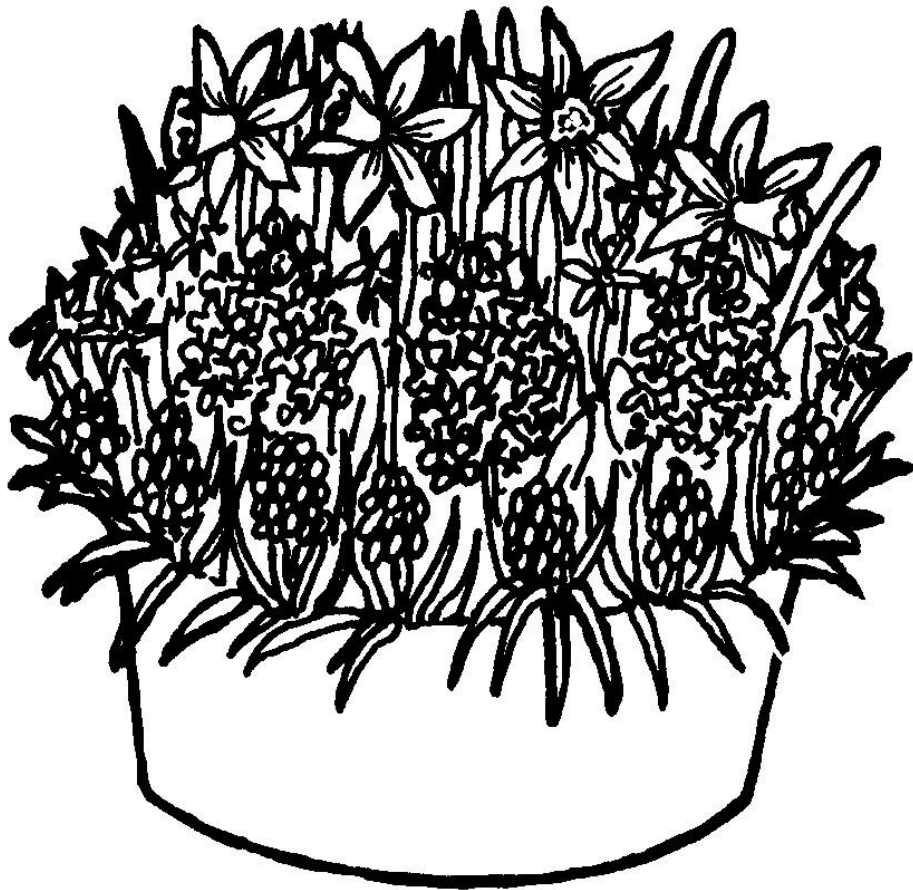


Brabourne & Smeeth Parish News

March 2021

30p



Mothering Sunday

March 14th

Message From Rev Chris

March 2021

Dear Readers,

Over the past year, one thing I have had to learn to live with - as someone who likes to plan ahead- is how to live with not being able to do just that – to prepare too far ahead. There have been twelve months now of having no choice but to live with the moment and waiting to see what is to come. And so, even sitting down to write this letter for the next month takes some restraint to not look ahead. March brings things I need to prepare for, but without knowing the shape this will take in response to restrictions in place... how will we celebrate Mothering Sunday this year, Palm Sunday? Will we be using Plan A or B for Easter...or will I be on to version C? Or perhaps, more pressing, will my children be back at school?

Yet this is a time for looking ahead. As we emerge from winter into the start of spring, all around are signs of “getting ready”, with bulbs bursting into flower and new life around. It is a time for “spring cleaning” – both inside and in the garden, preparing the way for new growth. The natural world reminds us to get out and be busy joining in with preparing the way, but also to pause and take time to savour the changing palette of spring.

