THE MAGAZINE

OF THE PARISH OF SUNNINGHILL
AND SOUTH ASCOT

NOVEMBER 2020



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER SEE PAGE 7



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THE MAGAZINE

OF THE PARISH OF SUNNINGHILL AND SOUTH ASCOT

Registered Charity No.1135244

NOVEMBER 2020

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FROM THE EDITOR...

he month of November has always summoned up gloomy images to me; what with short days and long nights, fogginess and damp and, of course, the remembrance of fallen men and women during not only the two world wars, but in many conflicts since. As I write this, our latest disaster, the coronavirus pandemic seems to be raising its ugly head again. But before we complain too much, let's remember the constraints placed on our ancestors by the dreadful events

WEAR A MASK
AND SAVE YOUR LIFE!

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has come to the assistance of the Board of Health, Doctors and nurses can not be obtained to take care of the affilicted. You must wear a mask, not only to protect yourself but your children and your neighbor from influenza, pneumonnia and death

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of 1914-18 and 1939-45. Not to mention the Spanish flu' outbreak of 1918 which is estimated to have infected 500 million people and killed 50 million of them. The disease continued to affect people well into its 3rd year, in 1920.

We will remember them all during Remembrance Services up and down the country during this month; perhaps a timely reminder that life is fragile and not to be taken for granted. Remember those whose faith sustained them through the trenches of northern France and Belgium, those whose faith carried them through the horrors of Auschwitz and all the other places of death, torture and starvation. It's no good saying let it not happen again because it has, and it will until we learn to grow up. We may have crossed frontiers of science and medicine but we are still in nappies as far as common sense and common humanity is concerned.

In 1929, less than a century ago, a popular song was released "If I had a talking picture of you", which my mother used to refrain to me when I was ever so small (much later than 1929 I hasten to add). It coincided with the innovation of talking movies in the cinema, and the singer dreamt of being able to capture a talking picture of a loved one to play when feeling blue. Well now we can. Which is nice, but does it make us better people? No. Does it make us any less lonely? No. During this Covid business, so many people are feeling desperately lonely, and no amount of talking pictures (goodness knows, we have plenty of those these days), even live talking pictures on *Zoom*, are not enough to make us feel loved. We need to be in the presence of others, there's nothing scientific about that, we need the touch of a hand, the warm smile, the friendly 'hi there' just as much as we need food and water. The Church has been talking about how we might go about alleviating that, especially over the Christmas period, and there are plans afoot here, so keep an eye out for that.

Remember that whatever life throws at us, we will see it through. St Paul says in his letter to the Corinthian church "for now we see in a glass, darkly, but when that which is perfect has come, then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love."

Mike Cross tel 01344 303991 mobile 07737 088423

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE HELP!

very year at Remembrance, we are powerfully reminded of the service and sacrifice of our armed forces. We hear stories of life lived through times of tragedy; give thanks for all they gave for us; and grieve the loss of those who have died in conflicts across the world. But perhaps the most striking thing for me, as a civilian with such little exposure to the military life, is seeing and hearing about the camaraderie of those who serve in the forces. You can see an

identification with the squadron or the unit that goes beyond the particular people of any given time. You can sense an identity that is formed, and held quite tightly, by many in the army, navy or air force that shapes how they live and think.

At times in our current Covid crisis, the military metaphors have been rolled out, which I have found unfortunate and unhelpful. But the spirit of togetherness and bond of unity that the military display might be just what we need as individuals, community and nation at this time.

As I write this, at the beginning of October, no one knows what November, let alone Christmas, will bring. However, I feel confident in assuming that there will be hardship across Sunninghill, there will be isolation in South Ascot, and struggles in Cheapside too. In the spring our community banded together wonderfully and can I encourage you to take this nudge to reach out again – whether that is to the neighbours you met for the first time, or on the street *WhatsApp* or *Facebook* group – however you were connected, please maintain or rediscover those links and bonds.

This winter will also be a time to ask for help when you need it – certainly another essential in military life. There is so much support available in our area for almost every need – practical (with food and driving), emotional, relational and spiritual. The Sunninghill and Ascot Covid hub run by the Parish Council is one place to go, alongside your local churches which are open daily and our amazing local charities too. Or why not just reach out to our local groups online? We found earlier this year that there was far more help being offered locally than being accessed, so please do ask.

An Old Testament passage from the book of Ecclesiastes sums up our need to help and our need for others. It was probably written referencing those in the armed forces, but is more often used in weddings these days.

- ⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour:
- ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.
- ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?
- ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecc 4:9-12)



THE COMMONWEALTH AIR FORCES MEMORIAL, ENGLEFIELD GREEN

Whilst help across our community is here and real, the final line of this passage reminds us that the three-stranded cord, one with God interwoven, is even stronger.

So I pray that you might reach out when you need help; might look out for those who are struggling; and might call out to the God who strengthens, restores and gives peace this November. With love and prayer,

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE PARISH - NOVEMBER

It's wonderful to have you all back to St Michael's and All Souls' for regular, weekly worship. Thankfully the Government guidelines still permit us to all worship in Church. Please wear a face-covering to all our services unless you have an exemption and do bring your own water or other refreshments if you need them. Our PCC, church wardens and ministry team have worked hard on protocols to keep everyone safe and give us confidence during these changing times. If you have any concerns or suggestions then please do get in touch. We will also be strictly adhering to social distancing rules. We thank you for your understanding.

