

It was wonderful that 19 of us managed to connect with 'Zoom', in the comfort of our own homes, and enjoy our 'virtual' AGM & Epiphany Tea' on Tuesday 12th January.

After the Branch Reports, delivered by Carol and Kath, Jane introduced the new Mothers' Union Theme 'Renewing Hope and Confidence' and our plan for Speakers for the next three meeting which will continue with Zoom. Jane and Kath had prepared two Quizzes; one 'Families in the Bible', and one related to the Mothers' Union. The afternoon was supported by Prayers and Readings, and followed by words of encouragement and a Blessing from Brenda. Then with our Tea & Cake and the benefit of extra time, many enjoyed some social chat and an opportunity to catch-up with news.

Jane has now arranged Speakers for the next three meetings, for all those able to join with Zoom. But so that no-one is left out, everyone will receive 'Keeping in Touch', **after** the meeting, to include a synopsis of the talk and any business and news.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 2nd February- 2.30pm 'Virtual' Branch Meeting on Zoom

We will start with Prayers and Bible Reading, followed by Speaker **Rosie Mellor**: Illustrated talk on The Filipino women workers in Hong Kong and growth of the International Methodist Church 2021. We will finish with any Business Matters before tea & Cake and Time to Chat!

Carol Wicksteed

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Copy for March by 22nd February please

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All Saints with St. Anne's
Parish Pump

FEBRUARY 2021



After a perfectly awful, bleak January, let's look on the bright side. The snowdrops are out and the days are getting just that bit longer. Spring can't be far behind!

In the middle of the month it is Valentine's Day. Perhaps another reason to look out for those around us or indeed those some distance from us who might need our love, our contact and our prayers.

Also, a few days later, we have Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It is always a time of reflection, and perhaps now it will be doubly so. It will be a good time this year to look back and among the undoubted negatives, to see what has been positive; what insights we have gained into ourselves and the way we have led our lives; what skills we have learned; what blessings we have found in our surroundings. For me, that has been in gardening. I always did like growing vegetables. Now I have expanded the vegetable plot and taken on the whole garden finding particular enjoyment in growing on from my own harvested seeds. And no, it doesn't always work; I don't think I'm any great threat to Monty Don! And I still don't know the names of all the flowers

So this February, let us look forward, count our blessings and face the year with hope in our hearts—and in our hands and feet!

(Ed) *(who is still waiting for copy from you!!)*

Bird's Eye View

These are not the usual PCC notes, but one woman's experience of Christmas through cooking (or not) in lockdown.

It all started on September 9th when our 18 year-old grandson came to live with us. He came for the weekend and is likely to be with us for three years. He went into a local garage and said he was interested in restoring classic cars and they told him to report on Monday. They took him on as an apprentice, linked to a college in Bicester and the rest is (fairly recent) history.

The biggest change for us, apart from having a third person in the house for the first time since we moved in eighteen years ago, is the amount of food we get through. (And he does bring a very welcome breath of fresh air.) You may remember that local shops started stocking mince pies in September, so we have had a pile of the cheapest ones in the kitchen from then on, even stockpiling to see us through January. I tried making a few, but husband and grandson prefer the shop ones anyway, partly because they're larger.

But one thing I have made since 1975 is a very rich Christmas cake. I had stopped making it for a few years, as we aren't super fans, but it has been resurrected this year. I made a large one and two smaller ones, which were destined for sons' birthdays. We sent those off, having broached one at a garage party in December. The large one we kept and it had all disappeared by mid-January – a record. And our oldest son has now got the recipe and makes his own.

I had also stopped making marmalade, as it seemed a faff. (One of the highlights of the first lockdown was a member of the congregation giving us some "Cheer-up" marmalade.) Friends will know that I went on the scrounge for jars of the golden stuff in the Summer, having established that it was our grandson's favourite preserve.

So, when Seville orange time came this year, I was at the stall and ready to go. And I must say that nothing, but nothing, beats home-made marmalade.

Here in Over Haddon there is no getting away from the fact that life is very different. St Anne's church remains closed (for now) but we managed to celebrate with a Christmas Day service (in church) carol singing (outside) and the church was decorated as usual. The churchyard, which is a beautiful open space with lovely views, remains open and accessible, and we continue to collect (in the church porch, which is open) for the High Peak Food Bank, because, sadly, more people than ever are "falling through the safety net" into poverty and hunger.

In truth, Over Haddon is not a bad place to in this pandemic. It is a caring community, there is plenty of space and lovely surroundings. We just have to carry on and hope for better times.

Roger Truscott

Sides and the pandemic

We should like to express a very sincere "thank you" to the sides' team who have stepped up to the plate during the reopening of church during the pandemic. It has been a steep learning curve for us all and we have had a large number of rules, regulations and recommendations to cope with. But our wonderful team has coped admirably and has ensured that services have run smoothly.

However, our numbers are depleted and we should welcome any new volunteers to the team. It is not an arduous task and the more people in the team, the fewer the duties. So, please, do get in touch with Sue. You will be very welcome. (sue.marsh7@yahoo.com)

A Word from St Anne's

What very strange, worrying, frightening times we are living through - more so than most of us have experienced in our lifetimes, and it seems likely to continue for some time yet...