This reminds me of the balance between “being” and “doing” – for a Christian that might mean time spent doing helpful things and time spent being more reflective and still, in the presence of God. There is a story in the Bible of two sisters, Mary and Martha: Mary sits listening to Jesus whilst Martha is left to do all the work preparing the meal. This leads Martha to vent her frustration, only to be told by Jesus that Mary has spent her time more wisely, being in the presence of Jesus. I don't know if you have found more “Mary” moments to be reflective in the past year, perhaps finding time for quiet moments – maybe watching the garden or a walk enjoying nature. Certainly, the “Martha” side for me has been busy with both home-schooling and keeping the church connected, all those Zoom meetings and the live-streaming!

We are sometimes guilty of focusing so much on the immediate needs around us (particularly in the crisis of pandemic), that we forget to be still and be present. As Christians journey through Lent, they might examine their experience of ‘being’ and ‘doing’ throughout the months of pandemic and ask whether they have found time to spend with Jesus during the past weeks and months.

Finding time or patience to be still might be a challenge, but as we seek to be more mindful about self-care in the coming weeks and months, this time to “be” rather than “do” is precious. Christians might discover this quiet time as moment to be with Jesus as allowing Jesus to restore and heal us through his presence.

I hope that you can take a moment to enjoy and savour the coming of spring, and moments of “being” to prepare you for whatever “doing” is needed as plans change going forward.

Blessings

Rev Chris

Stour Downs Parish Services

Details of services for the coming month cannot be given as it is not yet known when it will be the right time to begin the usual schedule again.

We continue with online worship via Facebook :

Online live (and recorded for viewing later) at

<https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Downs-Parish-275026813134319>

Or By Phone: Dial the number shown below and enter the Room number followed by the hash key and then PIN followed by hash key when prompted.

Dial: 0333 0110 945 Room number: 15371271# PIN: 1030#

The churches in Brabourne, Smeeth and Stowting are open daily for prayer and reflection.

How Sunday became a Christian day of rest

It was 1700 years ago, on 7th March 321, that the Roman Emperor Constantine 1 (Constantine the Great), who had converted to Christianity, decreed that Sunday should be a day of rest throughout the Empire.

This was a change from normal Roman Empire practice, which was to regard Sunday as just another work-day – something the UK seems to be reverting to. But Constantine’s civil decree made Sunday a day of rest from labour. It said: “All judges and city people and craftsmen shall rest upon the venerable day of the sun.”

This was not intended to replace the Jewish Sabbath, which starts at sunset on Friday and continues to sunset on Saturday. Such Jewish observance was regarded by most Christians as being bound to the old law instead of the Spirit, and so was resisted. Christians backed the Sunday rest because it was the day on which Jesus had risen from the dead and the Holy Spirit had come – despite possible doubts about the phrase “day of the sun”.

Christians meeting for worship on Sunday in fact dates back to the Acts of the Apostles, and it is mentioned historically about 115AD. Actual practice varies across the world and through the years.

Vicar of the Stour Downs Parish
Rev Chris Denyer, The Rectory, Church Road, Smeeth
Tel 01303 470791

Parish Administrator: Liz Richardson - office@stourdowns.org.uk
Enquiries can be made via email to office@stourdowns.org.uk or 0752 6688826



Parcels of Hope and Love.

Foodbanks were something we heard little of a few years ago yet seem to be sadly something a growing number need to rely on as a lifeline in times of difficulty. The current situation with the pandemic and the economic effects of lockdowns and restrictions, and the demands of families where children are at home 24/7 (I know all about feeding four young growing appetites!) continues to be a challenge for many in our nation and our local communities.

There are a number of charities and organisations that coordinate foodbanks in many areas, including the towns close to our communities of the Stour Downs. Having previously supported these with collections and fundraising, the pressing situation with the arrival of the first lockdown led me to see if we could do something targeted more locally to the communities served by the Stour Downs parish churches. I asked members of the church congregation, and then also invited the local community via social media, if they might be able to donate long-life grocery products for us to put together boxes of essentials for those who might find these useful. It was a blessing to receive so many generous donations, and these keep coming, enabling us to help a number of local families.