9:15 THE FAMILY SERVICE Every week. Our informal, child friendly, 30 minute family service. We still act out stories from the Bible and pray together for our villages and the world.

- 1st November No Service at St Michael's Church. All Souls' Patronal Festival
- 8th November Remembrance Sunday
- 15th November Generous Community
- 22nd November Worshipping Community
- 29th November 1st Sunday of Advent

10:30am ALL SOULS WORSHIP - With our favourite Bible readings and prayers.

- 1st November All Souls' Patronal Festival (MW)
- 8th November Remembrance Sunday. Due to potentially large numbers attending, we will have an audio feed available for any outside to listen along whilst remaining at a safe distance. (MW)
- 15th November Generous Community (MW)
- 22nd November Worshipping Community (HC)
- 29th November 1st Sunday of Advent (MW)

10:45 TRADITIONAL SERVICE at St Michael's Church – These services contain our favourite Bible readings, prayers and liturgy and reflections to help sustain us spiritually week by week.

- 1st November No Service at St Michael's Church. All Souls' Patronal Festival(MW)
- 8th November Remembrance Sunday. Due to potentially large numbers attending, we will have an audio feed available for any outside to listen along whilst remaining at a safe distance. (MW)
- 15th November Generous Community (HC)
- 22nd November Worshipping Community (MW)
- 29th November 1st Sunday of Advent (MW)

Key: HC = Holy Communion MW = Morning Worship

9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am – meets on *Zoom*. Nicola Shaw lead Sunday School activities, songs and bible stories over *Zoom*. Contact nicola@allsoulsascot.org / admin@ssaparish.org for the meeting ID, password and downloadable activities.

DAILY PRAYERS

• We have morning and sung night prayers recorded for every day of the week. These simple 5-10 minute services can be accessed through our websites along with service sheets to download. We have also created a CD of these services and additional choral music. Contact admin@ssaparish.org if you would like one posted.

E-PRAYER CHAIN

• Should you have any prayer requests for yourself or anyone you know, then send them to mary@ssaparish.org; 01344 624535, who will pass your message to our prayer team in confidence.

TODDLER PRAISE

• 10:30am – After a long wait, our toddler praise service is back 'in person'. 10:30am on Tuesdays in All Souls. Significant time and thought has gone into making sure this service is safe and welcoming for all. Contact Nicola Shaw for more information (nicola@allsoulsascot.org) and should you want any more information about our CV19 protocols for this service.

LITTLE SEEKERS

• Our preschool online programme exploring the characteristics of God's family has now produced 4 episodes and is being very well received. You can find all the episodes on www.ssaparish.org, or via the Little Seekers Youtube channel or church Facebook pages.

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PARISH REGISTERS

WEDDINGS

10th October Jack Lucas and Victoria Philp

FUNERALS AND INTERMENT OF ASHES

10th September John Wigmore 17th September

Doreen Margaret Sullivan











GIRLGUIDING ASCOT SOUTH DISTRICT



If you are interested in Girlguiding either as a volunteer or to register your daughter then visit the website to find out more. www.girlguiding.org.uk









1st SOUTH ASCOT RAINBOWS



South Ascot Rainbows have been having even more fun now we can meet outdoors. We have continued with some meetings on line but when the weather was better we ventured outdoors. The girls had great fun painting camp pictures although the wind took control a couple of times and the girls had to chase

around the field for their master pieces. We presented two of the girls with their Bronze awards. We spent one evening in Swinley Forest making trails regardless of the rain but the girls were all appropriately dressed so stayed dry.

Penny Knight, 1st South Ascot Rainbows



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unninghill Brownies have been working on their Grow Your Own badge over the summer and now is the time to reap the harvest. We've seen giant sunflowers and tasty tomatoes, but some are still waiting to ripen. The Bear Challenge continues to be popular, and some teddies now sport very smart neckers.

Our weekly *Zoom* meetings have been fun. Last week's challenge was to draw a 'squifflelump' from random clues. The resultant green creatures with red spots, three eyes, two tails etc were a sight to behold! No two were the same, but all had the same attributes, and we have some talented artists in our Brownie unit.









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*Free entry to members Guest rules apply



SOUTH ASCOT BROWNIES



outh Ascot Brownies did some indoor camping at home earlier in the year and Maisy made a beautiful camp fire!

> Ruth Bannerman. Tawny Owl, 2nd South Ascot Brownies



BEAVERS* SCOUTS*



irstly a big thank you to everyone who has supported the various fund raising activities over the last year for the renovation of the 1st South Ascot Scout hut. As many of you will have seen, the work is well under way, most of the internal work has taken place along with some of the external cladding with a new roof and fencing to come. When complete it will hopefully be a much better looking neighbour and a more suitable and comfortable place for everyone to enjoy.

Despite a difficult year all 3 groups have invested plenty of new starters - with 9 new Beavers, 9 new Cubs and 3 new Scouts.

