jesus died on the Cross so that we could find forgiveness and have peace with God. The effects of what he did over two thousand years ago, still reverberates through time to us today. Our peace came at a great price to Christ as he gave his life for us.

When we come to Jesus, we too can spread the fragrance of the Lord. His fragrance will be with us to be released to those around us. So, this Easter, let's not conceal our love, or miss opportunities to show kindness and goodness; but may his love pour out in our lives to a world in need.

'Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph, and through us diffuses the fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus Christ in every place.'

(2 Corinthians 2: v14)

Happy Easter to all our readers.

Alison x

- All the world's a stage and I sometimes feel as though I missed the final rehearsal.
- At 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all. (*Ann Landers*)

## Surprises in Lent – from Stephen Edwards, Interim Dean of Worcester

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Choral Mattins, the sung service of morning prayer, was the main Sunday service in my childhood parish church – the place where I first felt called to the ordained ministry and where my spirituality and faith were shaped and nurtured. Many memories come back to me when I think of my time in the choir, but as Lent journeys on I

particularly remember that one of the canticles sung in the service changed: the Te Deum, the great ancient hymn of praise, was retired for the season in favour of the Benedicite Omnia Opera – a fabulously named canticle for a child to ponder.

It is an exciting musical expression of praise for creation encompassing everything from the 'sun and moon', 'fire and heat', 'dews and frosts', right the way through to the more exotic and bizarre praises for 'the fowls of the air' and by far the best for a child to sing, 'o all ye green things upon the earth, bless ye the Lord'.

During the seasons when the church was stripped of flowers and colour, when we were giving things up, and paring things down, it was a joyful and playful thing to sing these words every Sunday morning in Lent.

Lent is often talked about as if it were a challenge to be beaten, a marathon of demands for us to prove a point. Spiritual disciplines and denials do have their place but not as an end in themselves but as a way of stripping away the distractions that prevent us ordinarily from seeing the glory of God at work around us.

The playful words and images of the Benedicite were all the more wonderful because they were sung in a season otherwise without colour or vibrancy. I pray that these 40 days will surprise us with new and living understandings of the God who calls us, not to dullness, but fullness of life.



### ***Belbroughton Coffee morning***

***Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
10am til noon  
in  
Belbroughton Church Hall***

## GIVING TO CHURCHES

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### Sunday Collections – Belbroughton & Fairfield

We continue to face many of our usual expenses such as insurance, utilities bills and churchyard maintenance. The PCC is very concerned about what the effect of this reduction in income may be on our church finances. Many people give regularly to the church through Standing Orders. Others give through cash collection on the plate and/or an additional donation by cheque.

You might like to give by a Standing Order or a donation. We can accept either electronic bank transfer by computer or a cheque. Please send any cheques to the Church Office, put them in the collection bag or give them to John at Belbroughton Church. If you can make an electronic bank transfer, the bank account for St Marks and Holy Trinity is HSBC in Stourbridge with a sort code of 40-43-17 and the account number is 91594095. As you may be aware, any amount that you give can be Gift Aided. There is no cost to you and the church receives at 25% rebate from the Government. For every £100 pound we collect, we can claim another £25 from HMRC. Please contact John Penlington for a simple form which you can sign saying you wish to apply Gift Aid to your donation for the past few years and the future. All financial transactions are, of course, completely confidential and the Gift Aid donation is at no cost to you.

A new option is through Parish Giving. Simply phone 0333 002 1271 and ask to setup a donation to Belbroughton and Fairfield using Parish Code 420642243. You could also go direct to their website at [www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/belbroughton-and-fairfield-belbroughton](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/belbroughton-and-fairfield-belbroughton) and do this yourself.

### Sunday collections – St Leonard's Church, Clent

Very many thanks on behalf of the PCC to those who have started new giving Standing Orders, increased existing ones or made donations over the last few weeks.

Just a reminder of the bank account details and my contact details if anyone else wishes to start regular giving or make a donation.

Bank:	HSBC
Account:	Clent Parochial Church Council
Sort code:	40-43-17
Account no:	31136593

Please contact me by email or telephone and I will send you a SO form which, if you are a taxpayer, will also enable me to claim Gift Aid on your giving. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for any help you can give in these unprecedented and challenging times.

Keep safe and stay well.

Jon Prior, Treasurer  
[priors.clent@btinternet.com](mailto:priors.clent@btinternet.com)  
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## PARISH REGISTER

### Holy Trinity, Belbroughton



#### Funeral & Burial:

8<sup>th</sup> February 2024                      Georgina (Jean) Graham                      Aged 77

#### Interment of Ashes:

16<sup>th</sup> February 2024                      Thelma James                      Aged 86

### St Mark's, Fairfield

#### Interment of Ashes:

7<sup>th</sup> February 2024                      Sylvia Badger                      Aged 86

## BELLRINGING



Belbroughton ringers had their annual dinner at the Vine at Clent on 6th February – many thanks to Rebekka for organising it. There were 20 of us (partners come too), making it a lovely evening.

We still haven't managed to ring a quarter peal for Hattie, so she hasn't attained level 4 ART yet but hopefully this month.....

Practices are slightly warmer now we've worked out how to

screen off the little corridor by the vestry from the rest of the church but roll on heating/summer!

Richard -our latest recruit and a return to ringing ringer, has been made a member of the local bellringing association. Having rung before, he's jumping up the ladder fast at the moment – long may it continue.

Anyone wanting to join us, just contact us or turn up any Tuesday – the door is open and we've even started having coffee during the practice. Chocolate is always available

Rosie Marshall,

Tower Captain, Belbroughton

## READINGS FOR CHURCH THIS MONTH

<b>Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Lent 3</b>	<b>(Purple)</b>
First Reading	Exodus 20.1-17	
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1.18-25	
Psalm	19	
Gospel	John 2.13-22	
<b>Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	<b>(Purple)</b>
First Reading	Exodus 2.1-10 / 1 Samuel 1.20-28	
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 1.3-7 / Colossians 3.12-17	
Psalm	34.11-20 / 127.1-4	
Gospel	Luke 2.33-35 / John 19.25-27	
<b>Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lent 5</b>	<b>(Purple)</b>
First Reading	Jeremiah 31.31-34	
Second Reading	Hebrews 5.5-10	
Psalm	51.1-13 / 119.9-16	
Gospel	John 12.20-33	
<b>Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>(Red)</b>
First Reading	Isaiah 50.4-9a	
Second Reading	Philippians 2.5-11	
Psalm	118.1-2, 19-24 / 31.9-16	
Gospel	Mark 14.1-15, 47 / Mark 15.1-39(40-47)	
<b>Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>(Gold/White)</b>
First Reading	Acts 10.34-43 / Isaiah 25.6-9	
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 15.1-11 / Acts 10.34-43	
Psalm	118.1-2, 14-24	
Gospel	John 20.1-18	

The Weekly pews sheet is available by email; please contact the church office at [bfcoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:bfcoffice@btconnect.com) to be sent one, or visit our website for the latest news at [www.bfc-worcs.co.uk](http://www.bfc-worcs.co.uk)

This week's Sermon podcast from the Diocese of Worcester can be found here: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/prayer-worship/sermon-podcasts/>

**Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, 24 March** celebrates the triumphant arrival of the Jesus the King in Jerusalem. Church members often meet outside their church where the palm crosses are blessed and held aloof. They then process through the neighbourhood into church for an act of worship which focusses on the Bible Passion Reading. (*usually taken from: Matthew 26:30–27:66, Mark 14:26–15:47, Luke 22:39–23:56, and John 18:1–19:42*)

# GODLY QUIETNESS

## Learning Silent Prayer

Sometime life is too busy to stop...

...but maybe we could slow down

- and these 7 weeks through Lent are a chance to take up  
the gift of spending time with God without  
all the words, noise, activity and demands  
that fill our lives.

**Tuesdays 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> February**

**5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March**

**Belbroughton Church Office  
Church Road Belbroughton DY9 9TE**

**7.30pm - 8.15pm**

**Coffee etc from 7.15pm**

*No previous experience necessary, in fact this is for  
anyone whether they're a "fully paid up" Christian  
or someone who just wants to explore their  
spirituality*

*Just turn up... or for more info  
wynbeynon@gmail.com*



Sign Language Week will be running from 18th - 24th March 2024 and is run on an annual basis by the British Deaf Association (BDA). It is celebrated each year in March to coincide with the anniversary of the recognition of BSL by the British Government in 2003.

BSL was legally recognised in law by the UK Government on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022; 28<sup>th</sup> April will now be known annually as 'National BSL Day'

The theme for Sign Language Week 2024 is: **"Promoting BSL"**.

The aim of the campaign is to encourage people of all ages across the UK to take up the challenge of learning BSL for themselves and finding out more about the language and culture of the Deaf, Deafblind and hard of hearing British people for whom BSL is their first or preferred language.

The positive impact of BSL on thousands of Deaf and hard of hearing people are often under appreciated. Our goal is to make everyone realise the importance of BSL, and how awareness can make a big difference.

In partnership with the British Deaf Association (BDA), we will be hosting the UK's largest British Sign Language (BSL) lesson online with primary schools across the UK.

In April 2022 a Bill to recognise British Sign Language as a language of England, Wales and Scotland was passed by the UK Government; to require the Secretary of State to report on the promotion and facilitation of the use of British Sign Language by ministerial government departments; and to require guidance to be issued in relation to British Sign Language.