There is a box in the porch of the Rectory in Smeeth where people stop by on their walk or on an essential journey and drop off a few tins and packets as extras in the weekly shop, or even some bags of extra shopping. We had some thoughtful presents for Christmas gifts to pass on and lovely festive treats. There have been more costly bulk items such as laundry powder donated, as well as monetary donations to buy fresh produce and other extras. Brabourne Primary School has been very supportive and Sellindge Primary School has recently set up an additional collection point outside the school entrance for us, and which we are grateful to see being filled up regularly with kind donations.

Our parcels are either delivered anonymously via local schools or delivered to doorsteps. Messaging through social media has been used to request and arrange deliveries.

There have been some touching messages of thanks received, and it is the kindness and love for community that is strong in our villages that make this project work. When there is so much outside of our control and little that we might be able to do at the moment, to be able to do something that offers hope, real help and a sign of love for our neighbour then we all benefit – both as givers and recipients.

Thank you to all who continue to enable this endeavour to make a difference.

Rev Chris

Around Our Villages

Gardeners' Society

Our second Zoom presentation at the end of January proved very successful, with good, positive feedback. The next presentation [Popular House Plants – Care, Cultivation and Health Benefits] will be held on Friday 26 February

The presentation will start at 7:30 pm, last for approximately 45 minutes with a 10-minute Q & A session at the end.

It is hoped that the Plant Sale and Summer and Autumn Shows will go ahead as normal

For more information about the Society please contact our secretary Wendy Sanders: [01303 813451](tel:01303813451), email brabournewendy@gmail.com. or visit our website at www.basgs.com.

Smeeth W.I.

We are continuing to keep members informed by e-mail and meet each month via Zoom. The February meeting saw members looking very smart wearing hats and enjoying another entertaining quiz; the subjects being 'Cakes and Food' before social time when we could catch up with family news of one and other.

The monthly e-mail will be going out to members at the end of February followed by Invitations to our next Zoom meeting on Monday 8th March at 7.30pm. Preparation is in hand for when we are able to return to our meetings in the Village Hall and we all very much hope this will not be before too long.

Royal British Legion

Oh when will it ever end? This is the cry we hear most often these days, and this is certainly echoed by members of the Royal British Legion as we attempt to keep in touch. We haven't tried zooming like some organisations but we are going to line up a meeting for March and hope that we will at least have some face to screen contact. In the meantime it has been telephone contact wherever possible.

One occasion we were able to recognise this month was to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of our members, Eddie Joynson. Under normal circumstances we would have held a proper reception for Eddie, but Covid put a stop to that. What we were able to do was to ask the various Legion branches around the county to send Eddie a birthday card wishing him well. On the morning of his birthday, we were able to take these to his home and with a suitably decorated cake and a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday to You", we presented well over 50 cards to him.

We live in hope that we will soon be able to get back to meeting regularly



VILLAGE CENTENARIAN

Edmund or Eddie Joynson celebrated his 100th birthday on February 17th and we offer him our warmest congratulations.

Eddie was a Yorkshireman who came south from Leeds and spent his early years as a Lathe Machine Operator working for Yorkshire Engineer Supplies but obtained a special release in 1941 so that he could join the Royal Air Force at the age of 20. After his initial square-bashing in Blackpool he undertook trade training as an Aircraft Engineer at Melksham in Wiltshire before being posted to Leuchars in Fife to join 144 M.U Squadron which was then working on the twin- engined Light bomber, the Hampden.

In 1942 Eddie was posted to North Africa, this time working on the early version of the Blenheim, the Bisley before returning to 144.M.U to work on Spitfires and Hurricanes.

Eddie left the RAF in 1947 and resumed his work as an engineer and was responsible for designing the workings of a remote controlled jeep which was demonstrated at the Royal Tournament in Earls Court during the 1960's and later designed a Radio Controlled jeep (half size) which he demonstrated around the country.