We have returned to outdoor activities for all the groups and have done den building, hikes, orienteering and a stalk on Ascot racecourse so a great start to the term. On top of this the Beavers also did a litter pick in the woods by South Ascot thanks for all the local encouragement as



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people came by! 3 Cubs received the Silver Award – the highest award for their level – well done to Samuel Folley, Will Jones and Oliver Jones. And a huge well done to the Scouts who braved a very cold dip at Thorpe Lakes.

If you can be of help or have any questions then please contact our Group Scout Leader, Fiona Jones at 1stsouthascotscoutgroup@gmail.com

James Brown, Beaver Leader









TRAVELS WITH MY RIG

n April 2019, a month prior to a 12-hour jaw operation at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, I had a RIG tube inserted into my stomach to help with nutrition both before and after surgery.

Fortunately I recovered well and first travelled abroad just over three months postop. I went to the Algarve with two old friends from University as my 'minders.' I needed a couple so I could be left in peace for part of

the day. I arranged for Abbots, my helpful suppliers, to deliver an appropriate number of bottles of 'liquid food' to the holiday address. My GP provided me with a letter which permits me to take some bottles of Ensure in my hand luggage through security at any airport. The holiday was a success.

My next trip at the end of October was with the group from St

Michael's and All Souls churches to the Gambia. I took my new one-piece swimsuit to hide my RIG in the hotel swimming pool. A customs man at Banjul did look at my boxes of Ensure but after showing him my tube and giving him a colourful cap for his son all was resolved.

In November I attended a promotional event for the Mercy Ships charity in the Houses of Parliament during which I took an opportunity to use my RIG (opposite, top). At the end of the month I had an amazing few days in Uganda seeing friends and visiting two patients at CoRSU Hospital near Kampala. Brave Nana and Morgon had travelled from Kinshasa to Entebbe to have their jaw tumours removed. Both their operations had included reconstruction with

a fibula free flap like myself.

Later in December I spent four more days in the Algarve with three male friends. This was followed mid-January with another trip to the Gambia with a 10-strong medical team to run a three day anaesthesia training course. Once more Ensure via my RIG was really convenient as my dry mouth and RAD (Radiation affected Dysphagia – swallowing problems) make spicey African

food almost impossible for me to eat.

My final trip, pre – lockdown, was to Sierra Leone from 9–15 March to attend a remarkable wedding. 27 years before I had paid £70 for Regina, the beautiful bride (right), to be born by caesarean section at a maternity hospital in Freetown to save her life and that of her then teenage mum, Catherine. I was a volunteer on board the

Mercy Ship Anastasis in Freetown and was visiting the labour ward of the local hospital during a rare afternoon off.

Seventeen months after my RIG was inserted it remains indispensable. It allows me to travel wherever I want. The only possible problem would be if my hold-baggage containing Ensure went missing but to date that has not happened. I also have to be careful that my tube does not come out but I always carry a spare. Some friends keep asking when my tube will be removed: my reply is probably never. I have named my RIG Fatmata (a common name in Sierra Leone) as it is now my constant and probably lifesaving companion.

Dr Keith Thompson











he Ascot Support Hub was formed in April in response to the issues arising from the pandemic and the lockdown. It was established by Sunninghill and Ascot Parish Council – working alongside its Borough Councillors, a number of churches and local charitable trusts – and is still very much here to help residents of Sunninghill & Ascot and Sunningdale parishes wherever there is need.

Our discretion is guaranteed. We can continue to help with such things as:

- Food parcels
- Befriending and support services
- 'One-off' grants for emergencies
- Debt or housing issues
- Engagement with specific agencies eg. mental health issues

The Ascot Support Hub partners have been able to help a host of individuals with food parcels, social contact and elevation of issues; as well as providing financial help to the likes of Ascot Day Centre and the Windsor Homeless Project.

Our team of volunteers has collected unwanted food boxes (which we were able to redistribute), and continues to run errands, help with hospital visits, telephone the lonely and flag up more serious issues – they have been doing an incredibly valuable job in helping the most vulnerable



to stay well.

The Parish Council wishes to thank all those who have volunteered to assist with the Ascot Support Hub – it's wonderful to know what great community spirit and enterprise exists in time of need. As the winter approaches and the number affected by Covid-19 increases again, please keep us in mind and get in touch if you or anyone you know needs our help.

Elsewhere in the community the Parish Council has now removed its summer hanging baskets and will soon be placing 'lamppost poppies' through the High Streets for Remembrance, and is getting the Christmas lights tested and ready for installation later in November.

Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Parish Council 01344 623480 enquiries@s-a-pc.com www.sunninghillandascotparishcouncil.co.uk

ASCOT SUPPORT HUB

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Between the hours of 9am - 5pm, Mon - Fri call 07341 133591

or email enquiries@s-a-pc.com

After hours call St Michael's Church 07717 477390

ll pupils returned to South Ascot Village School (SAVS) on 2nd September 2020, all raring to go and learn new things! We were all glad see all of our pupils and colleagues, whilst welcoming many children and families who are new to our school.

'Into the Wild!' is our whole school theme at SAVS for this Autumn term.

We are taking every opportunity to embrace this topic...

We are extremely lucky to be able to use and appreciate our school grounds in these times. The outdoor space at SAVS has been a godsend in enabling us to spread out and to distance our 'bubbles' effectively. We have also been blessed by the recent fair weather.

