

# Church Window

The magazine for the parishes of

**St. Peter's**

Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon



&



**St. Leonard's**

Warmingham

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. *Romans 15:13*

*Keep Well - Stay Home and Keep Safe*

**February 2021**

## Contacts

Enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals should be made to the  
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Vicarage address:

The Vicarage, Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon, Crewe, CW1 4RD

### **St. Leonard's**

Baptisms are usually held on the third Sunday of the month.

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Greetings!

I am really looking forward to meeting you all, to getting to know you and to ministering with you in partnership as we do God's work here in our benefice.

The start of 2021 continues to be a very difficult and dangerous time for us all. Many of us have lost people whom we've loved during the pandemic, all of us are facing uncertainty and hardship in various ways and both of our churches are currently shut. Although we are in the same 'storm' it could be said that we are weathering it in very different 'boats'. Covid-19



has not only physically isolated people from one another, it has also created and emphasised pre-existing differences and divisions. Your experiences of the pandemic, and your hopes and fears for the future will be different to one another and different to mine. I would love to hear them. It will be a privilege to learn about you and what you hold dear, and how your lives have changed in the past twelve months. Initially these conversations will need to be by phone or maybe Zoom – I wish this could be different and am impatient for the day when we can safely all meet face-to-face again.

Writing of a 'storm' feels odd at a time when the weather here is strangely mild and calm. In other parts of the country folk are busy building snowmen or admiring the first few flowers that point towards spring. Here we have neither, but there are various things poking through the ground that offer signs of exciting life to come in the future. They are reminders of the one who sows the seeds, liberally and with abundant generosity. They are reminders too of His Kingdom – the place both here and not yet here where tiny seeds of kindness and love produce mighty results though the work of the Spirit. Neither Carl nor I are very accomplished gardeners, so we can only guess at what might appear and blossom in the garden here in the coming weeks and months. I'm holding on to this promise of unknown but good things to come whenever I get frustrated by not being able to plan. God brings miraculous beauty out of tiny muddy seeds and bulbs, and He will bring great things for us as churches and communities also.

But for now, we weather the storm that surrounds us, with the knowledge that we are held and known and loved by Christ who is with us in our boats, closer to us than our clothes, closer even than our breath.

*Revd Catherine Cleghorn*

## From our January registers



**Baptisms** will resume when we re-open for services again on Sundays.



Weddings can only legally happen in exceptional circumstances at the moment.



*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted”*

**Funerals** Government guidance permits a maximum of thirty people attending, subject to the church carrying out a risk assessment and taking all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of coronavirus.

St. Peter's

28th Wilfred Overall

Further information can be found on the Chester Diocese website -  
Coronavirus (Covid-19) guidance for churches

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

<http://www.warminghamchurch.weebly.com>

<http://www.stpeters-leighton.org.uk>

# Saturday Church



Saturday Church is held in Warmingham Village Hall from 9.45am with craft, stories, songs and worship for families of all ages.

We have table activities and worship: story, prayers and listen to songs. For more information please contact Helan Isherwood [helan.isherwood@sky.com](mailto:helan.isherwood@sky.com) / 01606 841711.

**February Saturday Church is cancelled. We may be able to meet on 13th March.**

**Future Saturday Church dates  
17th April, 8th May, 12th June, 10th July**

**St. Leonard's and St. Peter's**



**Postponed until further notice**



The PCC meetings planned for Tuesday 2nd February (St. Leonard's) and Tuesday 9th February (St. Peter's) are postponed.

## The Induction Service for the Revd Catherine Cleghorn, held in St. Peter's Church at 7pm on Tuesday 26th January 2021

We held the Induction Service for Revd Catherine Cleghorn which was live streamed and watched by one hundred and twenty-six households. The service was held at St. Peter's Minshull Vernon instead of St. Leonard's Warmingham so that the media team could get as close as possible to the church and due to the fact that only essential people could attend due to the pandemic.

The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner, gave the sermon based on Catherine's choice of reading 1 Peter 1:3 to the end, which was read by Ron Gallimore. It was a joyous occasion and excellent that parishioners could feel part of the service remotely. Hopefully in the coming months we will be able to be together and get to know Catherine and her husband Carl welcoming them into our respective parishes.

If you haven't watched the service and would like to do so the link can be found on the websites and Facebook pages. *Janet Furber, Churchwarden, St. Leonards, Warmingham*



It was a surreal experience as we entered the Church surrounded by lights, cameras and microphones, coupled with the constraints of Covid compliance with social distancing and face masks. Even though we all had a script to work to, it all felt initially that with a wider on-line audience and no chance of a second take, things could go horribly wrong!

However our fears were allayed when our 'new' Bishop (Mark) uttered his first words and almost immediately the stress levels waned. His laid back and down to earth approach was a breath of fresh air and a far cry from the usual formal, stiff upper lip delivery. His powerful sermon was quick and to the point, while being humorous at times. Especially when recounting the time when his baby daughter woke in the middle of the night crying Daaaaad! And needing a wee!

The service went along smoothly with expert help from the Archdeacon (Ian) and the recently crowned Rural Dean (Alison).

There was a strong collaboration between all four Churchwardens from both churches, plus the Verger for the night (Chris). We all had our own parts to play in the proceedings.

For my part, I had the unenviable task of delivering the extensive reading from 1 Peter 1 verse 3 to the end. I don't remember being that nervous since walking my wife up the aisle in this church fifty-one years ago! On watching it back the day after, I couldn't help noticing how old I looked (must have been the cameras!).

For her part, Catherine proved confident, professional and lucid, whilst emitting warmth and dedication. With her youth and understanding of today's technical, multi-media world, with the help and support of her husband (Carl) she is already planning to minister to us via on-line platforms whilst the churches remain closed.