Eddie had four children, and now has 12 grandchildren 22 great grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren. The present lock-down restrictions will mean that Eddie will not be able to receive the celebrations that should be offered to such a fine gentleman but he should be aware that all who know him wish him well and look forward to being able to celebrate this fine achievement properly in due course. *GT*

Eddie's daughter Rosemarie writes.....

He had a wonderful day and would like to thank everyone who sent cards and good wishes, also anyone who has been involved in helping him to have such a happy and memorable day. Thank you all very much from me as well,



View From A Bench



I love the snow and the beauty it brings to our surroundings . The church of St Mary the Virgin at Smeeth and its churchyard look wonderful as the sun shines brightly across a pure white blanket of snow causing it to glisten like a crystal carpet with the church building itself standing out against a clear blue sky. The sundial would be showing me the time if it wasn't wrapped in snow itself but it is still possible to find the words "God made the sun to rule by day" carved into its wooden pillar – words which resonate with me especially today.

Today the delicate little white bells of the snowdrops dance gently in the breeze as it cuts across the churchyard. High in the tree above them a robin is sitting on a branch singing its heart out sending a glorious melody across the snow- covered tombs and headstones. Every so often I spy a crow or two crossing the cloudless sky but little else is out in the icy air.

Looking down at the snowy surface I can read the story of the churchyard's last few days and hours. There are clear marks left by a bird crossing the path by the sundial and a rabbit has also hopped this way. There are footmarks suggesting there have been a few human visitors and at least one of them came with a dog. My sympathy today however goes out to the brave little mole which – whatever your feelings on moles are – has obviously been popping up here and there across the churchyard leaving snowy piles and I only hope all the effort resulted in something to eat.

The church is at its best this morning with the sunshine giving the grey stones a shine and glow which really accentuates their unevenness and wide range of shades and shapes. Some appear almost black whilst others take on a silvery glow. Beneath the Good Shepherd window some ivy is making its way up the stonework stretching its branches delicately across the wall like lace, its green fingers creeping up over the window surrounds and tapping on the glass as if wanting to be let into the comparative warmth of the building.

Hanging from the porch roof is a single, beautiful icicle. Clinging to a clump of moss its top third is as clear as glass while as it draws to a point small air bubbles are trapped like those in a sparkling drink. Earlier in the week there were a number of icicles here showing us that even if it doesn't feel like it the temperature must have risen slightly.

We are a year on from the start of this strange, unsettling time and as yet have no idea how far we are from the end but we can prepare for Lent knowing that at the end we will celebrate Easter and the Son will rise.

The Brabourne and Smeeth Allotment Society



A Plot Holder's View

Since my last newsletter, we have had the severe cold and snow which has taken its toll on spinach, leeks, brassicas and swiss chard. Our parsnips have also changed in texture to being much softer but beautifully sweet. The celeriac looks as though it has weathered the storm so we still have a few fresh vegetables to eat.

My winter planting of garlic had to be postponed due to the weather, so I planted them individually in the greenhouse. Whereupon they sprang into life and have now been planted out next to the autumn planting. They seem to be catching up the autumn planting, so it is tempting in future to plant only in winter.

I have written many words in my articles, discussing the little beasts that make our lives difficult in the garden. My attitude has always been to beat them, wherever possible, by one method or another. In my dotage and with climate change in mind, this year we will try a new strategy. We are going to set aside plants for the little beasties to enjoy and cover up, as best we can, plants for our own use. The logic being that we will encourage and indeed support all the predatory species such as birds, ladybirds and lacewings.

Biodiversity has to be a part of our lives now - we cannot go on destroying everything around us that we don't like. Every plant and animal has a part to play on our planet so let's embrace them all!...BF

Manure by any other name would smell as bad.....