Forest school is, once again, up and

running at SAVS! Our Foundation Stage 2 class, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to learn and develop in our natural woodland here at SAVS.

Forest school is so important in developing children's resilience, confidence and self-esteem, all of which are essential, especially in our current world climate.

Initial sessions have been planned to remind the pupils on how to keep themselves and others safe in our wood, together with protecting the animals and

plants. For our new pupils it has involved them familiarising themselves in this exciting and ever-changing environment. We have all met the 'Acornites' again and built homes for them.

The Year 1 pupils made a giant boat using

forest materials and it was amazing! They worked together as a fantastic team to bring all the materials together and then carefully placed them on the forest floor to make a terrific end-product of which they were all proud.

As National Tree week is rapidly approaching we have been collecting acorns and planting them using a strong stick to make a hole in the forest floor in which to carefully place an acorn inside.

We were truly

blessed to see a pair of greater spotted woodpeckers that will hopefully nest in our woods. They flew past the group many times last week, flashing their remarkable colourings whilst giving us a flying display that was spectacular and magical!

Even in these current times, our school's community has quickly adapted to our new normal, and we are all looking forward to a successful academic year, both inside and out!

Kate Rimell, Headteacher



★★★★ SCHOOLS' PAGES ★★★

CHEAPSIDE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

e have been enjoying making the most of our outside space here at Cheapside, during October: the sunny, the wet and the windy! We are lucky enough to have the space to spread the children out across the school playground and field so that Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are able to play outside without 'bursting' each other's 'bubbles'. The children in Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 have also been having fun in our Forest School. The younger children have been working on naming trees and identifying them by their leaves, whilst the older children have had the opportunity to do some pond dipping, harvest some of the produce from our allotment and even do some planting.

In Year 5, there has been a blast from the past as history came to life at Cheapside when the class, children and staff alike,



came to school dressed in Victorian costumes ready to spend a day immersed in all things Victorian. The desks were wrapped in brown paper, the games were all traditional Victorian ones, there were copy books to be blotted with real ink and even a dunce hat and corner! It really added a layer of understanding to the history topic. In Reception, our new children have been creating self-portraits, the results of which have been colourful and creative.

Clare Roberts, Assistant Headteacher



ST MICHAEL'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

s a school we continue to marvel at the resilience and responsibility demonstrated by so many of our children, during this challenging time in school. The incredible efforts of the staff team at St Michael's has allowed us to operate with the least disruption to our timetable, but the children are having to manage staying in bubbles and spend more time than we would prefer, seated at desks during lessons. We recognise that this is a time of adjustment for us all, as the children adapt to working in a more formal environment.

The school raised a fantastic £629.10 for Macmillan Cancer Support. This was a great result and was not hindered by not being able to host the usual bake sale in the school grounds. Thanks go to the fabulous

organisation of one of our parents Sarah King, alongside all our families for making donations and providing cakes for this very worthwhile cause. The children characteristically seized this opportunity to write prayers of thanks for the Macmillan Nurses. Their sentiments expressed genuine joy at knowing they were helping others across the nation. A very proud moment for all the staff!

The PTA organised a Scarecrow Trail round Sunninghill over October Half Term and were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the village and the local shops, with 47 scarecrows lined up. It is set to be a fabulous fundraising event for the school and promises to provide plenty of fun and exercise for the whole family.

Tina Wizard

22

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THIS WINTER - INSULATE AND PUMP HEAT

ishy' Rishi got us all to 'eat out to help out'; and then Rishi Sunak announced grants for insulation, heat pumps and other 'green' home improvements. The Green Homes Grant launched on the 2nd October with only a short while to take advantage of it (all work must be completed by the

31st March 2021). So, how does it work? Homeowners or landlords can apply for a voucher which covers two-thirds of the cost of eligible improvements, up to a maximum government contribution of £5,000. Low income households can get 100% of the costs of work covered up to

Types of improvement that qualify for the grant are also split into primary and secondary measures. The voucher must be used to install at least one primary measure which can be insulation (wall, floor or loft) and/or low carbon heating (such as air source heat pump, ground source heat pump or biomass boiler). After at least one

£10.000.

primary measure has been installed, the voucher can then be used to help cover the cost of a list of secondary measures which contains things like double or triple glazing, improvements to the heating system and energy-efficient doors.

All work covered by the voucher must be completed by a TrustMark-registered installer who is also registered for the scheme. TrustMark is a not-for-profit Government Endorsed Quality Scheme. When a consumer uses a TrustMark



Registered Business, they are engaging an organisation that has been vetted to meet required standards, and has pledged a commitment to good customer service, technical competence and good trading practices. In the event that a problem does arise. TrustMark offers a range of remedies to

give further protection to consumers.

Trading Standards support the Green Homes Grant scheme to get businesses out working on projects again while helping consumers reduce their energy bills. We do know from experience that a small proportion of illegitimate traders will seek to

exploit the trust of consumers who have not fully done their research on this temporary scheme. Be very wary of approach methods such as "We are part of the Government green grant scheme and want to offer you a free survey of your insulation." As always, we are urging people to say no to cold callers or offers posted through your letterbox.