Our lesson will give you and your school the opportunity to learn BSL from a Deaf teacher, as well as the wider benefits for children is such as strengthened improved communication skills and confidence, new ways for them to express emotions, and an appreciation of the diverse cultures of the UK.

**Get Involved**

# MUSIC EVENING

**Holy Trinity Church, Belbroughton**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**Arrive 6.15pm for 6.30pm start**


**Tickets £5 Adults / £2 Children (under 18s)  
Available from: Sally Pemberton, the church office or  
buy on the door**

**Fundraising for the Church heating and Foodbank**

**Free refreshments afterwards**

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**KIDDERMINSTER & STOURPORT DEANERY**  
**DESERT ISLAND LENT**



The season of Lent calls us to spend time in the desert, or wilderness.

But what would we take with us to sustain us and to help us use our time well?

Come and find out what some of our Deanery clergy would take with them – and why.

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> February with Revd Julia Curtis at St Michael's Church, Stourport DY13 9DD  
 Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March with Archdeacon Mark Badger at Holy Innocents Church, Foley Park DY11 6LA  
 Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March with Revd Canon Wyn Beynon at Holy Innocents Church, Foley Park DY11 6LA  
 Wed 20<sup>th</sup> March with Revd Shaun Armstrong at St Michael's Church, Stourport DY13 9DD

All sessions are 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Everyone very welcome.



## KITCHEN CORNER

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

*Thanks to our WI members for sharing their favourites*

## Chocolate Brownies

The recipe is right for a rectangular tin 7" by 10 ½ ", lined with greaseproof or baking parchment . Set the oven Gas mark 4 or 180degrees C.

4oz cocoa, 10 tablespoonfuls cold water, 6oz soft butter, 4 eggs, 6oz sugar, 6oz plain flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 2 pinches salt, 8oz walnut pieces roughly chopped.



In a small saucepan mix the cocoa with the water to make a smooth cream, add the soft butter and heat all gently together. Take off the heat. Whisk the eggs and sugar together until light, add to the chocolate mixture. Sift the flour with the baking powder and salt and stir into the cooled chocolate mixture with a wooden spoon then add the nuts. Spread the mixture into the prepared tin and bake in oven for about 25mins until a dull crust has formed. Allow to cool slightly and then cut into squares.

The crucial bit is to stop cooking soon enough. Too much cooking (only 5mins ) can make them dry and uninteresting. You may need one or two practices to get the timings right with tin and oven. You are aiming to get the brownies still moist and sticky, but just cooked enough to slice. If you undercook and have to eat them with a spoon just relax and enjoy it.

*The recipe taken from a Cordon Bleu Cookery course published in weekly parts in the Sixties.*

Do you have a recipe to share? If so, please send it along to the Editor

**BELBROUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS****BELBROUGHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Founded 1961      Affiliated to The RHS  
Chairman Mr Alan Starling 07858 576532  
Secretary Diane Tyler-Hughes 01384 376236  
Email [rigel4.as+bhs@gmail.com](mailto:rigel4.as+bhs@gmail.com)

**March Meeting*****Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre*****Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 7:30pm ~ 9:30pm****Evia - Greece's Forgotten Island - speaker Vic Aspland**

Dear Parishioners,

As spring marches on and we enjoy the bright colours of spring blooms and blossom why not join us for an evening of more colour.

Vic Aspland, a very experienced speaker with decades of growing alpinists and cyclamens, and interested in growing almost anything, is joining us for our March meeting. Vic's talk for the evening will be Evia - Greece's Forgotten Island. We take no responsibility if you book a holiday after being inspired by the presentation.

We look forward to welcoming you.

BHS

<https://youtu.be/AqMDMIVMCaU?si=6AWRarA2XNSTCNE>

Our President John Taylor with the help of Susan Jones has produced a short video about John's time in the village and also the horticultural society. The link to Youtube is above. Susan is keen for everyone to forward to family and friends too.

**MARCH IN THE GARDEN**

March is planting time for:

Bare root roses, summer-flowering bulbs such as Gladiolus, Lilies and Ranunculus, Snowdrops in the green, herbaceous perennials, sowing flower seeds and hardy annuals.

Vegetables: sow early broad beans and early peas in seed trays, begin chitting seed potatoes, plant asparagus beds from crowns, plant onion, shallot and garlic sets.

Direct sow carrots, radishes and lettuce in greenhouse or under cloches. Sow winter brassicas in seed trays.

Fruit garden: plant apple, cherry and other fruit trees in a sunny, sheltered spot, plant raspberry canes

© RHS.org.uk

## BELBROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY – NOT From the Archives



This item is not from the History Society archives, although in 50 years time it might be!

The winter of 23/24 was, by and large, very mild which was just as well for regular Churchgoers. Why? Because sometime before summer ended and autumn begun, the church boiler gave up the ghost. Jokes about Holy Ghost resisted here. This meant that there was no heating in church, it was cold! In fact, during the few really cold snaps we had members of the congregation were known to sneak outside for a quick warm up. Some parishioners, no names no pack drill, put a positive spin on it thinking it might encourage shorter sermons—generally speaking, they were disappointed. In fairness there were exceptions, again no names etc. At this time we should thank Christine for providing blankets and “bum warmers”.

With the imminent advent of Advent in December clearly something had to be done. Up to the plate steps Mr. Fixit. A flatbed truck arrives at the back of church with a diesel driven portable heater on board, portable HUH! Unfortunately, or slightly fortunate, its arrival coincided with the arrival on the scene of the other half of the Dynamic Duo, Bodgit. First problem was how to get it off the truck down to the ground, as you can guess from the photos it was heavy! Bodgit asked how had it been put on the truck naively thinking that a simple reversal of the process would solve the problem. This earned a withering look and a reply of ‘with a fork lift truck’. Even Bodgit could see that the forklift had not made the trip! This was when he made, probably his only really useful contribution by enlisting the help of a couple of sturdy, younger men to help lift it said heater to the ground. The device was then wheeled into church and set up ready for the following day’s service.



One can imagine, the noise made by a pretty powerful diesel engine was quite substantial. Again, the same hopeful parishioners put a positive spin on the situation hoping for shorter sermons—again, by and large, they were to be disappointed. Again Mr. Fixit came to the rescue, needless to say Bodgit was there, again being more of hindrance than usual. The answer was to re-locate the heater to outside the West Doors of the church, open one half of the doors and feed the hose through into the church. Clearly leaving one door wide open could defeat the whole

object of the exercise so that problem had to be solved. A large sheet of plywood was used to cover the open door space and a hole cut into it feed the flexible heater hose. This was then placed in position and struts cut and screwed to hold it in place, you can see the ensuing result in the photo. Mr. Fixit had drawn upon his engineering background and natural ingenuity to solve problems. It is my belief that the design may be based on something that Heath Robinson might have devised. Readers below a certain age may have to Google Heath Robinson! Nevertheless, the draught has been minimised and heat output maximised. At the time of writing this temporary measure is entering its third month.

Throughout this exercise Bodgit made himself useful by passing tools, holding things and leaning on things to make them fit, well almost. Oh, and doing what he does best, making unhelpful comments and observations!

P.S. we are told that the essential part needed to fix the boiler was being held up in France, post-Brexit bureaucracy! Don't blame the voters blame those that misled them.



## **BELBROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY – From the Archives (the real thing)**



### **Entertainment in Fairfield 1912 - 1914**

(Extracts taken from the Belbroughton Parish Monthly Magazine 1912 - 1914)

#### ***Working Men's Club***

**January 1912** - The old malthouse, which is situated at the top end of the village, has been rented for the purpose of being utilised as a Men's Club Room for the Fairfield district of the village. Much enthusiasm is being shown by the men, who in their spare moments are voluntarily doing all the work of fitting up the place to make it comfortable. In all probability the room will be in use about Christmas, and it is fully expected that the club will commence with a membership of eighty. Donations may be sent to Rev. W. Pennie. Gifts of chairs, tables, and games will be gratefully received.

**March 1912** - The Workmen's Club was formally opened on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, when a Concert and Humorous Sketch were given. The room was crowded, and the efforts of the artistes were well rendered and well received. The Rector, who presided, in a few words thanked all who had contributed to the success of the evening. The sum of £4 2s. 4d. was realised, which will go towards the working expenses of the Club.

**December 1913** - A General Meeting of the members of Fairfield Men's Club was held on November 14<sup>th</sup> to consider kind offers of help, in the form of Entertainments from Mr. Howard and Mr. Edwards. The offers (through the Rector) are to club members and their friends. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed and carried with acclamation, and the members are looking forward eagerly for the entertainments, which will consist of a talk on Switzerland, with lantern slides by Mr. Edwards, and a chat on Music and Singing, with gramophone illustrations, by Mr. Howard. It was also decided to have air-gun and bagatelle tournaments before Christmas, and good entries are being booked. The membership this year is not as good as last year, there being only 46 on the books. It is also very pleasing to state that contributions are being paid up, and there are only five who have not started to pay. The Committee would be very pleased to extend a hearty welcome to new members, entrance fee 6d., and yearly contribution 2s., in fact, less than ½ d. per week.

**January 1914** - On December 12th, Mr Howard gave a very interesting entertainment to the Fairfield Working Men's Club and its friends, in the form of selections on the gramophone of some of the finest music and singing of the day. There was a printed programme for the occasion consisting of some 20 items, all of which were most enthusiastically applauded. Mr. Howard made the entertainment thoroughly instructive by giving some account of the composers and singers. Perhaps the most beautiful of all was the Christmas hymn as sung by the Westminster Cathedral Choir. After the entertainment Mr. Howard was cordially thanked for his kindness, and the Rector had an opportunity of introducing Mr. G.F. Ivamy to those present, who has come to work as a Lay-Reader in the parish.

