Parish Magazine

for

The Benefice of Lower Beeding and Cowfold

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Happy New Year to All Our Readers



For the Benefice Readings & Worship Services December 2020



January 3rd 2nd Sunday of Christmas Ecclesiastes 24: 1-12. Ephesians1: 3-14. John 1 1-18. January 10th Baptism of Christ (1st Sunday of Epiphany) Genesis 1: 1-5. Acts 19: 1-7. Mark 1: 4-11. January 17th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 1 Samuel 3: 1-20. Revelations 5: 1-10. John 1: 43-end. January 24th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Genesis 14: 17-20. Revelations 19: 6-10. John 2: 1-11. January 31st 4th Sunday of Epiphany Deuteronomy 18: 15-20. Revelations 12: 1-5a. Mark 1: 21-28.

From the Registers

Times of services – Sundays

Lower Beeding Eucharist: 8.30 at St. Johns Eucharist: 10.00 at Holy Trinity

St. Peter's, Cowfold

St Peters has an 8 o'clock on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sunday

3rd Jan) 10am Eucharist 10th Jan) 8am BCP, 10am Short & Sweet 17th Jan) 8am BCP, 11.15am Eucharist, 6pm Taize 24th Jan) 10am Short & Sweet 31st Jan) 8am BCP, 10am Joint Benefice Eucharist

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January 2021

of the Parish Magazine for the Benefice.

Let us hope and pray that 2021 proves to be a better year than 2020. This time last year most of us had never heard of Zoom meetings and "I think you are on mute" was not in our vocabulary.

Kay Croll thanks all those who gave food and gifts for FSW food parcels. You helped to give many families a happier Christmas.

Revd. Sue reminds us in her letter," And yet the darkness did not overcome the light of Christ, and never will it do so. Indeed, it shines most brightly in the darkness."

Let us hope that with the new vaccine and Spring just around the corner that there is some light at the end of the tunnel. Lesley Hendy Acting Editor <u>lesleyhendy6@gmail.com</u>

Please stay safe.

Copy date for next magazine-

Thursday 14th January

Submissions should be sent to lesleyhendy6@gmail.com The views and opinions within this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or the Parochial Church Councils' of the Benefice.

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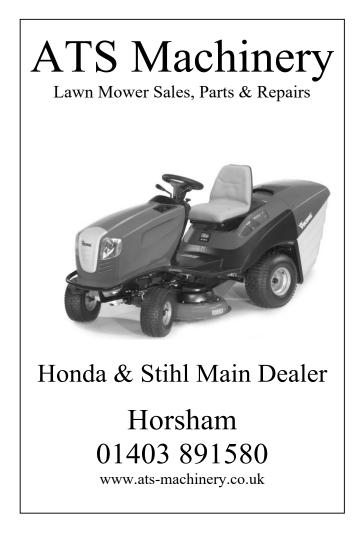
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The Vicar's Letter



We have ushered in 2021!

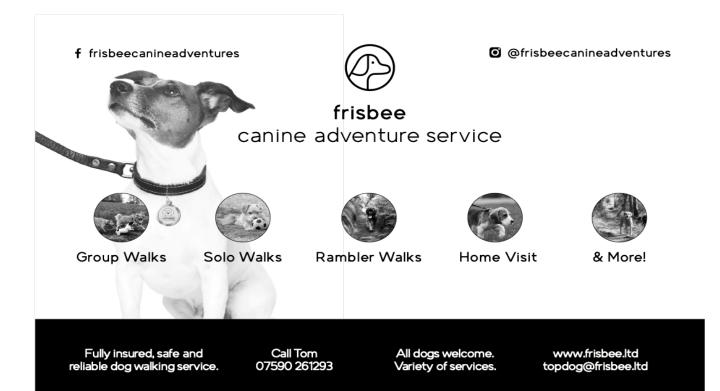
We have seen the last of 2020, the year that we mostly want to put behind us. The year in which our vocabulary took a bizarre twist- what is sociable about keeping your distance? Who would ever have guessed as we welcomed the year in that it would become illegal to stay at a friend or relatives house in vast swathes of our country or even to meet others in our gardens? At the turn of this year, we may well have to endure restrictions after our Christmas reprieve but the vaccination programme is underway and that gives us hope that the end is in sight.

And yet the darkness did not overcome the light of Christ, and never will it do so. Indeed, it shines most brightly in the darkness. Like many communities up and down the land we had Advent Calendars in our villagers and displays shone out in the darkening days of last month to bring some much-needed cheer. We found a different way to bring the nativity to life and to be able to welcome in anyone who wished to come safely. The midnight mass was my 21st since being ordained – and had a novel feature that I hope is never repeated. It was a request that each person or family bubble wiped down their pew with the wipe provided so that we could safely invite people in again at 10.00 am. And carol singing was done wrapped up warm in St John's car park. Never again will we take church services and singing in church for granted. We were also able to offer a quiet service in which the bereaved could draw aside to reflect. But perhaps we can use our inconvenience this year to remind us that for Mary travelling a long distance whilst nearly full term in her pregnancy just because the Emperor had decided to take a census wasn't exactly convenient either.

Now we move into a season called Epiphany (meaning a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization) in which we reflect on the ways in which God has revealed Himself and the ways in which he sheds His light on the world. We start with the wise men, and it's highly symbolic. Jesus lived, died, and rose again as a loyal Jew, but right there at the beginning we have non- Jews travelling a long distance with great determination to worship him, and that worship being accepted. Then, as now, God welcomes us all into his marvellous light. That is some epiphany, one we could all do with getting to grips with in 2021.

May God's blessing be with us all this year,

Sue



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News and Views from St. John's, Coolhurst



January 2021 Vicky and Tom Storey write:

The reading from Isaiah, Ch.61 v.11, Sunday December 13th.