In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before the invention of commercial fertilisers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water [at sea] hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone went below at night with a lantern, BOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction 'Stow high in transit' on them. This meant that the sailors should stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus, evolved the term 'S.H.I.T', [Stow High In Transit], which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day. BS

Brabourne & Smeeth Prayer Walk with the Psalms

We are so blessed to live in beautiful countryside. Many of us have been shielding since the beginning of the pandemic and have been unable to get out and enjoy the wonderful views and fresh air. Many others of us have been able to go out and about and have had time to slow down and appreciate even more the glories that are on our doorstep.

This prayer walk is designed to be taken on foot, or virtually for those who have been staying indoors. May I invite you to wander through the villages, look around at the beauty, savour the countryside, the history of the place. Stop and reflect, pray. The Psalms express so much of what we might want to say, so some verses are offered inspired by the places. Add your own places and prayers as you follow your own route.

- **Mountbatten Way – Looking up at the Downs – Psalm 121:1-2**
I lift up my eyes to the hills — where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
- **Prospect Way – Home to many families – Psalm 95:6-7**
Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.
- **The Warren – A place of rest and recreation – Psalm 23:1-3**
The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake
- **The Baptist Church – A place of village worship for over 200 years – Psalm 84:1-2**
How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
- **The Plain – Looking out across the Marsh – Psalm 139:7-10**
Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
- **Lilyvale – Psalm 117**
Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD.
- **Calland – Home to many folk – Psalm 100:1-3**
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- **Wander up Woolpack Hill – Psalm 24:3-5**
Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.
He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Saviour.

- **By Smeeth School – Look across at the view – Psalm 90:1-2**
 Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world,
 from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- **The Playing Fields – Stand in the open space – Psalm 62:1-2**
 My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.
 He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.
- **Smeeth Church – Beautiful medieval place of prayer and worship – Psalm 16:1-3**
 Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.
 I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”
 As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.
- **The War Memorial – Remembering the sacrifice of those who gave their lives – Psalm 27:1-3**
 The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?
 The LORD is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?
 When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,
 when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.
 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
 though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.
- **The Ridgeway – Lovely views and very old cottages – Psalm 8:1**
 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You have set your glory above the heavens.
- **Mersham le Hatch Deer Park – Psalm 8:3-4**
 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
 what is mankind that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?
- **The Village Shop – With the Post Office, hub of the village – Psalm 9:1-2**
 I will praise you O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.
 I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praise to your name, O Most High.
- **The Village Hall – For meetings, gatherings and village social times – Psalm 91:1-2**
 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
 I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
- **Pound Lane – Beautiful views – Psalm 23:1-3**
 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.
 He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
- **Canterbury Road – Psalm 116:7-9**
 Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.
 For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,
 my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling,
 that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

Kent Wildlife Trust

Kent Wildlife Trust helps people across the county, from politicians and businesses to members of the public understand how they can make a difference in their natural world.

One of our key campaigns is Action For Insects. Insect populations are in serious trouble, thanks to over-use of pesticides, loss of habitat and climate change. But we can all take action to help insects, and doing this also helps the entire food web so it's a great way to make an important impact.

Find out how you can help with our free action guides for schools, community groups, and members of the public at <https://.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/action-insects>

Right now, the Government has authorised the use of a beekilling neonicotinoid pesticide called thiamethoxam for the treatment of sugar beet seed in 2021. The Wildlife Trusts strongly oppose this and are calling on the Government to reverse its decision.

Read more here: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/bad-news-b>

How Can We Help ?

Get WILD in the Garden!

Our gardens can be a welcome refuge during these difficult times. We are able to notice everyday changes and the wildlife that visits.

Let's look for a positive outcome from the situation by encouraging more wild creatures and as a result creating vital stepping stones and corridors that wildlife needs to enable it to thrive.