### ***Whist Drive***

**April 1914** - A very successful Whist Drive was held in the Fairfield Schoolroom on January 4th., the room was so crowded that two tables had to be used in the class room. The profits amounted to £3 1s. 9d., and have been handed to the School Managers to help pay for some of the necessary school repairs.

## **BELBROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

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Everyone is welcome to our next meeting on **Wednesday 13th March 2024.**

It will start at 7.30 at Belbroughton Hall and entry will be £4 with refreshments included.

**Julian Hunt** will deliver a talk called:- **Bromsgrove : A Town on a Road**

Bromsgrove was principally a nailing town, but it also had a thriving cloth and linen-making trade. It's other source of income was hospitality to travellers on the Birmingham to Bristol Road. It had three large coaching inns the Crown, the George and the Golden Cross. There was also a major carrier based at the Coach and Horses, with warehouses in Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester.

Future dates for your diary. More details to follow.

Wednesday 11th September. Sir Thomas Cook and History of Bromsgrove School by Philip Bowen

Wednesday 9th October. On the Weaving - Life in the Carpet Factories of Kidderminster



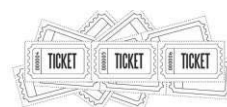
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## FAIRFIELD VILLAGE NEWS

Here are the results of the latest draw; congratulations to the winners.



FAIRFIELD 200 CLUB - DRAW FEBRUARY 2023				
Administrator - Linda Garvin 01527 834935				
PRIZE	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
£200	51			
£10	125	128	101	
£5	180	133	151	112

200 CLUB

Anyone can join

## FAIRFIELD VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### Keep Up To Date With The News

For up to date Neighbourhood Watch and community bulletins (only some of our news items appear in this magazine):

Like [www.facebook.com/fairfieldinformation](https://www.facebook.com/fairfieldinformation)

Follow: [www.twitter.com/fairfield\\_info](https://www.twitter.com/fairfield_info)

Subscribe to the e-Newsletter: [www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)



Fairfield Village Community Association, a group of residents working hard for Fairfield, Wildmoor & Stoneybridge.

### COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

On you own or as a team, be part of our Community Challenge on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm, during which there will be a brief FVCA AGM. What is the Community Challenge? Three fun rounds, with wine & nibbles. Free entry. Come along and have some fun.

### GIVE YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS A NEW HOME

Decluttering? Got unwanted items?

You can either sell them or give them away at our Tabletop Sale & Freecycle Corner on 16<sup>th</sup> March at Fairfield Village Hall, 12noon to 2.30pm. See village website for more information.

### FOODIE FAIRFIELD – YOUR MARKET HALL IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Local food producers selling Artisan Breads, Tasty Meat Pies, Quality Fresh Meats, Delightful Preserves, plus Samosas, will be at the village hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month, 9am to 12noon. The Forfeld Café will be open, so stop and catch up with friends, with a cuppa and a slice of homemade cake.

## AN INSPECTOR CALLS

All being well, subject to there being no operational callouts, local policing Inspector, Rich Field, will be at March's Foodie Fairfield. Pop along, raise any policing issues you may have, or just say hello and show him how warm a community we are.

## DINING GROUPS SERVES UP FRIENDSHIP

A return visit, for the Fairfield Dining Group, to The Dog at Harvington on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm. Our monthly lunchtime gathering is a great way to meet new people, the group includes residents of Fairfield, Bournheath, Dodford and the surrounding area. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pat on 01527 832360, or email [pasteward7@outlook.com](mailto:pasteward7@outlook.com)

## MARCH AT BROMSGROVE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AT FAIRFIELD VILLAGE HALL

One Bromsgrove Arts many strands is giving existing & emerging artists a platform to showcase their talents, and the 2024 season of live music – on the stage – returns on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 8pm with a welcome back to Bromsgrove's **JACK GOODALL**.

Jack Goodall performs his own kind of music, contemporary yet inspired by an array of different artists. As well as releasing three solo albums, in 2021 Goodall released Out Of Here with The Kick, a band formed during lockdown, who became a formidable force at live shows.

Supporting Jack will be Layla Tutt.

The **BIG SCREEN MUSICAL SEASON** continues on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March with the screening of **TITANIC**, 8pm, which was recorded at New Victoria Theatre in Woking.

In the final hours of 14<sup>th</sup> April 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg and the 'unsinkable ship' slowly sank. It was one of the most tragic disasters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. 1,522 men women and children lost their lives.

Based on the real people aboard the most legendary ship in the world, Titanic the Musical is a stirring production, focusing on the hopes, dreams and aspirations of her passengers, all innocently unaware of the fate awaiting them.

With music and lyrics by Maury Yeston and book by Peter Stone, the original Broadway production won five Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book. This stunning production filmed at New Victoria Theatre Woking celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its London première where it recieved sweeping critical acclaim across the board.

**ONE LIFE** (cert PG) on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm, stars Anthony Hopkins & Helena Bonham Carter. It is the true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton (played by Hopkins), a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis. Nicky visited Prague in December 1938 and found families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, living in desperate conditions with little or no shelter and food, and under threat of Nazi invasion. He immediately realized it was a race against time. How many children could he and the team rescue before the borders closed? Fifty years later, it's 1988 and Nicky lives haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety in England; always blaming himself for not doing more. It's not until a live BBC television show, 'That's Life', surprises him by introducing him to some surviving children – now adults – that he finally begins to come to terms with the guilt and grief he had carried for five decades.

Something for the Kids at Easter, when **TROLLS BAND TOGETHER** (cert U) is screened on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am. After two films of true friendship and relentless flirting, Poppy (Anna Kendrick) and Branch (Justin Timberlake) are now officially, finally, a couple (#broppy)! As they grow closer, Poppy discovers that Branch has a secret past. He was once part of her favorite boyband phenomenon, BroZone, with his four brothers: Floyd

(Golden Globe nominated electropop sensation Troye Sivan), John Dory (Eric André; Sing 2), Spruce (Grammy winner Daveed Diggs; Hamilton) and Clay (Grammy winner Kid Cudi; Don't Look Up). BroZone disbanded when Branch was still a baby, as did the family, and Branch hasn't seen his brothers since. But when Branch's bro Floyd is kidnapped for his musical talents by a pair of nefarious pop-star villains—Velvet (Emmy winner Amy Schumer; Trainwreck) and Veneer (Grammy winner and Tony nominee Andrew Rannells; The Book of Mormon)—Branch and Poppy embark on a harrowing and emotional journey to reunite the other brothers and rescue Floyd from a fate even worse than pop-culture obscurity.

**Bromsgrove Arts – the home of Fairfield Flicks & Fairfield Music - is located at Fairfield Village Hall (B61 9LZ), there is free parking and a licenced bar.**

**For information and advanced tickets for all events visit [www.bromsgrovearts.org.uk](http://www.bromsgrovearts.org.uk)**

### **Help Keep Our Community Safe**

Life's safer when you know your neighbours and the community pulls together.

If you see suspicious activity REPORT IT, online via <https://www.westmercia.police.uk> or telephone 101. If safe to do so, share your observations with us [admin@fvca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fvca.org.uk) so that we can make others aware

### **What is Suspicious Activity?**

If a vehicle/person feels out of place please report to the Police as suspicious activity, tel. 101. Even if something seems trivial to you, it's worth reporting as it could be important/vital information. Please remain vigilant at all times, and not just during anyone incident.



### **Wyre Forest and District Centre National Trust**

WFDCNT your local National Trust Support Group, raising funds for the preservation of NT properties for the Nation.

Our meeting in March will be a talk by Alan Pearce entitled  
**“Kilimanjaro , Dare to Dream”.**

It will take place on 12th March commencing at 7.30pm at Blakedown Parish Rooms,  
Belbroughton Road , DY10 3JG

On 9th April we have Chris Green the History Chap making a welcome return visit , this time he will talk about **“Athelflaed, Englands Forgotten Warrior Queen”**

The time and venue of the meeting is the same as in March.

You might be interested in his other historical talks on You Tube, they are many and varied .

Visitors are welcome to come along

Toni Allison on behalf of WFDCNT



**CHURCH SERVICES for St Leonard's, Clent,  
Holy Trinity, Belbroughton, St Mark's Fairfield & St Cassian's Chaddesley Corbett**

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<b>Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup></b> 9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	<b>Lent 3</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion	<b>(Purple)</b> St Cassian's Holy Trinity St Leonard's
<b>Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup></b> 9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 11.15am	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Mothering Sunday Worship4All Mothering Sunday Worship4All Mothering Sunday Worship4All Mothering Sunday Worship4All	<b>(Purple)</b> St Cassian's Holy Trinity St Leonard's St Mark's
<b>Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup></b> 9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	<b>Lent 5</b> Holy Communion Worship4All Family Service	<b>(Purple)</b> St Cassian's Holy Trinity Café Church St Saviours
<b>Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup></b> 9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 11.15am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Morning Worship Palm Sunday Morning Praise Holy Communion Palm Sunday Holy Communion	<b>(Red)</b> St Cassian's Holy Trinity St Leonard's St Mark's
<b>Monday-Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8.00pm	Compline on Zoom	St Leonard's
<b>Friday March 29<sup>th</sup></b> 10.00am 7.00pm	<b>Good Friday</b> Worship4All Reflective Service around the Cross	Holy Trinity St Cassian's
<b>Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup></b> 9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 11.15am	<b>Easter Day</b> Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Communion Holy Communion	<b>(Gold/White)</b> St Cassian's Holy Trinity St Leonard's St Mark's

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**Tuesday evenings 7.15pm March 5<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Contemplative Prayer at Belbroughton Church  
Office with Revd Canon Wyn Beynon  
Email: [bfcoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:bfcoffice@btconnect.com) for details**

*Please check with your church as services can change.*

## LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Please note: due to Data Protection Laws, only those who have given consent to display their details will be shown.  
Please contact the Church/Village Hall for further contact details.