If you want to take advantage of the scheme you can check if you are eligible to access the grant by visiting:

www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/gr een-homes-grant

All the details about the grant scheme are at: www.gov.uk/quidance/apply-forthe-green-homes-grant-scheme

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WE ARE GRATEFUL TO NEIL PARKER AND THE MEMBERS OF THE 'HISTORICAL SUNNINGHILL, SUNNINGDALE, ASCOT AND SURROUNDING AREAS' BLOG FOR PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL FROM THEIR FACEBOOK PAGES.







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ANDREA RUDDICK







AS PROMISED I HAVE SCANNED AND SAVED THE ORIGINAL PHOTOS FROM KINGSWICK HOUSE TO SHARE WITH YOU (THEY WEREN'T THROWN AWAY) AND I WILL BE REFRAMING THE ORIGINAL PRINTS TO HANG ON THE WALLS INSIDE. ONCE COVID ALLOWS, WE WOULD WELCOME ANYONE WHO WANTS TO COME AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND, AND WITH ALL YOUR HELP, I AM PIECING TOGETHER SOME INFORMATION WHICH WILL BE IN THE RECEPTION AREA ON THE HISTORY OF THE BUILDING AND SURROUNDING AREA. THANK YOU AGAIN TO EVERYONE WHO HAS POINTED ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION/LENT ME SOURCES AND GIVEN LITTLE NUGGETS OF INFORMATION AND MEMORIES. IT'S BEEN MOST APPRECIATED.

I HAD THOUGHT THIS WAS MRS HARGREAVES, A PREVIOUS OWNER BEFORE HUGHES. THE STYLE LOOKS VERY VICTORIAN SO IT COULD BE AFTER HUGHES OR PERHAPS HIS WIFE? I NEED TO DO MORE DIGGING.

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NEWS FROM THE BEAT

am receiving dozens of emails about scams and frauds, which come in four formats:

- AT THE DOOR
- LETTER
- TELEPHONE
- EMAIL



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Remember our NHW motto:

I do not buy goods and services at the door. The most common will be bogus builders.

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This scam usually claims that someone has died with a similar name to you, leaving millions - BIN IT!

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TELEPHONE:

Scammers use computers to generate the calls - 10 at a time. The first one answered cancels the other nine for a later call hence silent calls. You are never personally targeted. JUST PUT DOWN THE RECEIVER.

EMAIL:

There are hundreds of these scam emails, which hit our in-boxes every day. All scams have certain things in common. They do not address you personally by name, but are addressed 'dear resident' / 'customer' or whatever. They contain an 'Inducement' - you have won / results are now ready. They contain a 'Threat' - if you don't do this by a certain date, usually within 24 hours, something terrible will happen. There will be an 'Attachment' / 'Link', you need to open, to do whatever. The current most common scams are HMRC - they have a warrant for your arrest, if you don't immediately pay outstanding taxes! You have driven through a charging area without making the payment of £25!

TV Licensing – Your Direct Debit has failed - click on the link to re-enter your bank and card details!

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Jeffrey Pick Police, Community Engagement and Resilience Officer. Windsor & Maidenhead LPA

REMEMBERING THE MISSING

■ n the warmth of the autumn sunshine. the RAF memorial in Runnymede is resplendent, its lawns green and immaculate. Benches scattered in the grounds offer private solitude to reflect on the enormity of the huge loss of aircrew in WW2, whose bodies were never recovered. Inside, in a cloister arrangement, inscribed stone panels record 20,264 names. Readers who have visited will know for themselves that this RAF memorial is a humbling experience, especially during this month's Remembrance PoWs might be airlifted out.

when the nation pays its respects to those who gave their lives.

Yet, even after 75 years there is a dark and forgotten episode that has never been fully shared with the British public. Key documents are sealed, probably forever. By the middle of March 1945, the fledgling United Nations had completed a study on the number of British and US PoWs held in camps in

German-occupied territories. In total, 2.1 million military personnel were incarcerated in 70 camps, amongst them 199,500 British and Commonwealth servicemen and women and 76.850 Americans. There were more than 700.000 French and smaller numbers of Dutch, Belgian, Polish, Italian and Norwegian PoWs.

In a former Luftwaffe training school in Halle, near Leipzig, over six days in May 1945, the British and Americans tried to hammer out an operational agreement with their Soviet counterparts for an Allied PoW exchange. By now, all of Eastern Europe and Austria was in the Soviet Zone and the PoW camps had been liberated. On their part, the

British and US forces had liberated more than 20 million Russian PoWs held by the Germans. Hopes were raised in London that the bulk of the British and Commonwealth



With relationships between the Allies already cooling since Yalta, after the political land grab by Stalin of Eastern Europe, the Halle talks had quickly degenerated into heated argument. None were airlifted as aircraft were barred from flying over the new Soviet airspace. All exchange was by land.

On the first exchange, a large number of Red Army PoWs, who after surrender to the Nazis had worn their uniforms, were returned for a single exchange of 2,200 British and US PoWs. Hopes were raised that the Soviets would allow much larger contingents within days. By July 1, Stalin's former allies had handed over 1.39 million

but now the figures became muddled in what one delegate to Halle recalled as 'the greatest mass movement of population in history'. In the exchanges, PoWs were mixed up with displaced persons, and there were millions of those across Europe. On the Soviet side, the same happened and clearly few were military PoWs.