Sign up for tips and guidance from our experts on how you can make a Wilder Garden! Also view our open garden dates this Spring/Summer:

<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildergardens>

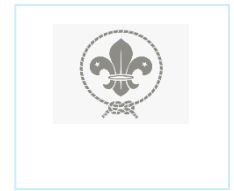
Go Pesticide Free this Spring

Gardening without chemicals is a good way to ensure that the food and plants you grow are free of pesticides or chemicals, thriving without the extra expense of dangerous products that are harmful to our wildlife. If you've used chemicals in the past, this might sound like an invitation to every pest for miles around to shred your garden ... and that might well happen at first. But, with time and patience, you'll end up with a rewarding, healthier garden for ditching the chemicals.

<http://bit.ly/ChemicalFreeGardenKWT>



1st Brabourne & Smeeth Scout & Guide Group



The Scout and Guide Groups are continuing to function with Zoom meetings for all of our various age groups. This lockdown is proving difficult for so many and some of our members are spending many hours a day in front of screens doing their school work and this is tiring for everyone! As a result we don't see our full membership at our meetings.

Most of our members join Scouts and Guides to go outside and being at home is quite the opposite. However, there have been a wide variety of activities going on as well as the chance to see and message friends.

In early February the Scouts were invited to take part in a Virtual Winter Camp which they can do from the comfort of their own homes! This will involve them with several activities including cooking, organising games for their families, doing craft activities and understanding how they might make an environmental impact from home.

The Guides have been doing a number of activities including having a Zoom meeting visit from someone with Birds of Prey.

Appeal

Our biggest issue is that of leadership where we urgently need more adult support as leaders and helpers across the whole of the group. If you know anyone who may have an hour or two they could spare on a weekly, monthly or occasional basis do get in touch with Jon Rose on 07517 566003 or email brabournesmeethscouts@gmail.com

Observations on modern life

Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A filing cabinet is a place where you can lose things systematically.

Two choir members recently got married. They met by chants.



Time for Daffodils

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' – but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David – or Dafydd – of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others – living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

Wear Your Daffodil and Unite in Memory

Marie Curie, the UK's leading end-of-life care charity will this year celebrate their 35th annual Great Daffodil Appeal, which is held every March across the UK. The money raised from this appeal enables the charity to continue their vital work providing care and support to people living with a terminal illness and to their families.



The coronavirus continues to have a devastating effect on Marie Curie's fundraising, as activities up and down the country have had to be cancelled. However, there's still lots of ways people can get involved, with things like the Step into Spring Challenge in March where people walk 10,000 steps a day, they can host a virtual collection or buy and wear one of the charity's iconic daffodils in memory of a loved one.

This year will be even more special as the charity encourages the nation to come together to reflect, grieve and remember for a National Day of Reflection. Tuesday 23rd March 2021 will mark one year since the UK first went into a nationwide lockdown and Marie Curie is inviting the nation to unite and remember those who died and show support and solidarity for those who have been bereaved. The charity knows how important it is for people to grieve and the emotional and psychological impact of not being able to say goodbye properly and grieving in isolation can have.

Due to the pandemic, Marie Curie won't have their normal collections on the street, so donations are more important than ever. To support the Great Daffodil Appeal, you can donate at www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil or you can buy your daffodil pin in store at a number of high street stores including Superdrug or Savers.

4th Sunday in Lent

14th March Mothering Sunday



There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother’s Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

This Mother’s Day, daffodils and chocolate may seem very thin reward for the major contribution of mums across our nation.

In normal times, they have a challenging and demanding job to do. Through the pandemic, they have risen to the challenges and sought to ensure children thrive despite the lockdowns.

As we celebrate Mother’s Day, let’s recognise the amazing efforts made by mothers in the home with their children.

Let’s also celebrate the vital roles many also play – as do those without children – in the NHS, in education, in the government and civil service, in keeping vital supplies flowing – and in our pulpits and across our churches.