### Belbroughton

#### Belbroughton Church Hall

- Spa Babies
- Pilates
- Yoga & Wellbeing
- Yoga
- Taekwondo

Diane Ash  
E: [belbroughtonchurchhall@gmail.com](mailto:belbroughtonchurchhall@gmail.com)  
Lisa Ryan Tel: 07731427119  
Sophie Christmas Tel: 07814122715  
Sarah Hunter Tel: 07929 625097  
Kate Duncan Tel: 07841918841  
Jess Giles Tel: 07885293088

#### Belbroughton Cricket Club

A Boardman  
E: [belbroughtoncc@outlook.com](mailto:belbroughtoncc@outlook.com)

#### Belbroughton Club - Function room hire

#### Belbroughton History Society

Website: [www.belbroughtonhistory.org.uk](http://www.belbroughtonhistory.org.uk)

#### Belbroughton Horticultural Society

Caroline Tel: 07879487239  
E: [belbroughtonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:belbroughtonhistory@gmail.com)  
Diane Tyler-Hughes Tel: 01384 376236  
E: [rigel4.as+bhs@gmail.com](mailto:rigel4.as+bhs@gmail.com)  
Nina Read Tel: 01562 731840

#### Belbroughton First Steps Nursery

#### Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish Council

Acting Clerk: Ruth Mullett  
E: [belbroughtonpc@live.co.uk](mailto:belbroughtonpc@live.co.uk)  
Tel: 07967 501943  
Di Ash Tel: 07975 824100

#### Belbroughton Friends for Lunch (Last Tues of month)

#### Belbroughton Recreation Centre

- Hall Bookings
- Belbroughton Dog Training Club
- Talented K9s
- Best Pals Dog Training Club (Evenings)
- Jnr Football Training PSI Sports
- Adult Pilates
- Tennis Club
- Indoor Mat Bowls
- Little Netters
- Unity Angels Book Club

John Clarke Tel: 07977716162  
E: [belbroughtonrecreationcenter@gmail.com](mailto:belbroughtonrecreationcenter@gmail.com)  
John & Brenda Head Tel: 07769 734640  
E: [b-head@sky.com](mailto:b-head@sky.com)  
Tel: 07708 143024  
E: [z\\_ashman@hotmail.com](mailto:z_ashman@hotmail.com)  
Karin Sweryda Tel: 07759 775619  
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Sheila Booth Tel: 07758 207575  
Sarah Layton Tel: 07970 863344  
Lindsey Bradley E: [unityangels@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:unityangels@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Belbroughton Royal British Legion

#### Belbroughton Scythe Fund

Tony Hadfield Tel: 01562 731555

Jim Brown Tel: 01562 228533

Roger Hadley Tel: 01562 730539

[www.belbroughtonscarecrow.co.uk](http://www.belbroughtonscarecrow.co.uk)

Jill Edwards Tel: 01562 730415

Mary Hughes Tel: 07889 743532

#### Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee

#### Belbroughton Spinners

#### Belbroughton Toddlers

- Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

## LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

### Clent

**Clent Parish Hall**

**Clent Parish Council**

James or Tricia Tel: 01562 730381

**Clerk:** Nick Farress

E: [clerk@clentparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@clentparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Clent Church Guild of Bellringers**

Martin Whittaker (Tower Captain) Tel: 01562 883891

Service ringing Sun 10-10.30am

Martin Whittaker Tel: 01562 883891

Practice Mondays 19.30-21.00

Revd Kim Topham Tel: 07952 162373

**Clent Cricket Club** - Centenary Field Belbroughton Rd, Clent

**Clent Gardening Club** – Chairman

Martin Grange Tel: 01562 883009/07884 071763

4<sup>th</sup> Fridays 7.30pm Clent Parish Hall

**Clent Hills Rotary Club**

Thurs 7 for 7.30pm, The French Hen, Clent

**Clent History Society** Meets in Clent Parish Hall

Paul Timmins Tel: 07761115255

**Clent School PTFA**

Sarah Hill Tel: 07740 705023

**Clent WI** – Secretary

Linda Perry Tel: 07808 918705

**Clent Village Artists**

E: [info@clentvillageartists.co.uk](mailto:info@clentvillageartists.co.uk)

**COMIC** (Comedy Opera and Music in Clent)

E: [comicinclent@gmail.com](mailto:comicinclent@gmail.com)

**Social Dancing Ballroom & Latin**

Lynne Thomas Tel: 01384 918892

**Keep Fit** - Fridays 9.30-10.30pm

Jennifer Field Tel: 01562 882669

**Three Roses League of Friends**

Tracy MacKenzie Tel: 01562 730730

**Tai Chi/Chi Gong** (meets Mondays 9.30-10.30am  
and Tuesdays 10.00-11.00am)

E: [fundraising@threeroseshomes.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@threeroseshomes.co.uk)

Gail Johnston

E: [gailjohnston59@aol.com](mailto:gailjohnston59@aol.com)

### Fairfield

**Fairfield Village Hall** – Chair, Geoff Cotterill

E: [chair@fvh.org.uk](mailto:chair@fvh.org.uk)

- Secretary

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- Treasurer

E: [treasurer@fvh.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@fvh.org.uk)

- Bookings Secretary Andrew Billau

Tel: 07762 749943 E: [bookings@fvh.org.uk](mailto:bookings@fvh.org.uk)

- Safeguarding

E: [safeguarding@fvh.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@fvh.org.uk)

**Village Hall Website** – [www.fvh.org.uk](http://www.fvh.org.uk)

**Fairfield Community Association** – Chair

Conrad Palmer Tel: 01527 833583

E: [fvcommunityassociation@outlook.com](mailto:fvcommunityassociation@outlook.com)

**Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish Council**

Clerk: Ruth Mullett

E: [belbroughtonpc@live.co.uk](mailto:belbroughtonpc@live.co.uk)

Tel: 07967 501943

**Fairfield Ramblers Group**

George Gration

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**Line Dancing**

Ann Waldron Tel: 01527 871645

E: [annwaldron31@yahoo.com](mailto:annwaldron31@yahoo.com)

**National Vegetable Society**

Graham Brickstock E: [graham.brickstock@outlook.com](mailto:graham.brickstock@outlook.com)

**Pre-School & Toddlers**

Sharon Shorthouse Tel: 07960 060024

**Ramblers Group**

George Gration E: [george.gration@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:george.gration@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sequence Dancing**

Dennis Anelli Tel: 01562 88553

**Fairfield WI** - President

Carol Hine Tel: 01527 873072

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**Zumba**

Elisha Waldron E: [Elisha\\_waldron@icloud.com](mailto:Elisha_waldron@icloud.com)

## PARISH DIRECTORY

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E: [admin@hagleycofe.co.uk](mailto:admin@hagleycofe.co.uk)

### Belbroughton

**Churchwarden:**

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**PCC Secretary:**

vacancy

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John Penlington 01562 730888

**Organist:**

Please contact Church Office

**Guild of Ringers Tower Captain:**

Mrs Rosie Marshall  
01584 874635

**Belbroughton & Fairfield Parish**

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Email: [belbroughtonpc@live.co.uk](mailto:belbroughtonpc@live.co.uk)

**Bookings Secretary for Church**

**Hall:** Email:

[belbroughtonchurchhall@gmail.com](mailto:belbroughtonchurchhall@gmail.com)

**Bookings Secretary for Rec.**

**Centre:**

Mr John Clarke 07977 716162

**Parish Magazine**

**DISTRIBUTION**

The Editor 01562 730777

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**Bookings Secretary for Village**

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**Belbroughton with Fairfield PCC**

**PCC Secretary:**

vacancy

**Parish Magazine**

**DISTRIBUTION**

The Editor 01562 730777

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01562 320416

Mr Neill Robb 01562 885300

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**Lay Reader:**

Alison Lewis 01562 731873

**ALM:**

Rosie Padmore 07931 216656

**Secretary to the Church Council:**

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**Treasurer:**

Mr Jonathan Prior 01562 730428

**Organist:**

Mr Harry Grove 01562 777967

**Mothers' Union Branch Contact:**

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**Clent Parish Council Clerk:**

Mr Nick Farress

**Parish Magazine Distribution:**

Mrs Cath Glasby

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Clent: Mon/Thurs/Fri 9-1pm Telno: 01562 886363, Address: 1 Park Rd, Hagley, Stourbridge DY9 0NS

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**WEBSITES**

Belbroughton & Fairfield website: [www.bfc-worcs.co.uk](http://www.bfc-worcs.co.uk)

Clent website: [www.clent-worcs.co.uk](http://www.clent-worcs.co.uk)

Fairfield & Wildmoor Community Notice Board website: [www.fvca.org.uk](http://www.fvca.org.uk)

Clent Parish Council website: [www.clentparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.clentparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**MISSION GROUP** website: [www.thebeneficemissiongroup.weebly.com](http://www.thebeneficemissiongroup.weebly.com)

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Advertisements are reviewed on an annual basis, although ad-hoc adverts may be placed throughout the year.