By the time this appears in the parish magazine in January we will have either celebrated Christmas with 2 other families, or not, and we may have left Europe with an agreement, or not. Life is always uncertain but at this time, uncertainty has reached unheard of levels. How comforting to consider the words of the prophet Isaiah "As the earth brings forth her shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations". Isaiah also refers in an earlier verse to "oaks of righteousness". I don't know exactly what they are but living in Sussex, we are very fortunate to have so many oaks to remind us that these great difficulties come and go but some things remain to comfort us. When I walk every morning, I pass many of these great old trees and younger ones too and this year they have held their leaves after all the other trees, in a defiant orange display.

This time last year, we had no idea of the horrors of Covid, nor the uncertainties of Brexit. The future is always, to some extent, unknown and certainly this pandemic, interlaced as it is with the lives of all of us, has caused tremendous physical and financial turmoil around the world which none of us could have expected.

Set against this, the certainty of seasonal growth as the earth brings forth her shoots is something definite and constant and more and more people have turned to their gardens or to parks, fields or woodlands for hope and a degree of stability.

In these difficult and uncertain times, it becomes more important than ever to hold onto those things in life which are constant, our beliefs and the oaks of righteousness.







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Visitor and worshipper numbers to England's cathedrals grew prior to lockdown

England's cathedrals continue to play a huge role in the worship, heritage, and civic life of the country according to the latest figures from the Church of England.

In 2019, 1.3 million people attended services at cathedrals across the country and England's cathedrals also attracted nearly 10 million visitors a year.



In 2019, a weekly total of 37,300

people attended cathedral services - an increase of 13 per cent from 2009. While Sunday attendance remained stable, attendance at midweek services grew by 35 per cent over the decade.

Christmas and Advent service attendance also rose over the same 10-year period, with 2019 showing record high reported numbers for advent events including carol services, concerts and nativity plays.

In all, cathedrals reported a total of 9.7 million visitors in 2019, just below the highest-ever figure of 10.1 million reported in 2018.

Much-needed support grants totalling £17.5 million have so far been received from Government, alongside additional contributions from Charities and the Church Commissioners in 2020. These have helped cathedrals to cope with the shortfall in visitor numbers caused by measures to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

Since Covid-19, cathedrals have found new ways to engage worshippers. Every cathedral able to re-open to the public has achieved the Visit Britain' standard and consumer charter mark 'Good to Go' which means visitors can be confident that cathedrals are taking all the necessary steps to help ensure people's safety.

Meanwhile, across the Church of England, more than 17,000 online services and events have been provided following the introduction of the lockdown and restrictions on public worship in March.



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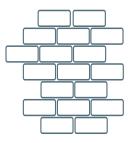
Remember: no job too small!



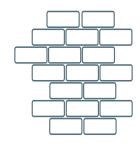
Sadly, as with all other events during this difficult period, The Tuesday Club will not be able to meet again until the lockdown is lifted.

At the moment, the date for this is not known. However, if you wish to have any information concerning the Club for further details please contact Janet Warwick 01403891789 or <u>rjwarwick12@hotmail.com</u>

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Lower Beeding Association News

Charity No. 267433

We were able top hold the 2020 250 Club Draw at the Village Hall on Tuesday 15th December with six people socially distancing present.

	£100	151	G Tregear
	£100	242	C Clarke
	£100	8	R Warwick
	£50	228	N Fry
	£50	210	A West
	£50	26	C Walsh
	£30	21	T Plimmer
	£30	239	J Potter
	£30	62	G Peckham
AND	£1000	169	T Tyler

A huge thank you to Paul Smith who has taken on this challenge from the Tyler's who ran the club for 29 years. And a surprise and appropriate win and thank you to Tom for all those years of running this club on behalf of the LBA. It is hoped we will have two draws during 2021 – who knows. Thank you to all those supporters. For info contact: Paul on Smiffy.Clan@btinternet.com

Ann O'Donoghue 1941 to 2020

It is with sadness to tell you that Ann O'Donoghue died on the 13th November. She was a very well known familiar figure in the Horsham area community as a midwife. She helped many Mums to bring their babies into the world – in fact babies of babies of two generations !

Ann was born on the 21st January 1941 at the Windmill Inn in Littleworth. At the age of 12 she moved to her Uncle's farm just outside Partridge Green. She married Shaun in 1964 and in 1975 they made their home at Wei Ho, Plummers Plain. For many years Ann was a supporter of the 250 Club and a familiar face at the fete. She leaves behind her two children Claire and Simon, and grandchildren Holly and James.

Ann will be sadly missed by many of us but especially her family – our thoughts are with you.

Welcome to Elsie Rosemary born on the 19th November to Sarah and Liam of Larks Lea, Mill Lane.

Counting the cost of coronavirus

Happy New Year! It's good to begin a new year with hope, but few of us have left 2020 unscathed by the pandemic.



For example, nearly half of us, 48 per cent, put on weight during lockdown. (According to a recent survey by King's College London and Ipsos MORI).

Millions of us turned to alcohol or drugs. Public Health England reports that one in five of us aged 45-74 are now drinking more than 21 units a week. The Royal College of Psychiatrists expresses alarm at the rapid rise in patients whose alcohol or drug use led to a decline in their mental health in 2020.

Children have suffered. Childline had nearly 43,000 calls from young people March and October. Cyber bullying has soared, with one in three children being bullied during the pandemic, according to the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

For millions of pensioners, Covid-19 'hit the fast-forward button on ageing', according to Age UK. Lockdown left old people frightened and losing their confidence, mobility and even functions such as memory.

Suicidal thoughts soared during lockdown, with the number of people seeking help tripling, to stand at more than a quarter of a million. The Royal College of Psychiatrists warn that mental health services are now 'overflowing' with patients struggling to cope with anxiety, psychosis and depression. Many charities fear that a 'second pandemic' of mental health problems.

So – what do we do as January 2021 dawns? Each one of us CAN do something to make things better, if only in a small way. How about these for your New Year Resolutions?

Firstly, just get regular exercise. As one professor said, "Exercise creates a virtuous circle of physical and mental well-being. You move more, you eat better, you feel positive." On the other hand, only a couple of weeks of lying around the house will leave your cardiovascular systems less effective, your musculoskeletal system weaker, your metabolic rate affected, and your immune system lowered.