So let us think of the things we can feel cheerful about!

We may be in the cold depths of winter but the darkest eight weeks are now behind us, the days are getting longer, the first flowers (snowdrops) and bulbs (daffodils) are appearing in our gardens, which means that Spring is not far away!

We may be experiencing social isolation but friends and family are at the end of the telephone, or on skype or facetime or zoom or, at the very least, email. In fact, it has proved amazing how much normality we can retain, in both our social and working lives, through electronic communications.

We can (indeed should!) go out for walks, when the weather allows (or even when it discourages) and we see friendly faces and exchange normal chit-chat. Is it my imagination (no, I don't think so) but people go out of their way to be friendly, even those we barely know, or have never met.

The skill of scientists (bringing us vaccines in double quick time) and the dedication of those who care for us - NHS workers, emergency services staff, teachers, shopworkers, delivery drivers, and many others, - have been an inspiring reminder that we really are part of a "society."

The whole pandemic thing may be a scary new experience for us but in fact many generations of our ancestors have experienced similar, or worse, events, including plague, famine and, of course, war. We can, perhaps, empathise a bit more with them and admire their resilience....

We will get through it. Life may never return to the "normal" we knew, but maybe that is no bad thing. Let us hope for a better "new normal."

As I write this we are still in Epiphany and showing Christ, the Light of the World, to all peoples. So we have taken our vicar's encouragement to leave our tree (and most of the needles are still on) and lights up until Candlemas, as was apparently the medieval custom. What makes Candlemas particularly relevant this year is that in 542 the Emperor Justinian ordered its observance as a thanksgiving for the cessation of the plague - who knew?

Angela Bird

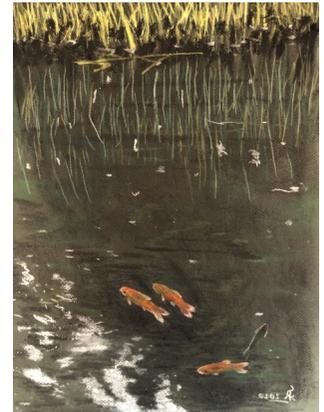
Shelter in Place

by Kim Stafford

Long before the pandemic, the trees knew how to guard one place with roots and shade. Moss found how to hug a stone for life.

Every stream works out how to move in place, staying home even as it flows generously outward, sending bounty far.

Now it is our time to practice - singing from balconies, sending words of comfort by any courier, hoarding lonesome generosity to shine in all directions like stars.



Steve (Art Group)

Lent 2021

Lent during the pandemic, as with Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas 2020, will be observed more as a Church outside the Walls, but this important Season still very much offers us the time and space to grow in faith and love for God and to put our wants and needs aside, focusing on drawing closer to the Lord by seeking to imitate Christ's life.

This year we have a greater empathy with Christ in the wilderness and facing up to the fragility and vulnerability of our human condition. This year we may have a greater resonance with the sufferings of Christ and the picture of Mary mourning the death of her Son on Good Friday. But hopefully we can also see our emerging into the light of the risen Christ and the hope of life that can be led once again in all of its fullness.

Ash Wednesday 17th February

The first day of Lent. The ash marked on our foreheads in the shape of a cross reminds us that in our frailty and mortality lives through faith the immortal love of God that through Christ will lift us into his eternal presence. There will be a Said Eucharist at All Saints, Bakewell at 12 noon for those who feel able to attend physically. We are also wanting to include everybody within the Benefice Family on an important day such as Ash Wednesday. So, we are going to circulate to everybody a Covid free prepared small pot of ash and simple liturgy and will ask everyone at home, if they are able to, to put the ash on their forehead at a given time to coincide with the church service. For those attending the Service, we will ask you to bring your pot with you.

Wednesday and Saturday during Lent: A booklet for personal reflection will be distributed for you to follow and the material for this will be prepared by members of our benefice community family.

Wednesday afternoons during Lent: Socially distanced Stations of the Cross at All Saints at 4 pm

Canon Tony

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EATING IN THE UK IN THE FIFTIES (*cont.*)

- *Coffee was only drunk when we had no tea - and then it was Camp and came in a bottle.
- *Cubed sugar was regarded as posh
- *Figs and dates appeared every Christmas, but no one ever ate them.
- *Coconuts only appeared when the fair came to town.
- *Black puddings were mines in Bolton, Lancashire
- *Salad cream was a dressing for salads: mayonnaise did not exist
- *Hors d'oeuvre was a spelling mistake
- *The starter was our main meal
- *Soup was a main meal
- *The menu consisted of what we were given and was set in stone
- *Only Heinz made beans; any others were imposters
- *Sauce was either brown or red
- *Ready meals only came from the fish-and chip-shop
- *For the best taste fish-and-chips had to be eaten out of old newspapers
- *Frozen food was called ice-cream
- *Nothing ever went off in the fridge, because we never had one
- *None of us had ever heard of yogurt
- *Jelly and blancmange were only eaten at parties
- *If we said we were on a diet, we simply got less
- *Indian restaurants were only found in India
- *A seven course meal had to last a week
- *Cheese only came in a hard lump

Tony and Ruth Short (*to be continued*)