Should you wish to place a new advert or make changes to an existing advert, please contact the Editor Tel:

01562 730777 or Email: [bfcoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:bfcoffice@btconnect.com)

to be included in this publication.

The Editor reserves the right to refuse to publish an advert at any time.

## FAIRFIELD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



We had our February meeting a week early as the village hall was having maintenance work done the following week.

We had an update on Shirley's improvement after her fall. Carol read out a thankyou card received from Shirley.

We also received a thankyou card from Sue Lewis from the Leprosy Mission for our donation, after her talk in January.

Margaret encouraged everyone to look at details in WI Life of courses available to attend. There is a good selection of topics available.

Beverly distributed the menus for our annual meal taking place on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> we are hoping to go on a tour to the Carpet Museum in Kidderminster.

Our speaker in March is Kelly Turner who is the Community Fundraiser for Bromsgrove Basement Project. We are collecting food and toiletries every month for this project.

Maggie attended a course at WI house on Food Safety to renew her certificate. Ilse will also do this course online.

Margaret and Paula went to an Archive Training course recently. Members are requested to check on past information they may have so that it can be kept together safely until it can be passed on to be archived if necessary – thus keeping important paperwork and avoid the risk of it being lost.

We are having an Advisor attend our Annual General Meeting in May .

Our subscriptions for this coming year is £48.00 and due to be paid in April.

At the end of the business part of the evening we lightened the mood with a Beetle Drive which is always good fun. Halfway through this we all sampled the delicious savouries, fruit, cake and biscuits based on Valentines themed food and made by members. The table was covered with a variety of things and looked amazing.

From next month, to boost our funds a little, we are asking members to pay a contribution towards the tea and cake provided at meetings.

The competition of an item of Vintage Kitchen Equipment was won by Isabel. We had three seconds Debbie, Meriel and Sheila.

Our meeting next month is on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Village Hall. The competition is a Vintage Tin.

Do come along everyone is very welcome.



## CLENT HISTORY SOCIETY From the Archives

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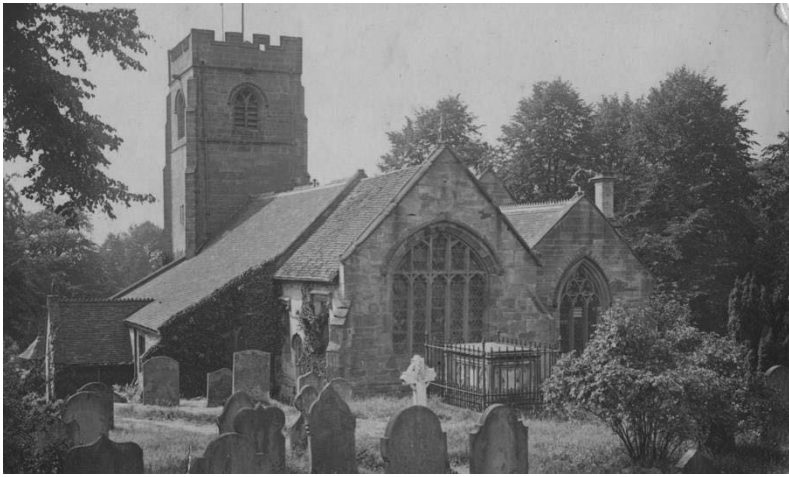
### Recollections of a Boyhood and Youth in Clent By The Reverend J. Thomas Lewis, M.Div.

I lived in the village of Clent from about 1908 to 1922 with an aunt, Mrs. Annie Peacock, at Church View across from St. Leonard's Church. In my day, the present building was two houses joined together. Living besides us was the retired schoolmaster [Jonas Rawson] of Clent School. Mrs. Peacock rented a field nearby to make hay and several fields above the Vine Inn as pastureland for her cows. She conducted a dairy business, selling milk, butter and eggs, poultry, and garden produce. I helped with the farm chores and delivery of milk. Our patrons were all the houses on Vine Lane and the Vine Inn and beyond. Bedding for the cows was got from the bracken on the hill above the Vine Inn. We made the butter in a churn which had to be turned by hand. We took the cows to be serviced to a farm near the Thatcher's estate [The Beddall Farm].

I remember Clent as a very quiet village, a peaceful and pleasant place in which to live. In my day, the villagers were very law abiding. We had only one policeman who lived in the police station in Lower Clent. Clent became alive during the summer weekends and Bank Holidays. The Clent Hills were a great vacation area for hundreds of people from Birmingham, Stourbridge, and the Black Country. Most activities centred in an area known as Adams Hill.

Villagers living near the hills catered for the holiday makers by serving tea as did Mrs. Peacock. Some rented rooms in their homes to those wishing for a longer stay. We had guests who returned many summers. These activities helped supplement villagers' income. Most of the people came in horse-drawn vehicles that carried fifteen to twenty people. In my youth, gasoline engine busses began to bring them to Adams Hill, Holy Cross, and Lower Clent.

Houses that I knew, including Church View, did not have indoor water or indoor plumbing. We had a pump in the backyard for our water. The Toilet facilities were outdoors and without water. Commodes were upstairs. The water had to be carried upstairs for hand and face washing. Bath water was heated in the kitchen, and we bathed in a large, galvanized tub there. Sponge baths were more frequent. Bath water and dishwater were taken outside and poured in a rivulet which flowed in the backyard. We did not have electricity or telephone. Houses were lighted by candlelight and oil lamps. Heat was provided by fireplaces in each room burning coal. Keeping the home fires burning occupied much of our time. Later in my youth, we had a primitive radio. Television was not even invented.



Social activity centred around the church. Dances were held in the parish hall which was about halfway between the church and Holy Cross. I went to them with my aunt and a cousin, Gladys Cooper, who lived with us. Gladys married a neighbour, Jim Houghton. She is the mother of

Peter Houghton and Mary Houghton Parkes. The men wore black shiny slippers and white gloves.

Clent had a choral society made up of men and women from the Clent, Belbroughton, and Hagley areas. Rehearsals and concerts were held in the parish hall. The boys from the church choir were often called upon to sing with the group. I had this privilege on several occasions. The contralto soloist was Gladys Houghton. Among the many presentations was Handel's "Messiah". The conductor came from Stourbridge.

I attended the infant school near the church and clent school near the Old Vicarage. Both schools were church related and the vicar, the Reverend Penson C. Thomas, visited the schools quite often. I did not finish my education in Clent School. I attended Bromsgrove Secondary School for several years, first riding a bicycle and in my last years, a motorcycle. It was about a 12-mile round trip.

We in Church View attended church services regularly. Sunday School was held in the parish hall before the morning service. My class was a group of boys taught by Mr. Watt of Holy Cross. He also sang in the church choir. He had a great influence on my life and had much to do with my seeking Holy Orders. As a boy I sang in the church choir of about ten boys and six men. There was always a waiting list of boys who wanted to be choristers. We sang at the eleven o'clock Matins and/or Holy Eucharists, the three o'clock Catechism service and at Evensong Sunday Services. Most Christenings were held at the Catechism services with the choirboys round the font. We also sang at many weddings and burials for which we received a small honorarium. The vicar was a bachelor for many years. He lived in the large vicarage opposite the church. He was very kind to the choirboys, welcoming us to the vicarage to fish in his pool. He organised and took us on summer trips to places on the River Severn. We went in horse drawn coaches.

Mr Thomas was a Catholic churchman who introduced Eucharistic vestments. During part of the First World War, he served as a chaplain in the British Army. In later life he married a lady quite a bit younger than himself. After my voice changed, I served as a Crucifer and often read the lessons at Evensong. I was confirmed in Oldswinford church in 1917. Whilst Mr. Thomas was in the army, the Reverend Mr. Chevasse was interim vicar. A bachelor clergyman, he was much loved by the parishioners.

Services at the church were well attended. Most people walked to church, including some of the gentry. Some of the gentry coming to the morning services were brought by their coachmen. Working class people: maids, servants, gardeners, tradesmen, attended Evensong. The village squire, Mr Amphlett, read the lessons at Sunday Matins. The church bells were rung half an hour before Matins and Evensong on Sundays. They were also rung for weddings and funerals. They were muffled for funerals. The Sanctus bell was rung before the daily services and at the time of the Consecration of the Sacrament. Living so close to the church, we enjoyed the bells and always knew when weddings or funerals were being conducted. During the war, the bells were not used at Evensong.

Mr. Osborne was the vergier and custodian at the church. He was a kindly bachelor who lived with his sister in a corner house on Church Square. He had a small grocery store in front of his home. Villagers in this part of Clent Patronised his store. For meats and millinery goods they went to Holy Cross. For many other things, however, villagers went to Stourbridge, often walking both ways. Some went by horse drawn coaches and finally by the Midland Red bus from Holy Cross and Lower Clent.

In order for the church organ to be played, air was pumped by hand to the bellows in the sacristy. As a youth, I often had this task. When the organist played full organ, one had to pump really hard to keep air in the bellows. We had to keep an eye on a weight which went up and down to let us know when air was needed.

Mr Waldron had a cabinet shop near Adams Hill. He was also the village undertaker. A great aunt, Sarah Taylor, who came to live with us, died. Mr. Waldron came to "lay her out", measure for her coffin, make it, provide the horse-drawn hearse, and see that the grave was opened, in this case, at St. Kenelm's church.