Secondly, adopt the right mental attitude. Studies of Holocaust survivors found that those who recovered best had certain character traits of resilience: optimism, self-esteem, acceptance and above all, spirituality. A faith in God gave them purpose and meaning, even in the midst of fear and death.

Thirdly, make an effort this year to keep in touch with your friends and keep an eye out for vulnerable neighbours. Be willing to act as a safety net for others, if only to show compassion and a willingness to listen to them.

LOWER BEEDING PARISH COUNCIL

Lower Beeding Parish Council News

January 2021

Dear Parishioners

As we start a new year the Parish Council will be reviewing the budget for the forthcoming financial year starting in April. If there are any Parishioners who may have any projects that they think will enhance the Parish. Now is the time to contact me and put forward your plan. Just email me with your idea and I will forward to the Parish Council for (PC) review.

Community Speedwatch (CSW)

The CSW is up and running again, please support this parish initiative to keep all residents safe.

Recent Planning Applications reviewed at the November Parish Council meeting. DC/20/2239 3 Stablehouse Bungalows Brighton Road Lower Beeding Horsham

Erection of single storey garage to side elevation.

There was only one comment from the Parish Council concerning this application. It is not clear that the new building is a replacement garage. The original proposal of a Dutch style garage was commented on as being not in keeping with the local environment. Therefore, the PC assumes this is a replacement garage to replace the original proposal. Other than this comment there was no objections from the PC.

DC/20/2201 23 Mill Lane Lower Beeding Horsham West Sussex

Erection of single storey rear extension and replacement roof.

There were no comments from the Lower Beeding Parish Council on this application.

DC/20/1552 22 Mill Lane Lower Beeding Horsham West Sussex

Erection of a single storey rear extension and installation of a rear dormer to existing loft conversion.

There were no comments from the Lower Beeding Parish Council on this application.

DC/20/1753 Tudor Lodge Horsham Road Handcross Haywards Heath

Erection of a double storey side extension, installation of a rear canopy and construction of a new garage (Listed Building Consent). This application has now been amended and approved.

DC/20/DC/2097 Terra Ferma Peacocks Hill Burnthouse Lane Lower Beeding West Sussex RH13 6NN

Although this application is on the Parish boundary between Lower Beeding (LBPC) and Cowfold. The application could affect residents in LB.

The PC unanimously objected to this application.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council we would like to wish you and your families a very prosperous 2021. Hopefully this year will be an improvement on this one!

Peter Knox

Clerk to Lower Beeding Parish Council clerk@lowerbeeding.com

Our website: www.lowerbeeding.com





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Lower Beeding Horticultural Society Report

The society is distributing its schedule of events this month, if you are expecting a copy but haven't yet received it please let Tom know, details on the back cover.

We have decided that there will be no subscription to the society this year, but we do ask that anybody interested in our activities and taking advantage of our discount schemes please register with Janet Haswell so that you can be added to our distribution list for our newsletters and regular updates. Janet can be reached at janet3isisgranary@btinternet.com

We are hopeful that we will be able to organise our spring show at the end of March this year, our other early-year event, the quiz evening has been put back in the schedule until April. After having to cancel everything except the quiz in 2020 we are hoping that 2021 will give us the opportunity to run our events again.

Let's hope for a better 2021 than last year. Tom.

Gardeners' World

It's mid-December, winter is upon us, however it feels a little more autumnal at the moment with no frosts to speak of yet, with mild temperatures, and plenty of rain (although it doesn't seem as rainy as it was this time last year). The Bergenias are in flower and the Skimmia Japonica is beginning to give off its rich scent from an early flowering. The rabbits are busy digging for I don't know what, and



there's still activity from squirrels burying winter feed. When the opportunity arises to get into the garden there isn't too much to do this month, unless, that is, digging and preparing for next year is considered to be work!

The best place for gardening this month is indoors – the conservatory or the greenhouse, with a little heat to keep the cold from the fingers. If you plan to use the greenhouse over the winter then check that any heaters that you are going to use are functioning properly, it's never a good idea to find out they don't work on the day you need them. Using a minimum-maximum thermometer and a thermostat are useful additions to help manage the temperature in the greenhouse. Should we have snow then a heated greenhouse will clear this from the glass roof, if you are leaving it unheated it's a good idea to blow or sweep snow off to prevent damage. And finally, if you have a polytunnel or a net tunnel don't let the snow build up on these because they could result in damage to the structure. An important task is to clean the greenhouse and

pots ready for the new season, and this has been covered in past articles, with Jeyes fluid being a good cleaner for this job. And if you want early rhubarb then you can begin to force the plants in January for cropping in March and April.

Work on the beds and shrubs is mainly on pruning. The summer growth of Wistaria can be cut back to a few buds, roses can be pruned, and ornamental grasses – which have been left to show off their autumn and winter colour- can be cut back to no more than 15 cm, before the new growth starts to appear. Where we live, here in Sussex where it is generally relatively mild, herbaceous perennials may be divided in warm weather to increase your stock. Roses can be planted out as can bare-rooted hedging where needed. In my garden this is a good month for digging up self-seeded laurel plants and moving them to gaps in the laurel hedges, so long as the soil is soft enough to take a spade. The lawn requires little maintenance at this time of year, clean off debris and leaves that have blown onto it, brush away worm casts, and look out for mole activity as they get busy in the month, the start of their mating.

For the most part, our activity this month focusses on making a start on the work that will pay dividends later in the year. It's the time for looking forward to the shape of the garden in the year to come and to be sure that it is in a suitable state when the planting starts so as not to disappoint. And take comfort from the fact that it will get warmer!

A happy 2021 and let's hope that the year brings with it the opportunity to meet and interact with each other, something that was very restricted in 2020. I wish you success and pleasure in your gardening activities.