Reports grew that in the majority of the Soviet PoWs returned, most were arrested

and sent to the labour camps or were executed as cowards for surrendering. Air Marshal of the RAF, Arthur Tedder, the deputy to Allied Supreme Commander General Eisenhower, realised that few of his PoW aircrew known to be in the camps were in the exchanges. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, criticised Moscow who denied that any prisoners were being retained as political prisoners, further

denying that large numbers of PoWs were missing. Exchanges continued but the British Foreign Office estimated that at least 40,000 British PoWs were still in Soviet hands, including large numbers in Poland, Austria and Czechoslovakia. The House of Commons demanded answers as did the newspapers, especially *The Times*. Lorries sent to camps to pick up PoWs returned empty. There were numerous reports of long cattle trains heading towards Russia with English loudly shouted out at passing stations.

The British maintained its warship presence in Odessa, one of the three PoW exchange centres, in the hope that PoWs might make it to the Black Sea port. Few did and successive governments sought to cast a veil over a failed exchange that left the equivalent strength of 30 battalions behind the Iron Curtain. The London Evenina Standard took up the cudgels in the mid 1970s asking government for clarification, providing actual names of over 1,400 that

were missing. Instigated by Yeltsin, the more recent US search for its PoWs was far more fruitful. A joint committee was set up to find 28,000 and by November 2000, with 18,000 Russian documents sifted, almost all were investigated. The majority had died in Soviet captivity in the first 10 years. The British didn't participate.

Panel 269 at Runnymede (left) records a very rare mention of one of the British

missing in Eastern Europe, that of Warrant Officer R.H. Barratt, a member of IX (B) Squadron, the oldest squadron in the RAF. He had escaped from his PoW camp and wound up in Budapest where he was arrested by the Soviets in early 1945 and later executed.

How many of our missing did come home? A handful.

A broken Private Frank Kelly, a medic who dropped

with the paratroopers at Arnhem, who had been held in the Lubyanka and the equally notorious Vladimir prisons, was one. Deported in November 1953, he returned not to a hero's welcome but immediate arrest by the Royal Military Police for desertion, a decision reversed after a national outcry. The government didn't want Kelly telling the public that thousands of British PoWs were being used as slave labour in the Gulag: many worked to death or executed.

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AN UPDATE ON OUR FRIENDS IN THE GAMBIA

hings are pretty dire in The Gambia because of the Covid pandemic. All the schools that we support are closed for the foreseeable future. So what basic teaching the children were getting has now stopped. This also means that the teaching staff are not being paid.

Our Parish has just sent out money to help pay the teachers and get home schooling started. This has taken most of our reserves, so we will need to start fundraising again!

Look out for a quiz in December and some other fundraising ideas that may involve walking and selling. Could you sell two unwanted items on social media and donate the sale price? How about getting sponsored to walk 10,000 steps a day for a week?



We also have a 'Just Giving' page for The Gambia Support Fund; please see the link below. We get the tax back if you donate using this method.

Being literate is a privilege which the Gambian children will find hard now the schools are closed.

www.justgiving.com/campaign/ AllSoulsGambia

Liz Moore





USING POETRY TO HELP US REMEMBER

DULCE ET

DECORUM

EST PRO

PATRIA

MORI

s Wordsworth once wrote: "Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings". This statement is never more poignant than when referring to the poetry of World War One. I am not going to just reproduce poems to read, but rather introduce several poets' work and hope this inspires further reading.

At the beginning of the war, young men went to the front, patriotic, proud, and

confident they were fighting for a worthy cause. As the war progressed, they became less idealistic, the horrific situations they found themselves in overwhelmed them. Poetry was the way some of them chose to express the extremes of psychological and emotional turmoil they experienced every day. In early works, the poetry was almost celebratory; but as the war progressed the grim

Rupert Brooke's poem, "The Soldier" was written early on in 1914, and is in complete contrast to later works. The famous quote from the poem is the first line. "If I should die, think only this of me, that there's some corner of a foreign field that is forever England"— and ends "in hearts at peace under an English heaven". Tragically Brooke died of sepsis in 1918 at the age of 27 on his

reality began to appear in their verses.

In direct contrast to Rupert Brooke's work, the poems of Wilfred Owen describe vividly the true theatre of war. One of his poems deals with the full effects of a gas attack on a group of soldiers. The poem

way to Gallipoli.

begins "Bent double like old beggars under socks, knock-kneed, coughing like hags, We cursed through sludge". And further on; "Gas!, gas! Quick boys – an ecstasy of fumbling, Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time!" The language vividly describes the physical and mental scars. It ends with the quote in Latin, ascribed to Horace, "Dulce et Decorum est, Pro Patria Mori", which Owen describes as "the old lie – it is sweet and

fitting to die for one's country", and uses it almost sarcastically.

"Anthem for Doomed Youth", was written while he was in hospital, before he was sent back to the front. It laments the loss of young lives and describes the horrors he felt and saw. It begins "What passingbells for these who die as cattle? Only the monstrous anger of the guns." He had a tough war, enlisting in 1915 and commissioned as a

Second Lieutenant in the Manchester regiment. He suffered severe shell shock, was repatriated, but later returned to the front. In 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross, and tragically was killed a week before the signing of the Armistice.