Quite a few people lived in Vine Lane, called in my day "Church Road". Mrs. Workman and the Houghton's lived next to Church View. Further up was a group of cottages called almshouses [Church Cottages]. In them lived the old and others of poorer means. The cottages were owned by the parish. There were also houses near the Vine Inn. Mrs. Wimbush lived in one of the almshouses. I knew her and met her son and family in Washington DC. The Vine Inn was a well conducted pub, very well kept and attractive. At the back of the inn was a large pool. At one time, English ale was brewed there. Mrs. Peacock supplied the inn with milk, butter, and eggs.

During the First World War, all windows in the village homes had blackout curtains. The German zeppelins passed over Clent on their way to bomb the Black Country. We often saw them at night, picked up by the searchlights. We also heard the bursts of the anti-aircraft shells. The church windows were also covered with blackout material. Older students in Bromsgrove Secondary School belonged to the ROTC attached to the Fourth Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment. I had



to stay after classes for training and took part in weekend manoeuvres on the Clent and Malvern Hills. German prisoners, mostly officers, were stationed in a large house between Clent and Hagley. They worked on the roads between Clent and Bromsgrove. We often went by the house to hear them sing. When they saw some of us in uniform riding to Bromsgrove School, they called us "England's last hope". Many boy and girl refugees from Belgium lived with villagers and were brought to church.

In Holy Cross area was a Church of England Home for Waifs and Strays. It was a home for girls with Miss Bristow in charge. These girls in their uniforms attended the Sunday morning services.



For several years I took piano lessons from a lady in Belbroughton. After passing examinations at the Royal Academy of Music in Birmingham, I set up my own in Church View and took organ lessons from the organist of Oldswinford church. With the coming of the automobile, Jim Houghton and I started a taxi business. We bought a Ford car and were hired by villagers to take them

to Stourbridge shopping and to church on Sundays. We also used the taxi on holidays, taking the visitors to Halesowen and other towns.

The Waifs and Strays home in Summerfield Road.

I was well acquainted with the Misses Thatcher who lived in a large estate near the church. They gave generously of their time and means to the church. Some summers, I worked on Saturdays in their large gardens. I remember weeding the asparagus beds which seemed to appeal to me. Their brother, a retired clergyman, lived with them. He came to church in black clothing, a long coat and a pancake hat and clerical collar. Other people I remember were a Bill Bubb and Will and Rose Hollis. I visited the Hollises when I visited England in 1980.

In June of 1933, I married Miss Kathleen Elsie Tucker in our church in Casanova, Virginia. We spent our honeymoon in England, visiting relatives. I had the privilege of preaching at Evensong in St. Leonard's one Sunday evening. We also had visits with the vicar, Mr. Thomas. My wife's father was born in England and left for the United States in his youth.

(This extract has been taken from Carole Hodgson's Clent Clarion.)  
former Secretary to Clent History Society

(Paul Timmins, Chairman)

## CLENT HISTORY SOCIETY

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Our first meeting of the year is on **March 21<sup>st</sup>**, 2024.

The Chance Brothers Glassworks, Smethwick.

The talk will be given by Henry Chance,

Henry is the grandson of the last family member chairman, Sir Hugh Chance.

Not only were Chances known worldwide for their pioneering glass techniques but

The Chance family had a lot to do with Clent Village as well.

It will be a fascinating talk and Henry is looking forward to coming back to Clent.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have decided to hold some of our meetings in the afternoon rather than in the evening. This will be our March and November meetings. We want to try and make it easier for members and visitors to attend our meetings in the dark nights of Winter.

So, our March meeting will start at **2pm** on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March,

Doors open 1-30pm and everyone is welcome to come along.

Admission to Members Free,  
£4-00 to non-members.

\*\*\*\*\*

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Clent History Society will be hosting a joint

### History Fair

It will be at Clent Parish Hall, Church Avenue, Clent,

10am until 4pm  
FREE ENTRY

The Societies that will be taking part are  
Romsley & Hunnington, Belbroughton, Hagley,  
Chaddesley Corbett, Clent, Churchill and Blakedown.

A great way to discover the Local History of the area,  
Meet the Societies and see their displays.

## CLENT GARDENING CLUB



The January meeting of the Club welcomed around 20 members for the Annual General Meeting during which the Chairman reported on another successful year during which the membership remained steady despite the sad loss of three members to the great garden in the sky. He thanked members for their support during the year and he hoped that members had enjoyed the programme of speakers and garden visits which the Club had provided.

The Chairman announced the programme of speakers and garden visits for the coming year which he also hoped would be enjoyed by the membership.

The Chairman thanked the Club Treasurer Eddie Gascoigne and Honorary Secretary Sue Mitchell for their sterling efforts during the year and he also thanked Ann Hunt for providing the tea, coffee and biscuits at the monthly meetings. He also thanked the remaining committee members for their support during the year.

The Honorary Treasurer presented the annual accounts which showed a small surplus on the year which was encouraging and the Club, therefore, retains a healthy financial position which is in no small way due to the Treasurer's efficient husbandry.

The election of officers saw all the current incumbents re-elected as were the current committee members. The Club has a small but efficient committee and is in safe hands for the foreseeable future.

After the formal proceedings were completed members enjoyed a glass of wine and a few nibbles whilst enjoying another of Sue Mitchell's party games which produced a degree of hilarity amongst the participants.

At the culmination of the meeting the Chairman advised that the first meeting of the new year was booked for Friday 23 February when we have a talk by Alison Wakeman entitled "Awareness of Bees and their Importance in the Environment" and he hoped to welcome as many members as possible at that meeting.

All are welcome at our meetings which are held at Clent Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month and anyone interested in either joining or just visiting the Club can get further details by visiting our website on <https://clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com> or by contacting our Chairman Martin Grange 01562 883009/07884 071763.

### **Maundy Thursday 28 March: The Bread of Life**

*Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry,' John: 35*

Bread is one of the three staple foods that form the foundation of the diet for everyone on the planet. The other two are rice and pasta. While it is difficult to provide accurate figures, in general bread in its various shapes, flavours and textures is consumed by about 80% of the world's population while over 50% of the world's population depend on rice for about 80% of its food requirements. Pasta is also popular worldwide with most UK, European and American people eating it regularly.

**CLENT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Despite the inclement weather our year kicked off with a great talk from Caroline Butcher, a milliner, who brought along a number of hats to show us and told us which hats suited our differing shapes and heights. She also brought a milliners block and fabric to show

how hats are shaped .

Dr Kate Round followed at our February meeting when we had a large audience to hear about the Magic of Glass. She is very knowledgeable and brought a PowerPoint presentation to enhance her talk . The audience thought she was great talking for over an hour without a note and taking us back in time to our younger days with photos of products we might still have in use.

Our next meeting is on 14th March at 7.30pm to which visitors are most welcome for a small charge. We have Helen Plumb coming to talk about Glorious Gems and How they are formed. We saw a snippet of her talk at a New Speakers event and found her very interesting.

At our April meeting on April 11th we are having a Bring and Share Supper, so we look forward to a Social evening with food and a drink. Last year the table was full with a wonderful array of food; I'm sure this year we shall be similarly blessed.

Toni Allison

Clent WI President

For Information contact:

Toni Allison 01562 884079 (President)

Linda Perry 01562 730946 (Secretary)

# COMIC

THEATRE COMPANY

announce

## Bleak expectations

[ Mark Evans - BBC radio 4]

A hilarious radio comedy turned west-end play

To be performed on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> May at Clent Parish Hall

Plus more dates tbc

See website for tickets

[www.comictheatrecompany.org.uk](http://www.comictheatrecompany.org.uk)

Email: [hello@comictheatrecompany.org.uk](mailto:hello@comictheatrecompany.org.uk)

## CLENT MOTHER'S UNION



Our February Meeting was our Candlemas Celebration. We welcomed members of Hagley Mothers' Union as well as special visitors from Clent who support us during the year.

Our members worked very hard providing a delicious tea. Tables were decorated with blue candle and Spring flower arrangements. Everyone enjoyed our annual quiz; a sheet of general knowledge questions and a second sheet of photographs for us to try and identify The Personalities. Our raffle was very generously supported which will greatly assist our work this year. Anne concluded the afternoon by thanking all the members of Clent Branch.

Our next meeting is Thursday 7th March at 2.00pm. Our speaker will be Reverend Sarah Cottrill who is the newly appointed 'Head of Community of Interest for Faith'. She is looking forward to developing the role and working with the different branches within the Diocese. She is a Team Vicar for The Worcester City West Team. Sarah has been a member of Mothers' Union since the 1990's, following in her Mother's footsteps.

The Wave of Prayer will be on Wednesday 13th March at 10.30am. Gill Mucklow is kindly hosting this in her home.

Jan Woolley

**Saturday 20 April at 7-30pm**

**Clent Parish Hall Fundraisers**

present in assoc with Live & Local (Arts Council)

**Jack's Ashes**

A comedy written & performed by Tim Marriott

*"163 to win. We've got this lads!"...* Former professional cricketer Jack gives his team talk.... but wickets fall like a ticking time bomb and Jack pads up...the last man in... to go and save the day!

Richly entertaining, engaging, informative.....and possibly the worst team talk you've ever heard!

**Tickets £12-50 from Bonnie 07713 723987**

or via email: [\*\*bonnieharvey121@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:bonnieharvey121@gmail.com)

Licensed bar provided

**CLENT PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Clent Community Orchard**

With the support of Clent Parish Council a community orchard is to be planted in Centenary Field, made possible by the Coronation Living Heritage Fund. The orchard in Clent will be 1 of 20 new orchards planted across Worcestershire, and builds on the established success of the Clent Apple Day held for the past 2 years in the autumn.