This delightful cottage close to the town centre is now available to rent. Whether it's for 2 nights, 2 weeks or longer it is a great place to stay for friends or family visiting Horsham or surrounding areas. The cottage has two bedrooms, bathroom, fully equipped kitchen, TV and wifi. Please contact Abi on 07786692084 or 01403 891935 for further details on availability and booking





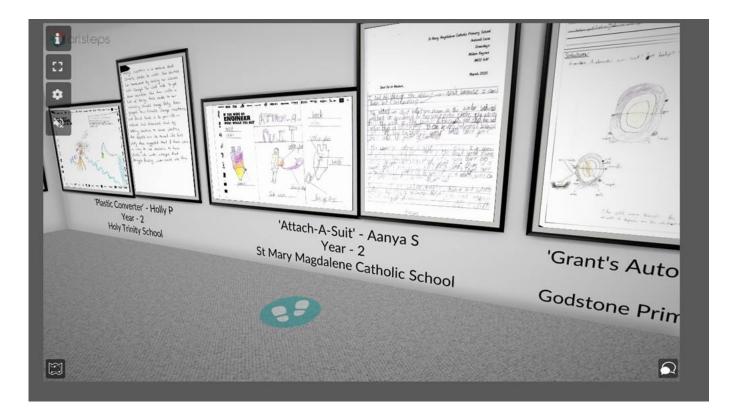


Holly wins a Prize



Our congratulations to Holly in Falcons class who has been selected as a Judges' Highly Commended in their category for the South region 'If You Were an Engineer ' competition.

She has received a medal and certificate to celebrate her achievement!





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GREAT BRITONS

71. William Wilberforce <u>1759 – 1833</u>

Last month I described how Wilberforce and his friends Thomas Clarkson and William Pitt (the Prime Minister) struggled to realise the dream of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. 40% of that highly profitable trade was carried in British ships. Wilberforce and Clarkson mobilised a huge campaign, successfully raising public awareness of, and moral indignation about, the atrocious trade, but the wealthy plantation owners in the West Indies were hugely influential politically, and they successfully resisted abolition of the slave trade.

Part 2: Beyond his Dreams



In the 1790s, those who sought abolition of the slave trade were often likened to French revolutionaries. In fact, like his his critics, Wilberforce feared that radical ideas spreading amongst working people would lead to bloody revolution. He supported repressive measures introduced by Pitt's government.

Instead, Wilberforce campaigned for change in society through improvement in morals, education, and religion and published the hugely influential best-seller Real Christianity. By the end of his life, British morals and social responsibility were much higher, paving the way for the morality of the Victorian era.

Wilberforce's main political focus continued to be on the slave trade. The death of Pitt in 1806 was a blow, but in the general

election that year slavery became an election issue. This brought more abolitionist MPs into the House of Commons, including former military men who had personally experienced the horrors of slavery and slave revolts. Wilberforce published the 400-page Letter on the Abolition of the Slave Trade, which presented the vast body of evidence that Clarkson and Wilberforce had collected against the slave trade over the previous 20 years.

Pitt's old friend, Lord Grenville, was now Prime Minister. In 1807 he at last assembled a majority in the Lords in favour of abolition. In the Commons, as the bill to abolish the slave trade was carried, many tributes were made to Wilberforce, whose face streamed with tears.

The Royal Navy was instructed to form a West Africa Squadron to suppress the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and a court was established in Sierra Leone to try captured slavers. Initially the intention was merely to stop British slave ships, but this merely pushed the trade onto the ships of other nations. Many British slavers switched to the American flag.

Lobbying by Wilberforce and others encouraged the government to use Britain's enormous prestige following end of the Napoleonic War to pressurise other nations to ban slave trading and give the Royal Navy the right to search their ships for slaves. Wilberforce also persuaded the pope to support Britain's efforts. This was the beginning of Pax Britannica, of Britain as "the policeman of the world". At its height, the West Africa Squadron consisted of a sixth of the Royal Navy. Casualty rates were high due to tropical disease, but in 1808 to 1860, 1,600 ships were seized and 150,000 slaves freed. Britain then began to suppress slave trading in the Indian Ocean and also within Africa itself, almost eliminating it there by the 1930s.



This was extraordinary. The abolition of the slave trade came at significant commercial cost to Britain, who then also deployed substantial diplomatic and military resources to stamping it out. There was no national interest in doing this, yet successive governments aggressively followed this policy. This was due to the power of the public moral indignation mobilised by Wilberforce and Clarkson.

In Britain, the Industrial Revolution created much wealth, but also replaced much skilled self-employment with machines. The growing masses in the ill-built towns and cities were often plunged into squalor and misery. The dislocation of trade caused by the Napoleonic War, together with a series of bad harvests, led to much unemployment. The consequent unrest led to machine-breaking disorders and, after the war ended, radical agitation for

revolutionary political change.

Wilberforce faced criticism that he ignored injustices at home while campaigning for the enslaved abroad. This was not fair. He advocated legislation to improve working conditions for chimney-sweeps and textile workers, supported prison reform, and campaigned to restrict capital punishment.

Happily married, with six children, Wilberforce was generous with his time and money, believing that those with wealth had a duty to give to the needy. He could not bear to sack any of his servants and as a result his home was full of old and incompetent retainers. Convinced that education was critical to ending poverty, he provided financial and other support to educational initiatives. He was also a founder member of the RSPCA (the world's first animal welfare organisation), the RNLI, and the Church Mission Society.

Despite the hopes of the abolitionists, slavery did not wither with the end of the slave trade, nor did the living conditions of the enslaved much improve. Therefore, Wilberforce began publicly to denounce slavery itself. With his health becoming uncertain Wilberforce resigned his seat in the Commons and arranged for a younger generation of leaders to take over his campaigns. He continued to appear at anti-slavery meetings and maintained a busy correspondence on the subject.

The Great Reform Act of 1832, which redistributed parliamentary seats towards newer towns and cities and modestly extended the franchise, brought more abolitionist MPs into parliament. The bloody suppression of a slave revolt in Jamaica also helped convince parliament, in 1833, to outlaw slavery throughout the British Empire. In all history to that date no country had ever done anything like it. Nearly 800,000 slaves were freed, the vast majority in the Caribbean.