Please feel free to contact Minister Paul Muir at any time during the corona virus crisis:

Tel; 01303813502 or 07929269777 or email; pjm436@hotmail.co.uk

Website www.brabournebaptist.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES VIA ZOOM IN MARCH

Sunday March 7th at 10.30am: Speaker Paul Muir (including Communion)

Sunday March 14th at 10.30am: Speaker Corinne Herrick

Sunday March 21st at 10.30am: Speaker Paul Muir

EASTER CELEBRATIONS!!

Palm Sunday: March 28th at 10.30am:

Speaker Jerry Newson

Maundy Thursday: April 1st at 7pm:

A Time of Reflection, led by Corinne Herrick

Good Friday: April 2nd at 10.30am:

The Stations of the Cross, led by Paul Muir

Easter Sunday: April 4th at 10.30am:

Christ's Resurrection, including Communion led by Paul Muir

PRAYER TIMES VIA ZOOM

Monday - Saturday: 9 -9.30am

Wednesdays: 7 - 8pm

RENEW 18:

A safe space where it's OK not to be OK

Mondays 3-5pm:

Come and join us in the zoom room for a chat with others

Bring your own cuppa and a hobby to do if you wish

Stay for as long or short as you like.

Further details from Julie Muir 01303 813502 or 07530406345

ZOOM SERVICES and further information

To access Zoom services and prayer times go to the church website www.brabournebaptist.org.uk and click on "What's On". You will find the link to the meetings and some helpful instructions on how to access the meetings.

Meeting ID: 730 435 387

Password: 080196

Connecting to Zoom by phone for Sunday services, prayer times, and church meetings:

Ring **0330 088 5830**. Enter the meeting ID number **730435387** then the # symbol and participant ID or #.

The BBC YouTube channel can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-qAqpGiWKiCbkUzhzRB2Og>

The links to our meetings are available for anyone to come and all the information remains available on our website www.brabournebaptist.org.uk, our Facebook page and you can even find us on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-qAqpGiWKiCbkUzhzRB2Og>

Definitions from church life

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Sunday morning worship, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JONAH: The original 'Jaws' story

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

All in the month of March

It was:

1700 years ago, on 7th March 321, that the Roman Emperor Constantine 1 (Constantine the Great) decreed that Sunday should be a day of rest throughout the Empire.

1600 years ago, on 25th March 421, that the city of Venice was officially founded when its first church was dedicated at noon.

150 years ago, on 27th March 1871, that the first international rugby union football match was held in Edinburgh. Scotland beat England 1 – 0.

75 years ago, on 25th March 1946, that London's Heathrow Airport was opened, as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow in 1966.

65 years ago, on 23rd March 1956, that Pakistan became the world's first Islamic Republic.

50 years ago, on 8th March 1971, that the 'Fight of the Century' took place at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Two undefeated heavyweight boxers fought each other for the world title, with Joe Frazier defeating Muhammed Ali.

40 years ago, on 1st March 1981, that IRA member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at Maze Prison, Northern Ireland. He was elected as an MP to the British parliament on 10th April, and died on 5th May.

Also 40 years ago, on 29th March 1981, that the first London Marathon was held.

25 years ago, on 13th March 1996, that the Dunblane Massacre took place in Scotland. A gunman killed 16 children and a teacher at a primary school and wounded several others before taking his own life.

Also 25 years ago, on 20th March 1996, that the British Government reported that Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans was linked to BSE (mad cow disease) and could be transmitted to humans who ate infected beef.

10 years ago, on 11th March 2011, that the great Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of Japan took place. It shifted Japan's main island, Honshu, 2.4 metres to the east. 15,897 people were killed, 2,533 went missing, and nearly a quarter of a million were made homeless. Three reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant went into meltdown, leading to the second-largest nuclear accident in history.

Also 10 years ago, on 15th March 2011, the Syrian Civil War began. It still continues today.