The orchard will comprise 25 apple, pear and plum trees, and will be located in the area to the rear of the Cricket Pavilion in Centenary Field. The variety selection comprises a mixture of Worcestershire varieties, with some perennial favourites thrown in, and will be grown on MM106 root stocks, giving a semi dwarf tree.

In addition to our community orchard planting, there is another apple themed event happening in March, our Clent Apple Grafting day. Parishioners are invited to learn the ancient art of grafting fruit trees and will be able to take home a tree propagated by their own hands. This is to be held at Clent Parish Hall on Saturday 16th March, 10.00am - 12:30pm - all ages welcome!

We are holding 2 planting days for the people of Clent to get involved in the establishment of the orchard. The first will be attended by the year 5 pupils of Clent School in February. The second will be held on Saturday 23rd March starting at 10am, meeting at the Clent Cricket Club - all welcome!

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March Clent Apple Grafting Day 10.00am –  
12.30pm Clent Village Hall – all ages welcome.**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Tree planting day 10.00am, meeting at  
the Clent Cricket Club - all welcome!**

## BITS 'n PIECES

# Chele's Social

*Friendship, Adventure, Experience*

We are a social group that meet 2nd Friday of each month at Clent Club Pool Furlong 12-2. We have guest speakers, refreshments, homemade cake as well as days out. Our ethos is friendship, adventure and shared experiences. Come along and give us a try! £6 pp

including refreshments  
**Meeting Dates and Talks**

**8 March – Peter Preece – Every Picture tells a Story part 2-** Peter is back with his fascinating wildlife pictures that he has taken.

**12 April – Brendan Hawthorne – Poet, playwright, writer and musician. - Being Black Country**  
-Join Brendan for humorous stories, poems relating to the Black Country and some of its characters. Personal stories include being on The One Show with Shirley Bassey!

Contact Michele 01562730076  
07761483578  
[michele.hancock1@icloud.com](mailto:michele.hancock1@icloud.com)



## Guide Dog Mum Volunteer Taster Day

**Guide Dogs National Centre (CV33 9QJ)**  
**Sunday 17th March, 1.00 – 4.00pm.**

Meet our amazing guide dog mums, chat with our friendly staff and volunteers & find out more about how you can join this life changing team.

For more details, please contact:  
[VolunteerMidlands@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:VolunteerMidlands@guidedogs.org.uk)



The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a registered charity in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334).

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO CLENT

You're very welcome to a folk concert  
on  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm at  
Clent Parish Hall

The very entertaining Anglo-German duo of Karen Pfeiffer and Paul Walker headline with great songs and fine musicianship.

The Startled Ferrets will provide some musical delights from their Alcester based four-piece band.

Chris Crompton is a young singer-songwriter with a great voice; he also sings great covers to join in with.

For info please contact Howard on  
01299 878759, 07805 817369  
Or email: [hjl77@btinternet.com](mailto:hjl77@btinternet.com)

## THOUGHTS on Christianity and Humility



The virtue of humility is the opposite of self-glorifying pride - Christians are best able to stay humble when we do not forget our innate tendency to sin and when we accept the reality of our weaknesses.

As C.S. Lewis put it, "A recovery of the old sense of sin is essential for Christianity... Christ takes it for granted that men are bad (Matthew 15:19-20). Until

we really feel this assumption of His to be true, though we are part of the audience to whom His words are addressed, we lack the first condition for understanding what He is talking about. And when men attempt to be Christian without this preliminary consciousness of sin, the result is bound to be a certain resentment against God [and subtle rebellion]. The [letter of the] moral law may exist to be transcended, but there is no transcending it for those who have not admitted its claims upon them, and then tried with all their strength to meet that claim, and fairly and squarely faced the fact of their failure." Humility is merely honesty about our failure to fully follow God's requirements and our failure to be all that we are supposed to be.

Here are some apropos quotes associated with the "god of me" idolatry written by John R.W. Stott: "The Pharisaic spirit still haunts every child of Adam today. It is easy to be critical of Christ's contemporaries and miss the repetition of their vainglory in ourselves. Yet deeply ingrained in our fallen nature is this thirst for the praise of men. It seems to be a devilish perversion of our basic psychological need to be wanted and to be loved. We hunger for applause, fish for compliments, thrive on flattery. It is the plaudits of men we want; we are not content with God's approval now or with his 'Well done, good and faithful servant' on the last day. Yet, as Calvin put it: 'What is more foolish, nay, what is more brutish, than to prefer the paltry approval of men to the judgment of God?'" (from Comment on John 12:43 in "The Gospel According to St John")

"The vocabulary of 'self'. That self-centeredness is a worldwide phenomenon of human experience is evident from the rich variety of words in our language which are compounded with 'self'. There are more than fifty which have a pejorative meaning — words like self-applause, self-absorption, self-assertion, self-advertisement, self-indulgence, self-gratification, self-glorification, self-pity, self-importance, self-interest and self-will."

"True freedom is not freedom from all responsibility to God and man in order to live for myself, but the exact opposite. **True freedom is freedom from myself and from the cramping tyranny of my own self-centeredness, in order to live in love for God and others.** Only in such self-giving love is an authentically free and human existence to be found."

As Paul advised: "*Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*" (Romans 12:4). Not even the great saints are qualified to feel superior to anyone else, for all of us are sinners saved by grace and have nothing about which to boast. We can only honestly boast about our God. We have nothing good in ourselves that we did not receive from God. I heard it said once that those persons closest to spiritual perfection are so aware of the faults that remain that they are dismayed rather than proud.

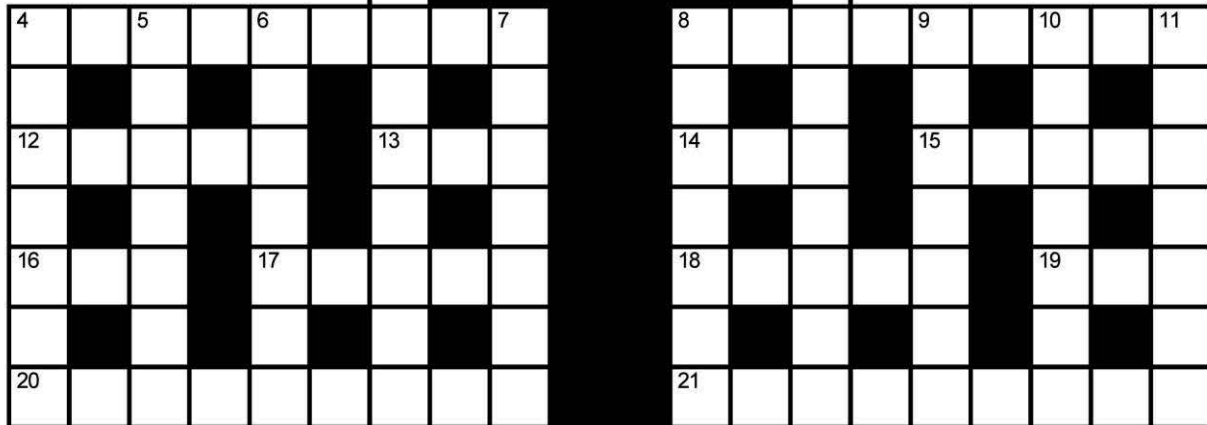


# PUZZLES

## Bible Crossword X

### Across

- 1** Donkey (3)  
**2** Jesus' Father (3)  
**4** One of the twelve (9)



### Down

- 1** One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)  
**3** 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)

- 8** Didn't believe in resurrection (9)  
**12** One of David's warriors (5)  
**13** First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)  
**14** New Testament name for Noah (3)  
**15** Wish harm upon (5)  
**16** Hole in the ground (3)  
**17** Adversary (5)  
**18** Savour (5)  
**19** First woman (3)  
**20** Mother of John the Baptist (9)  
**21** Family of priests (9)  
**22** Third son of Jacob (4)  
**23** Hates (8)  
**26** Assurances (8)  
**30** Endured pain (8)  
**31** Return from the dead (4)  
**32** Intercessor (8)  
**35** Decorating (8)  
**39** Old Testament book of the Bible (4)  
**40** The prince of Rosh, Mesek and Tubal (3)  
**42** A wise insect (3)  
**44** Dwelling place of kings (6)  
**45** Make bigger (8)

- 4** Tread down (7)  
**5** Father of Jonah (7)  
**6** Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)  
**7** Defensive structures (11)  
**8** Refuges (11)  
**9** Dirty (7)  
**10** Devout (7)  
**11** Pieces of money (7)  
**24** Used to listen (3)  
**25** Used to see (3)  
**26** Positions (5)  
**27** Made available (7)  
**28** Snake (7)  
**29** Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)  
**33** Finish (3)  
**34** Possess (3)  
**35** King of the Amalekites (4)  
**36** Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)  
**37** Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)  
**38** Present (4)  
**41** Unfasten (4)  
**43** Fish traps (4)