Laurence Binyon, again an intellectual, wrote the poem "For the Fallen" which includes the immortal lines, "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them." which is used every year in Services of Remembrance before the two-minute silence. Binyon was too old to enlist,

instead he volunteered at a British hospital in France. On his return to England in 1916, he again volunteered to care for soldiers returning from the front. He died in 1943. In my humble opinion "The Kohima Epitaph" is equally expressive, an example of two lines having as much impact as a poem of many verses. It reads "When vou go home tell them of us and say: For your tomorrow we gave our today." It was written by John Maxwell Edmunds, who wrote epitaphs as opposed to poems. He also wrote "Went the day well? We died and never knew. But well or ill, Freedom we died for you."

Rudyard Kipling wrote many emotive words summing up the feelings and despair of the war. He wrote, "If any question why we died, tell them because our

fathers lied" He also wrote a poem after the war called "My Boy Jack" which related a father's search for his son killed in the war, whose body was never found. Kipling found himself looking for his own son John, lost in action, and it is a moving read.

He was employed by the Imperial War Graves Commission, specifically to compose words to place on war memorials and graves, including – "Their name liveth for evermore" and the words on the graves of missing servicemen – "known unto God." A few short words sum up the dreadful loss and sacrifice in a way sometimes a long poem cannot.

I cannot end an article on World War One poetry without mentioning John McCrae, who wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields". He was a Canadian medical officer who served on the front in the intense fighting and died

E ARE THE DEAD SHORT DAYS AGO We lived felt dawn Saw sunset glow Loved, and were loved, and now we lie-

of pneumonia very near the end of the war. He wrote the poem from the point of view of the soldiers whom he saw dying every day. It begins "In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses row on row that marks our place..." and ends "... If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders' fields."

I do hope this article inspires you to read more poetry, not just of the war, but anything that interests you. Perhaps during November, and on Remembrance Sunday, you will pick up this article and find a poem to read. This year for the reasons we all now understand, our acts of Remembrance will have to be different from the usual and familiar form. Maybe you could find a quiet moment during the day to pause, reflect and read.

Alison Drummings



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JUKEBOX RUNNER UPDATE LONDON MARATHON, OCTOBER 4th

t seems like yesterday that Dilwyn Jones set out on a long and winding road. The heavy rain made it anything but 'easy like a Sunday morning' and with tunnels at the racecourse flooded, he had to take the long way home.

Wearing a costume resembling a 1950s Wurlitzer jukebox, he ran 26.2 miles on London Marathon day. As the usual route on the Streets of London could not be used, he ran from Sunninghill to Ascot and Windsor and back all in aid of a charity helping those with Crohn's Disease.

Dilwyn would like to thank the family, friends and customers of his Electrical Contracting Company G Force (Ascot) Ltd who braved the heavy weather to cheer him on and for so many generous donations.

It's not too late to donate if you would like to make a difference. See his website and find out more about Dilwyn's charity run by searching **www.jukeboxrunner.co.uk**

If you spotted one of the 7 song titles in this article, well done! To be in with a chance of winning a free LED lamp and free lighting survey of your home please email the title of the song by 'Supertramp' used in this article to <code>info@gforceascot.co.uk</code>













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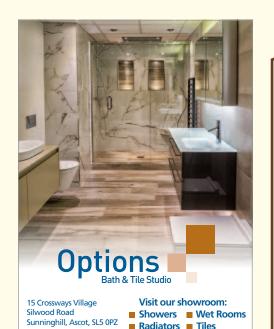
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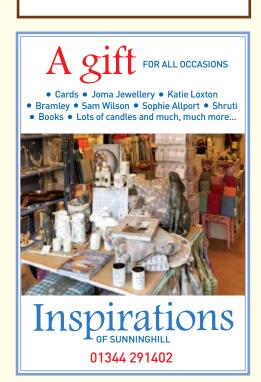
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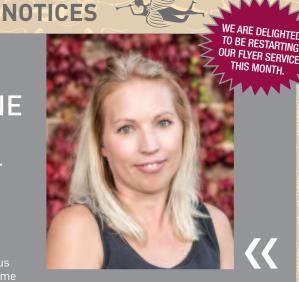


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NOTICES





If you need help or someone to talk to, please contact: Mary Nichols on 01344 624535

Do please 'Like' and 'Share' the All Souls' Church, South Ascot Facebook page for up to date news on what's going on in the church Also, I would recommend the 'Pray as you Go' app. It's a lovely 10-12 minutes of music, bible reading, contemplation and time to think. A great way to start the day.

Fiona Jones

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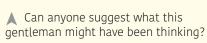
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CAPTION COMPETITION

▼ Congratulations once again to last month's winner, Dilwyn Jones from G Force. Commendations go to Michael Weeden, Stephen Knight, Jim Marum and David Marshall.

LIFE'S PUUURFECT -I DID GET THE CREAM AND I'M SO LAID BACK...





Entries to the Deputy Editor: Roger Kohn, Shrubshill Cottage, London Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 OJZ or email: rogerkohn@talktalk.net

* to reach us no later than Wednesday 18th November please.