Wilberforce died just three days later. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, close to his friend William Pitt. Parliament was suspended and the pallbearers included the Lord Chancellor, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and a nephew of the king.

Wilberforce is a role model for putting faith into action. He was a humanitarian reformer who contributed significantly to reshaping the political and social attitudes of the time by promoting concepts of social responsibility and action. The warm and highly productive relationship between Wilberforce and Clarkson was one of history's great partnerships: without both the parliamentary leadership supplied by Wilberforce and the research and public mobilisation organised by Clarkson, abolition of slavery could not have been achieved as soon as it was.

WEATHER REPORT

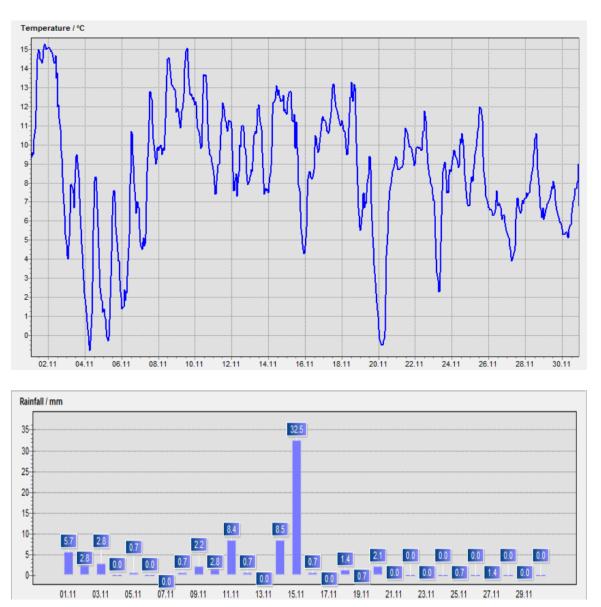


WEATHER FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Rainfall in November 2020	2.94"	75mm
Rainfall in November2019	6.3″	160mm
Rainfall for 2020	33.76"	858mm
Rainfall for 2019	34.83"	885mm

Warmest day	15.3°C on 1 st
Warmest night	12.8°C on the 14^{th}

Coldest day	7.2°C on the 27 th
Coldest night	-0.8°C on the 4 th



The most remarkable thing about the rainfall in November was that over half fell in a 24hr period, mid month.

From the MetOffice

"November began mild, wet and windy, but it briefly turned colder and more settled around the 4th-7th with a ridge of high pressure. Southerly and south-westerly winds blew frequently from the 7th to 18th, bringing mild weather with wet and windy spells. It continued mostly unsettled and mild until the 25th, with a very brief northerly outbreak on the 19th. It turned settled and colder from the 26th to 29th with high pressure and widespread fog and variable amounts of cloud, then further rain spread southwards on the 30th."

It was also on average, the 6th warmest November since 1884.

The highlights from the excellent gavsweathervids.com are that an average to slightly colder than average winter is expected for the UK and Ireland. December could often be quite cold and wintry but with some short milder periods.

A milder spell is likely through January and into February before cold weather possibly comes back again later in the winter.

As December looks relatively cold, a cold Christmas is probably more likely this year compared to average (that's not to say we will have a cold Christmas though).

New Year/early January is probably a key period this year. If the blocking patterns from December continue into January then a very cold winter is possible.

A more likely scenario is that mid-winter sees a return of milder, wetter and windier weather which could last for quite a while once it becomes established.

Cold weather is likely to come back later in the winter however (probably following a mid to late winter SSW (Sudden Stratospheric Warming).

Snow probably occurs with near normal frequency but compared to recent winters there could be more snow than we've seen for some a few years.

A very cold and snowy outbreak is possible at some point this winter (most likely later than earlier) but expect extended periods of milder and wetter weather too especially mid-winter.

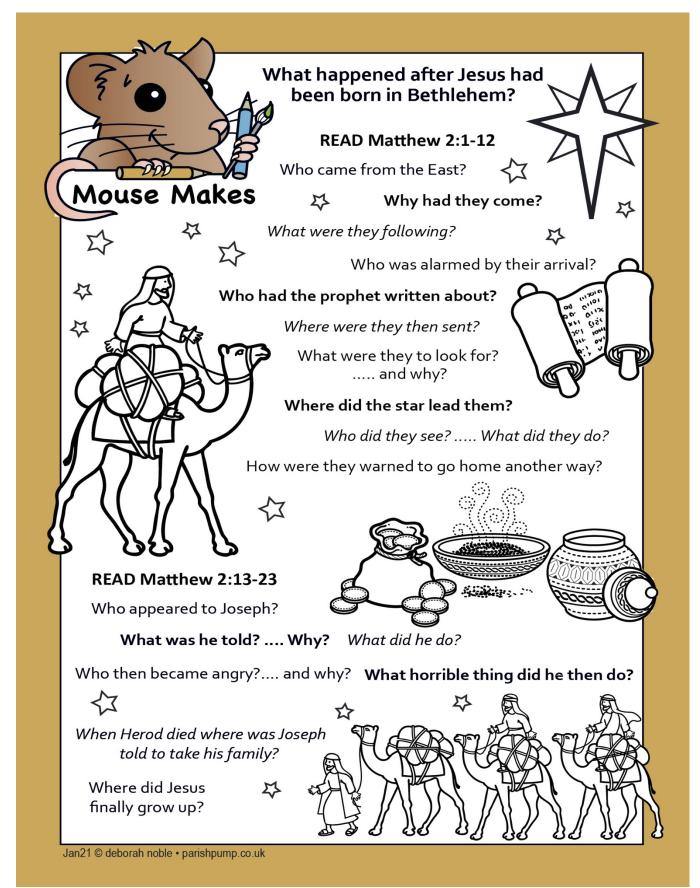
Elizabeth Ogg

Solution to Sudoku (p.32)

5	4	3	7	8	6	9	2	1
9	1	6	4	2	3	8	7	5
2	7	8	9	5	1	6	3	4
4	5	1	2	6	7	3	9	8
3	2	9	1	4	8	7	5	6
8	6	7	5	3	9	4	1	2
1	9	4	8	7	2	5	6	3
7	3	5	6	1	4	2	8	9
6	8	2	3	9	5	1	4	7

Children's Page





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Epiphany for today

This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: *Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?*' (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him? *'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.'* ('We Three Kings').