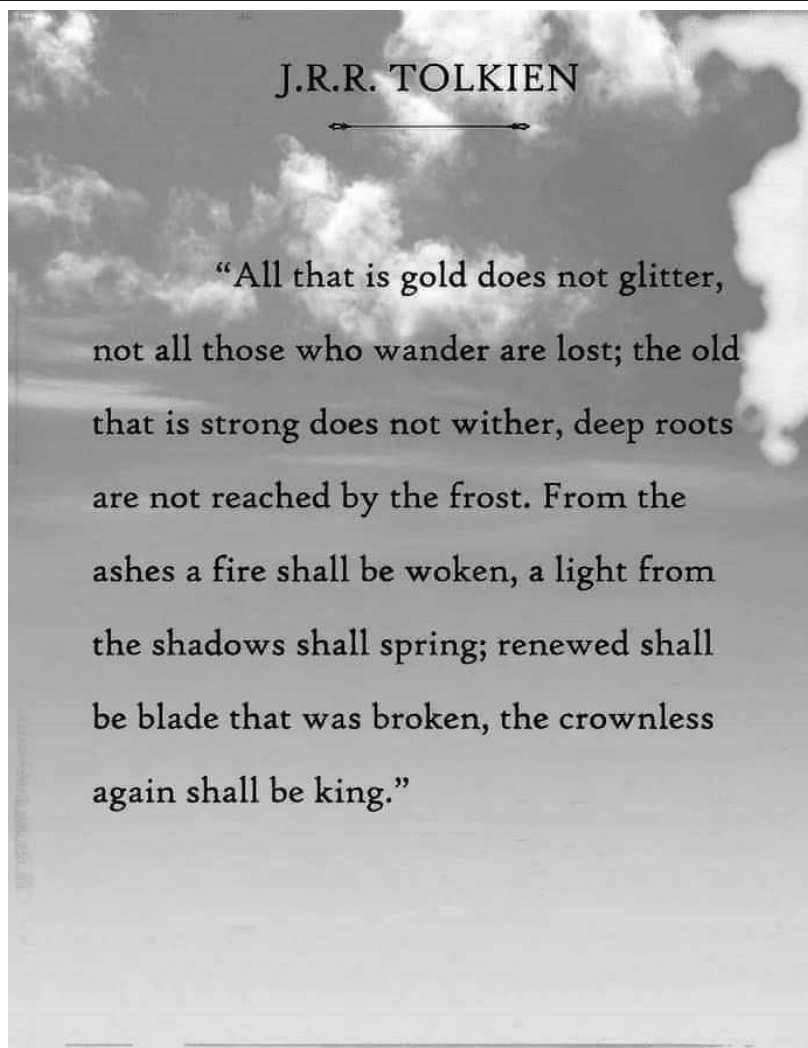
<http://biblepuzzles.org.uk>

**Proverbs 6:16-19**

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

***Serenity***

In order to settle down in the quiet of our own being,  
we must learn to be detached from the results of our own activities.  
We must be content:  
to live without watching ourselves live,  
to work without expecting immediate results,  
to love without instantaneous satisfaction,  
and to exist without any special recognition.  
For it is only when we are detached from ourselves  
that we can be at peace with ourselves.

**HAGLEY U3A****u3a**

**Hagley u3a** has its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, 6 March, in St Saviour's Church Hall, 13.30 for 13.45. As well as catching up with friends and groups, there will be a talk on Herbert Austin. A reminder too that 5 April the following month is our AGM, when we are expecting quite a turnover of officers on the committee. Our May activity at 14.30 on Thursday, 16 May, will be a visit to the Severn Fish Race at Diglis. This is limited to 18 persons, so please book early from Andrea Price on 07787501076. Price is £6.00 - £10 if you join the group for tea at Diglis Hotel.

## FAIRFIELD VILLAGE HALL

		Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1.	Fri	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Martial Arts
2.	Sat	Foodie Fairfield		Live Music - Jack Goodall
3.	Sun	Gymnastics Competition	Gymnastics Competition	
4.	Mon	Pre-school	Pre-school	Line Dancing
5.	Tue	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Sequence Dancing
6.	Wed	Pre-school		Hall Management Committee
7.	Thu	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Zumba
8.	Fri	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Martial Arts
9.	Sat	Ballroom Dancing Lessons	Children's Party	
10.	Sun	Pilates		Fairfield Flicks - Titanic
11.	Mon	Pre-school	Pre-school	Line Dancing
12.	Tue	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Sequence Dancing
13.	Wed	Pre-school		Fairfield WI
14.	Thu	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Zumba
15.	Fri	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Martial Arts
16.	Sat	Ballroom Dancing Lessons	Table Top Sale and Freecycle	
17.	Sun	Pilates	Children's Party	
18.	Mon	Pre-school	Pre-school	Line Dancing
19.	Tue	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Sequence Dancing
20.	Wed	Pre-school		
21.	Thu	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Zumba
22.	Fri	Pre-school	Pre-school / Dance Class	Martial Arts
23.	Sat			1940s Event - Bromsgrove Lions
24.	Sun	Pilates		
25.	Mon			Line Dancing
26.	Tue			Sequence Dancing
27.	Wed		Fairfield Flicks - One Life	
28.	Thu	Junior Flicks - Trolls Together		Zumba
29.	Fri			Martial Arts
30.	Sat		Children's Party	
31.	Sun			

## CLENTE PARISH HALL BOOKINGS

		Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1.	Fri	Keep Fit		Relaxation class
2.	Sat	Clent Connect		
3.	Sun		Tinkers Farm Opera	
4.	Mon	Tai Chi		Pilates
5.	Tue	Tai Chi		Yoga
6.	Wed	Clent Connect		Lynne's Dance Class
7.	Thu	Rhythm Time	Mothers Union	ES Karate Club
8.	Fri	Keep Fit		
9.	Sat	Clent Connect		
10.	Sun		Tinkers Farm Opera	
11.	Mon	Tai Chi		Pilates
12.	Tue	Tai Chi		Yoga
13.	Wed	Clent Connect		Lynne's Dance Class
14.	Thu	Rhythm Time	Clent Village Artists	WI
15.	Fri	Keep Fit		
16.	Sat	Clent Connect	Private booking	
17.	Sun		Tinkers Farm Opera	
18.	Mon	Tai Chi		Clent Parish Council
19.	Tue	Tai Chi		Yoga
20.	Wed	Clent Connect		Lynne's Dance Class
21.	Thu	Rhythm Time	History Society	ES Karate Club
22.	Fri	Keep Fit	WI Craft Group	Gardening Club
23.	Sat	Clent Connect		Private booking
24.	Sun		Tinkers Farm Opera	
25.	Mon	Tai Chi		Pilates
26.	Tue	Tai Chi		Yoga
27.	Wed	Clent Connect		Lynne's Dance Class
28.	Thu		Clent Village Artists	ES Karate Club
29.	Fri			Relaxation class
30.	Fri	Clent Connect		
31.	Sat			



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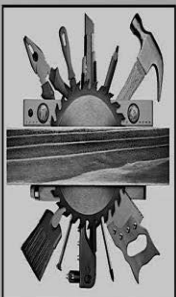
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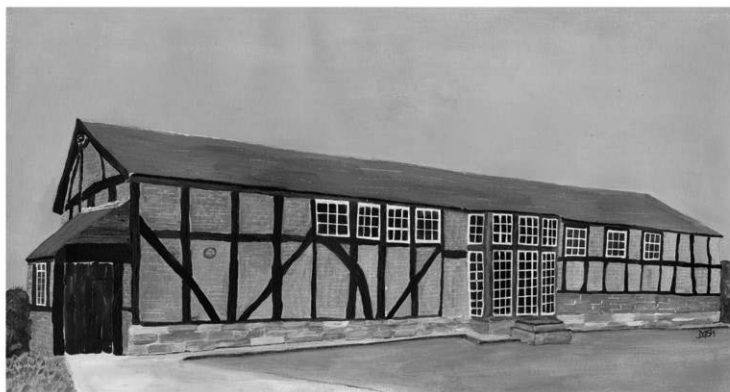
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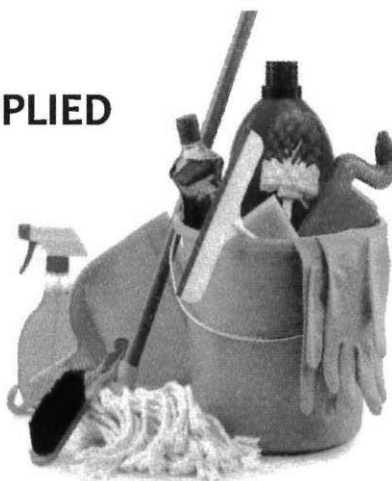
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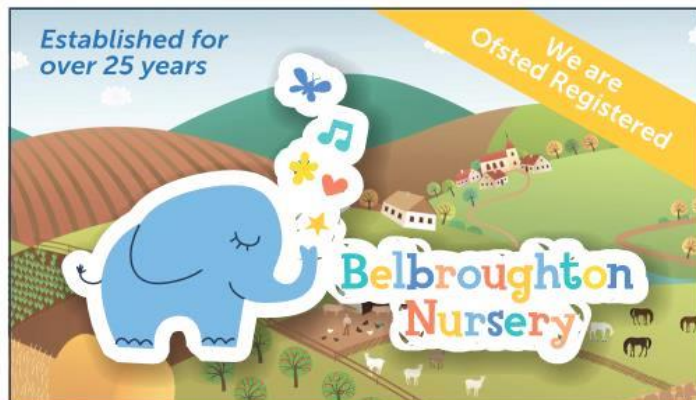
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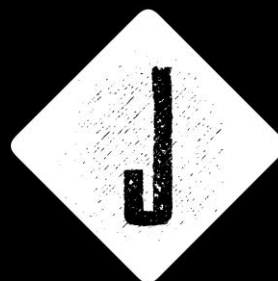
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