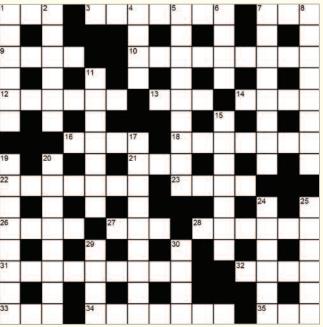
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD EX CRUCUM NO.199



The answers to Crossword no.199 will be published in the next issue.

The answers to Crossword no.198 were:



The first three clues, If you take a look, Make a character from A fairy tale book.

ACROSS

- 1. Hope a soup contains this vegetable (3)
- 3. Gin cocktail and choc make great dumplings!
- 7. Somerset flower is half yellow (3)
- 9. Enthuse about this party? (4)
- 10. Figure Grace lent over (9)
- 12. Belgian detective able to do the can-can? (6)
- 13. Animal shelter sounds like an eye-sore! (3)
- 14. Barbara excluded a Bishop from the band (4)
- 16. Travels over snow to break up kiss (4)
- 18. Fictional archaeologist in a state? (7)
- 21. Rodents nibbled end off recording device, according to Mr. Oldfield (3)
- 22. Surprisingly, I attain title of "Fairy Queen" (7)
- 23. Frozen character for sale, unfortunately (4)
- 26. Old instrument doesn't sound real! (4)
- 27 Television doctor offers health advice? (3)
- 28. Magician who produced a bird of prey? (6)
- 31. Ringo's preferred method of transport? (9)
- 32. Hot drink reportedly made by French perfumier (4)
- 33. Shortly in need of help? (1.1.1)
- 34. He's a little shy fairy tale character (7)
- 35. Attempt at story, so off (3)

DOWN

- 1. Pugwash was quietly annoyed (6)
- 2. Getting ready for Christmas? (6)
- 4. Unfortunately Roger loses his head to this
- 5. Arctic ice melts, leaving a scar on a tree (9)
- 6. One mode of transport for terrible Russian prince (4)
- 7. 1 boy in terrible rage having seen this cartoon animal (4,4)
- 8. Suitable headgear for Madame Butterfly perhaps (5,3)
- 11. He introduced twist to the plot (7)
- 15. It was a long journey according to Homer (7)
- 17. Breaks records with these records! (5,4)
- 19. Styles included America to play on the record
- 20. Umber set off large volcano (2,6)
- 24. American author inhabited canal cottage (6)
- 25. Nosey cartoon beagle? (6)
- 29. Sunday roast for English poet? Mary had a little one (4)
- 30. Initially seventh dwarf is number one (4)

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DAILY PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Please use these bible readings, street names and weekly prayers to help you to pray for our community. If you would like pray for anything then please email mary@ssaparish.org or contact our church office. All requests are kept in strict confidence.

01 Nov 03 Nov 04 Nov 05 Nov 06 Nov 07 Nov	Francis Chichester Friary Road Furzebank Hancocks Mount Heathfield Avenue Highclere Hilltop Close	Matt 5.1-12 John 6.37-40 Rev 1 Rev 2 Rev 3.1-13 Rev 3.14-end Rev 4	Almighty God You have knit together your elect In one communion and fellowship In the mystical body of your Son our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints In all virtuous and Godly living That we may come to those inexpressible joys That you have prepared for those who truly love you; Through Jesus Christ your son our Lord, Who is alive and reigns with you, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever.
08 Nov 09 Nov 10 Nov 11 Nov 12 Nov 13 Nov 14 Nov	Holmes Close Hurstwood Kier Park Kings Road Kingswick Close Kingswick Drive Kinross Avenue	Matt 25.1-13 Rev 5 Rev 6 Rev 7.1-4,9-end Rev 8 Rev 9.1-12 Rev 9.13-end	Whose will is to restore all things In your beloved Son the King of all: Govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, And bring the families of the nations, Divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, To be subject to his just and gentle rule; Who is alive and reigns with you, In the unity of the Holy Spirit One God, now and for ever.
15 Nov 16 Nov 17 Nov 18 Nov 19 Nov 20 Nov 21 Nov	Larch Avenue Liddell Way Llanvair Close Llanvair Drive London Road Lower Village Road Murray Court	Matt 25.14-30 Rev 10 Rev 11.1-14 Rev 11.15-end Rev 12 Rev 13.1-10 Rev 13.11-end	Heavenly Father, Whose blessed Son was revealed To destroy the works of the devil And to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that we, having this hope, May purify ourselves even as he is pure; That when he shall appear in power and great glory We may be made like him In his eternal and glorious Kingdom; Where he is alive and reigns with you, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever.
22 Nov 23 Nov 24 Nov 25 Nov 26 Nov 27 Nov 28 Nov 29 Nov 30 Nov	Oriental Road Oliver Road Pembroke Close Porchester Princes Gate Pump Lane Queens Hill Rise Queens Place Queens Road	Matt 25.31-end Rev 14.1-13 Rev 14.14 -15.end Rev 16.1-11 Rev 16.12-end Rev 17 Rev 18 Mark 13.24-end Matt 4.18-22	Eternal Father, Whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven That he might rule over all things as Lord and King: Keep the church in the unity of the Spirit And in the bond of peace, And bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; Who is alive and reigns with you, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

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WHO'S WHO

VICAR	Rev Stephen Johnson	01344 873202
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	Anna Catheya	anna@allsoulsascot.org
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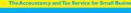


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