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The first man to get stopped for speeding...

It was 125 years ago, on 28th January 1896, that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2mph at the time, and a man carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But one day Mr Arnold took off at 8mph, without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle for five miles, arrested, and fined one shilling.

Mr Arnold was four times over the rather modest 2mph limit in the streets of Paddock Wood, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent. To achieve this feat today, a driver in most towns or cities would have to be travelling at over 100mph, which is probably a bit excessive.

The speed limit was changed later that same year to 14mph, but there is no record of Mr Arnold getting his money back. Nor is there any evidence that he was endangering life and limb, which used to be the criterion: the 1832 Stage Carriage Act introduced the offence of endangering someone's safety by "furious driving".

Just over 100 years later, the road safety charity Brake reports that male motorists are more than three times as likely as women to having driven at more than 100mph, because 'boy racers' believe they have more talent than the average driver. Police have caught one driver doing 120mph in a 20mph zone, another doing 152mph in a 30mph zone, and one doing an astonishing 180mph on a motorway. As Edmund King, AA president, points out: "Generally men have riskier attitudes towards driving than their female counterparts."

This affects us locally as well. Last August a car was logged at 70 mph in Lower Beeding in a 30mph speed limit and a month earlier another was recorded at 65 mph also in a 30mph limit. Sadly, this comes as no news to the locally manned Community Speed Watch who regularly witness excessive speeds on our familiar roads.

Let's go back to the policeman. We admire his athletic gumption to give chase to a car at 8mph and his determination to pursue a law breaker. However restrictive such a speed limit appears to us today, road use was very different then and a motor was a real terror to horse traffic. Times changed and so did the motors. Cars developed astonishingly rapidly and as a reminder of the pace of progress a mere twelve years later the average speed of a car race is recorded as 46mph, which is almost six times faster than our errand motorist without the red flag. As we've mentioned, our present errand drivers are speeding with reckless lack of consideration.

This is where the police come into our story again. Police forces in Britain were issued with cars as early as the 1920's, with a fleet of what were originally Model T Fords, the derisively termed 'Tin Lizzies'. By the 1930's all police forces in Britain had squad cars and with them an unenviable reputation for poor driving. The drivers were mainly young, fit men, well capable of driving in the sense of technical mastery, and professionally dedicated to the protection of the public. And that's where the problem lay. Beguiled by their role as guardians of us citizens, they drove over zealously and dangerously. Their accident rate was well above normal. Something had to be done about it. Police driving behaviour was examined in detail and gradually a set of rules were devised to make better drivers out of them. The racing driver

Mark Everard Pepys devised a driving System in 1937 to improve outcomes in police pursuits.

Drivers were given special training, based on the System, most of which can be read now in The Police Foundation's handbook 'Roadcraft'. It was first published in 1955 and the latest edition is from 2020, right up to date, much improved from the 1930's and amended for modern conditions.



There's a great deal of good sense in this handbook, none of it exceptional or really very surprising, but all of it relevant and highly effective. Take the police

'noble cause' attitude as an example. Responding to an emergency call, the enthused but inexperienced police driver, leapt to his vehicle and tore off, lights blazing and siren wailing. With all of his attention on the crisis on hand he was rapidly enveloped in a state of mind termed 'red mist'. All he saw was the road immediately in front and all he was conscious of was the urgency of his call. Far too often he became the emergency himself when his lack of accurate observation drove him into an avoidable accident; far from solving the first crisis he added another of his own.

Roadcraft shows how the approach to driving influences the entire driving event, and how problems on the road often begin long before the driver even gets into the vehicle. We need to start with a quick examination of ourselves, then the car followed by an assessment of the purpose of the journey and an overview of the wider world around us (weather, other drivers, time of day, visibility etc.) This isn't a mechanical recital of advisable instructions, but a frame of mind to be carried with us every second we drive. The most important part comes at the end. Finish the journey, switch off the engine and then pause. Reflect on what's happened, how we drove and what we could have done better. There's always something we could do better --- thinking we've few faults, or even no faults, is the worst fault.

Try asking yourself or a few friends if you consider yourself an above average driver? Nearly every man thinks he's above average, and quite a few women too. But we can't all be above average, and the more than 1,700 people killed annually on our roads shows that even that average isn't good enough. So many accidents are directly caused by driver error that the police have given up terming them accidents and call them collisions instead. Nearly every collision is caused by drivers failing to see what's there. They glance around and see what they expect not what's actually happening, often they misjudge other's speed or intentions and the inevitable happens. This is so common, in collisions involving motor bikes in particular, that the police have coined a term for it: SMIDSY, or "sorry mate, I didn't see you".

Not surprisingly then, the prime theme throughout Roadcraft is the constant beat of gathering information. Observation lies not only at the heart of good driving but is the lifeblood as well, flowing through the veins of conscientious driving. We persistently observe ourselves, the car, the scene around us and what we guess other drivers are going to do. Observing by itself isn't enough, of course. We take in information, assess it by rank of importance, plan what to do about it and change the plan when things change.

Try this simple experiment. Describe a highly dangerous road scene. We tend to think first of bad weather and high speed -- perhaps a downpour on the M1 late at night. Or we might consider a twisty road up a Welsh hillside with sharp rises and hairpin bends. How many

would think of Billingshurst high street on a Saturday morning? There's a 20mph speed limit but that's far too fast to avoid the toddler trundling from behind daddy's parked car and right into you. Or the shoppers who inconveniently remember a forgotten item half-way across the street and turn on a heel to go back, barging into you. Or the delivery van with open doors and the inattentive deliverer running right over to the newsagent. The street is dangerous because there's too many varied users, many different modes of travel, too much unpredictable destinations and too much attention anywhere but on the road. On the M1 we're all going in the same direction and all are in vehicles; in Wales we can see the road and are conscious of the stress on our car's performance; but in Billingshurst there's near chaos, and the probability of a mishap is far greater.