150 years of the Royal Albert Hall

Joyce Grenfell wrote a wonderful song, *Joyful Noise*, about three lady choristers: Miss Clissold, Miss Truss and Ivy Trembley. Their greatest delight was to sing in an oratorio at the Royal Albert Hall. 'It may be like a gasworks with a green-house roof above it, and it may lack convenience, but all the same we love it.' That love has marked the life of the Royal Albert Hall over 150 years as this month we celebrate its opening on 29th March 1871.

After the success of the Great Exhibition, Prince Albert dreamed of creating a more permanent cultural area in London to promote and popularise the arts and sciences. On his death in 1861 at just 42 years, it was decided to erect a memorial and a 'Central Hall.' And so the Royal Albert Hall was built. At heart it is an impressive concert hall promoting classical music with an annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* from 1876, and from 1941 the BBC Proms: 8 weeks of concerts in the summer welcoming musicians from all over the world and culminating in the memorable *Last Night*. Composers from Wagner and Verdi to Bernstein and Britten have conducted and had works performed there.

But the Royal Albert Hall has also hosted an amazingly wide variety of events through its life: the Beatles in 1963, Ella Fitzgerald in 1990, poetry evenings, sport (boxing, tennis and basketball), the *Cirque de Soleil*, Teenage Cancer Trust concerts, and the 25th anniversary performance of *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2011. It has provided a platform for Winston Churchill, Einstein and the Dalai Lama. Many of us will have poignant memories of the annual RBL Festival of Remembrance held every November since 1923: a moving occasion that culminates with the shower of poppy petals.

Sadly, because of the restrictions with the pandemic, the Hall's programme of events has had to be limited in scope since last year, but the frieze on the outside of the building remains to inspire. There we see a celebration of the rich variety of arts and sciences that include music, sculpture, painting, astronomy and navigation, and the words *Thine O Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty* – a reminder that all our creative work here is a reflection of the wonder of God the Creator.

'*He will never forget at all The day he played at Albert Hall*'. That line from the Kinks' song *Session Man* invites us all to celebrate and give thanks for the richness of the life and work of the Royal Albert Hall as we look back over its 150 years and as we look ahead with hope and faith to a richer future.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

The Brabourne & Smeeth Scout and Guide Hut, to book for parties, classes or events contact the Group Lettings Officer by e-mail, when an application form containing all details and hire fees will be sent out to the prospective hirer. For any enquiries and bookings please e-mail to: scout.guidehq@gmail.com

Brabourne and Smeeth Village Hall: to book please visit the on- line bookings system at <https://hallbookingonline.com/brabourne/>
Enquiries to brabourneandsmeethvillagehall@gmail.com

Baptist Church Hall: If you wish to book the church hall for a meeting or function, please phone Geoff Thorpe 01303 813152

The Oak Room: Bookings and enquiries regarding The Oak Room should be made by e-mail office@stourdowns.org.uk or telephoning 01303 813398

Neighbourhood Officers: Our PCSO Aarron Newell can be contacted on aarron.newell@kent.police.uk The Police can be contacted to report rural matters **on 07980978202**
For further information please visit www.kent.police.uk. Ashford Police Station is 01233 611055

MP'S Surgery: Our MP is Damian Collins. If you have any questions, complaints or comments, please book an appointment by e-mailing your name, post code, subject and message to: shepwayconservatives@btconnect.com or telephone 01303 253524.

Parish News Please send all articles, society reports, coming events to Maggie Smith by the 20th of the month prior to publication tel 01303 813746 or e-mail: parishmag_gie@btinternet.com

To advertise in the 'Parish News' contact David Hill on 07827 221569
e-mail: davidhillmkc@gmail.com

Miscellaneous Observations on Life

Don't judge a book by its movie.

The way some people love to find fault, you'd think there was a reward.

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail and not his tongue.

Content makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor. – *Benjamin Franklin*

It turns out that being an adult now is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

We would be glad to pay as we go, if only we could catch up paying for where we have been.