There's a great deal more in Roadcraft well worth pondering upon and even more worth putting into practise. You can get it at booksellers though reading it isn't enough. Like all skills, good driving comes with effort and attention, changing the casual habits of a lifetime by shrewd observation and precautionary evasion. Put its deceptively simple instructions to good use and revise every day every journey.

Fortunately, there's help at hand to do a good job. Much impressed by the success of advanced driving for the police, an enterprising group set up a similar programme for the general public. The aim was, and is, to teach the techniques of responsible driving using the police format though adapted for civilian use. Pursuit driving and emergency responses are not requirements of normal life, but careful assessment of potential hazards is.

The **Institute of Advanced Motorists** run courses of observed drives leading to an advanced test, usually given by a highly trained police examiner. Now called IAMRoadSmart, it remains as dedicated to road safety through driver training every bit as much as it did when founded back in 1956. Over these sixty-four years hundreds of drivers have passed the test and their driving record afterwards shows its value. They are materially less likely to have an accident, and those they have are less serious than the untrained.

There's an IAMRoadSmart group based in Chichester, called the Central Southern Group of Advanced Motorists, and they offer a taster session in Northgate car park on many Sunday mornings in the summer. There are plans afoot to do the same from the Pavillion's car park here in Horsham. It's not definite yet but we could well manage it and if we do we'll keep you informed.

Try out your own driving and if you're encouraged then try for the course and the test. Remember it takes 100% effort to get it. 10% to pass the test, 40% to do the series of observed drives, but 50% effort to decide to do it in the first place. Safe motoring.

Oliver Farley -National Observer, IAMRoadSmart



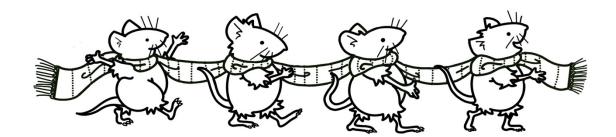






		3						1
	1						7	5
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				3			1	2
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7	3						8	
6						1		

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FAMILY SUPPORT WORK



Daniel turned up in his van from FSW to collect the Christmas Appeal items on December 14th. As asked for, the items ranged from snacks, stuffing ,gravy, tins of veg, then onto puddings and mince pies. Lots and lots of sharing chocolates and sweets, **Christmas** crackers, biscuits and cakes as well as everyday items. So, in a van load was everything a family facing a difficult Christmas could dream of. Of course, every family receives a turkey, very kindly donated by a local turkey farmer, and parcels are delivered by their support worker. As well as food items I have received gifts, gift vouchers and money.

Thank you all!

Please remember these families in your prayers and for FSW working so hard to support families every day of the year.

Kay Croll



Kay is pleased to have her house back!!

***In 2019-20 FSW have helped:

89% of parents who have had a mental health issue

40% of families who were in financial difficulty e.g. debt or difficulty paying bills

21% of families who had recent experience of domestic violence

33% of parents who were ill or disabled

Using our monitoring tool, the Families Plus Outcomes Star, we found that families experienced particular improvements in:

Emotional Wellbeing

Meeting the Emotional Needs of Children

Managing Home and Money



Mistletoe

BY <u>walter de la mare</u>

Sitting under the mistletoe (Pale-green, fairy mistletoe), One last candle burning low, All the sleepy dancers gone, Just one candle burning on, Shadows lurking everywhere: Some one came, and kissed me there.

Tired I was; my head would go Nodding under the mistletoe (Pale-green, fairy mistletoe), No footsteps came, no voice, but only, Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely, Stooped in the still and shadowy air Lips unseen—and kissed me there.



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Nicholas Culpeper by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

The complete herbal hero

Just over 400 years ago, in 1616, a legend was born; a rebel who partnered up with Mother Nature to revolutionise British medicine. The herbal hero, the botanical bad boy, the father of alternative medicine - ladies and gentlemen, I give you Nicholas Culpeper.

Culpeper did his growing up upstream in Isfield, just north of Lewes. The country lanes and starry Sussex skies were his classroom and the hedges and the heavens taught him botany, astronomy and astrology. He learnt about love too. In 1634, Culpeper and his Sussex sweetheart planned a secret Lewes wedding and a speedy elopement to the Netherlands. But tragedy struck when his love-struck lady's carriage was struck by a lightning bolt en-route to the ceremony. She died instantly.

There's no cure for a broken heart and Culpeper left Sussex to start a new life in London. He threw himself into his work as a lowly apothecary's assistant, cataloguing medicinal herbs on Threadneedle Street. At this time,



medicine was only practiced by elite physicians. They would charge exorbitant prices for their secret remedies and would not even demean themselves to talk to patients, instead requesting a sample of urine to make their diagnosis. Culpeper believed medical treatment should be available to all - not just the privileged.

Setting up his own practice in a poorer part of London, Culpeper started treating forty patients a day with herbal cures derived from English plants. Then he dropped his botanical bombshell. Culpeper published an incredible tome that instructed people how to pick their own remedies, free of charge, from the hedges and meadows. The book was 'The English Physitian' (1652, later enlarged as 'The Complete Herbal'). His book promoted and preserved folk remedies at a time when physicians and priests were discrediting village healers and preventing them from passing along their traditional knowledge. Enraged, the medical establishment accused Culpeper of witchcraft. But his Complete Herbal endured. It's been in continuous print longer than any other non-religious English language book, running rings around Tolkien and Rowling and their tales of hocus-pocus.

No doubt Culpeper's herbal remedies could have come in useful for some of you over the festive period; wild privet (for headaches), blackthorn (for indigestion), rosemary (for flatulence) and the juice of ivy berries 'snuffed up into the nose' (for hangovers). So, start 2021 by raising your Nutribullets and ginseng teas to the healing properties of Mother Nature, and to four centuries of Nicholas Culpeper.

All in the month of January

It was:

500 years ago, on 3rd January 1521 that German Protestant reformer Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X after he refused to recant his writings. A few weeks later, on 23rd January, the Diet of Worms was called by the Holy Roman Empire and ran until 25th May. This imperial assembly culminated in the Edict of the Diet of Worms, which branded Martin Luther as a heretic, and banned his writings.

125 years ago, on 28th January 1896 that Walter Arnold of Kent became the first person in the world to be convicted of speeding. The speed limit was 2 mph and a person carrying a red flag had to walk in front of the vehicle. But Arnold drove at 8 mph without a flag bearer. He was chased by a policeman on a bicycle, arrested, and fined one shilling.

100 years ago, on 28th January 1921 that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was installed beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. It honours those who died in WWI (and later also WWII) who were never identified.

80 years ago, on 5th January 1941 that Amy Johnson, pioneering British aviator, drowned in the Thames Estuary, aged 37. She had bailed out after her plane ran out of fuel and crashed in adverse weather conditions.

70 years ago, on 9th January 1951 that the United Nations moved into its present headquarters in New York City. It is a 39-floor building in the Turtle Bay area of Manhattan, overlooking the East River.

60 years ago, on 20th January 1961 that John F Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

50 years ago, on 25th January 1971 that Idi Amin became President of Uganda after deposing Milton Obote in a coup.

40 years ago, on 20th January 1981, that Ronald Reagan was inaugurated the 40th President of the United States.

30 years ago, 17th January to 28th February, that the Gulf War's 'Operation Desert Storm' took place. Invading Iraqi forces were expelled from Kuwait and the Kuwaiti monarchy was restored. It was a decisive coalition victory.

25 years ago, on 27th January 1996 that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27th January 1945) when the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated.

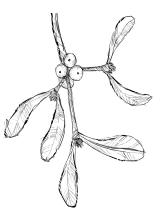
20 years ago, on 20th January 2001, that George W Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States.

Also 20 years ago, on 31st January 2001 that a Scottish court in the Netherlands convicted Abdelbaset al-Megrahi of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988. He was the head of airport security for Libyan Arab Airlines and a suspected Libyan intelligence officer. He was sentenced to life imprisonment but released on medical grounds in 2009 and died in 2012. **



Mistletoe & Mistle Thrush

Many churchyards contain mistletoe within one or more of the churchyard trees; most frequently found in lime, poplar, ash, hawthorn and fruit trees. It is a partial parasite, making some of its own food but taking minerals from the host tree. Known as a 'cureall', herbalists have long valued the medicinal properties of mistletoe, particularly useful against fits and anxiety. Research is currently underway to investigate the anticarcinogenic properties of the plant.



Mistletoe is also a plant of druids, believed in the past to have magical powers perhaps due to its evergreen nature within a deciduous tree, plus its ability to live away from the ground with no obvious roots. Druids (including Getafix in the Asterix books!) favoured mistletoe from oaks, cut with a golden sickle, although oak is seldom a host tree.



Look out for mistle thrushes stripping mistletoe of its white berries in winter. The Latin name for mistletoe is *Viscum album* whilst the mistle thrush is *Turdus viscivorus*. *Turdus* is the Latin for 'thrush' and *viscivorus* comes from *viscum* for 'mistletoe' and *vorare* 'to devour'. They certainly seem to favour mistletoe and will vigorously defend a good clump from other birds, saving the berries for hard times when other food might be scarce or covered in snow. The seed within the berry passes through the thrush and may land on a young bough of a tree where it can germinate. Churchyards are particularly good for all thrushes in winter, look for fieldfares and redwings as well, often feeding on yew or holly berries.

Andrea Andrea Gilpin

andrea@cfga.org.uk www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Although Revd. Sue Wharton works part-time there is an answer machine which is checked regularly, although **Friday** is always a day off.

HOLY BAPTISM

Enquiries about Baptism are welcome for those of all ages who live within the parish or who have a family connection with it.

In the baptism of your child, you as parents are: thanking God for his gift of life, making a decision to start your child on the journey of faith and asking for the Church's support.

Making a decision later in life to be baptised is a commitment to a life of faith, which is completed by being Confirmed in the Church.

Being baptised at any age you become part of the worshipping community of the church and we look forward to welcoming you at our services.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Marriages are celebrated between couples, one of whom is resident in the parish, who have a family connection to it, or whose name is on the Electoral Roll.
Enquiries are welcome subject to the regulations of the Church of England, more information on which and on getting married in church can be found at the following website: www.yourchurchwedding.org

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Holy Communion can be brought by members of the church to any who are sick or housebound, regularly if desired.

Relatives, friends or neighbours should feel able to pass on information about those known to be sick or in any other need. As well as receiving Holy Communion, those in need can be anointed with Holy Oil as a sign of the prayer of the Church for the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

Please contact us immediately where anyone is in danger of death.

MINISTRY OF ABSOLUTION

Advice and counsel can be requested and Absolution can be given by the priest to those wishing to make a special confession of sins. The Sacrament of Forgiveness and Reconciliation is an established part of the life and teaching of the Church of England.

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Assistant Curate, Rev'd. Martin Mills,	19 Honeywood Road, Horsham, RH13 6AE. <u>mmills.southdown@gmail.com</u>	07983 109245
Assistant Minister	4 Brick Kiln Close, RH13 6TB	01403 891 739
Mr Geoff Peckham	peckham50@gmail.com	
Church Warden (LB)	stephanie.shaw1@hotmail.com	
Mrs Stephanie Shaw		
Church Warden(LB)	18 Trinity Fields, RH13 6GH	07799 433434
Mark Bamford	mtb198@hotmail.com	
Church Warden (CF) Aidan Favell	<u>aidan@favellfinch.co</u>	07973195137
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Parish Council (LB)		
Clerk	clerk@lowerbeeding.com	
Peter Knox		

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Cowfold Village Hall Chairman Jason Bailey	Jasebailey72@gmail.com For Bookings contact the Caretaker	01403740010
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