With her induction now successfully concluded, we can now look forward with optimism for the future, with the hope she can grow the both churches and their communities and in this, we wish her all the best!

With the help of Jesus Christ ...

*Ron Gallimore, Churchwarden  
St. Peter's, Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon*



Having been asked to write something else for the magazine I was really struggling to think of a subject. Then a very wise friend of forty-five years plus sent me this piece of writing and I thought it was so lovely I would share it with you.

## **The Train of Life**

**Life is like a journey on a train ... with stations ... with changes of routes ... and with accidents!**

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believed they will always travel by our side.

However at some station our parents will skip down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by other people will board the train, and they will be significant ... our siblings, friends, children and even the love of your life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realise they've vacated their seats! Which is very sad if you think about it.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, expectations, fantasy, hellos, goodbyes and farewells

Success consists of having good relationships with all the passengers .... Requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is, we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So we must live in the best way ...

Love, forgive and offer the best of who we are, it is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey this year on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly give thanks for the journey.

Lastly I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train.



This was written on the morning of the 5th of January 2021, the first day of the new lockdown. So with this in mind I realise the journey may be a bit rocky for a while yet. However there is light at the end of the tunnel in the form of the vaccination. Good luck everyone and see you at the other end.

*Gilly Gainsborough*

*David Pickup, a solicitor, considers scam emails.*

## **Do me a favour?**

I just had an email from a clergyman, saying, “Hi” and asking me to do him “a favor”. I replied to say yes, of course. I then began to wonder why he had not said what sort of favour it was, and why he was asking me.

I decided to telephone him and find why he had not explained. His wife answered and said: “Is it about the fake email?” I could tell from her tone of voice that I was not the first caller.

This was a scam of some sort and probably the favour was to send money. The same day someone else in the same parish had their accounts hacked. The email addresses used were correct, but if I had looked carefully I would have noticed he would not spell “favour” like that and not say “hi”.

This all makes me quite cross, because these scammers are playing on church members’ kindness. A friend of mine also got the email and was upset that someone else was in trouble. We need to be aware of the risks and look out for messages of any kind which seem strange.

Criminals target churches and pretend to send emails from people in authority such as clergy, churchwardens or treasurers. They prey on our credulity and charity.

What should we do?

If you get a telephone call or email and you are not sure if it is genuine, use another form of communication to check.

It is a crime, so report it to the authorities. If it is connected to a church, tell your diocese or governing body.

The scammers must have got these addresses from somewhere. How easy would it be to get a list of the names and addresses of your minister, leaders and treasurer?

Lastly, carry on being generous and kind. These scammers should not stop us.

### 3rd Lockdown

It's now the 3rd lockdown we are in and this time I believe is harder for many people.

Schools are using Teams to do lessons with the students at home but some students are in school because their parents are key workers etc. I'm one of the ones at home and at first we didn't use Teams in the first lockdown but in this lockdown we are. At first when we started Teams I preferred doing it at home but I think for most it's getting a bit boring and they want to be back at school. Luckily we have started to have the vaccine now and my Mum has had it as she works in the hospital as a midwife and my Granddad is getting his next week.



I believe many people think this is the start of normality and hopefully it is; but I think we will still have to be careful in what we do and will still need to be cautious of what may be there but hidden. This lockdown might affect some people's health and mental health greatly but I know that we will defeat the virus some day and we must try to stay positive. This lockdown may go on for a while still and be the longest one yet but soon I hope the cases will decrease and people will be able to see their family and friends and give them a hug.



Lockdown hasn't all really been bad as this winter we have had snow!! And I'm sure many people love the snow and have gone out in it and had fun with their families, like I have with my dog.

At church, people have not been able to go for many reasons such as the restrictions, but we now must look forward to the future, hopefully coming back to church soon and welcoming the new vicar to our church and getting to know her. Thank you to Philip and Gail for looking after us and the church for the time they have.

*Ruby Humphrey*

## **Ash Wednesday: A good time to admit you are sorry**

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus).  
*(Luke 5.32)*

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.  
*(Isaiah 55.7)*

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’  
*(Joel 2:12-13)*

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

### **A prayer for the pandemic**

Dear Father God,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need your listening ear at this time – and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust you and to know that you are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social-distancing, you are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills you have given to scientists all over the world. Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring. Most of all thank you for the hope which Jesus brings. This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life. Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*



## **Do your days rush by at a hectic pace?**

*By the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle.*

Have you ever stopped to think that your mobile phone and emails have not given you *more* time? Just *more things to do* in the same amount of time.

We leave our messages in one place while we take our bodies elsewhere. Instead of doing one thing after another, we shoot out a variety of tasks, and then swoop down on them later, needing to deal with them all at once.

In a four-minute clip from a street scene from an old Orson Welles film and a similar clip from a more recent film, you will see an amazing difference. In the early film, the camera records 'real time' – people get out of their cars, walk across streets, wait for lights, speak to other people, enter a bank. In the more recent film, a similar sequence was reduced to a half a dozen quick cuts. Transition time was eliminated.

Modern life teaches us that 'down time' is wasted. Time is money. So mobile phones, emails, etc, enable us to 'waste' less time. The tempo of cultural life picks up, the heartbeat of daily life races, and our own body rhythms respond with adrenaline, cramped muscles and heart attacks.

To take time out for daily prayer, for a quiet walk that is not to the next meeting, for daydreaming or for Bible study becomes a cross-cultural act. Following Christ, waiting on Him, is a countercultural act.

One lovely biblical phrase is 'in the fullness of time, it came to pass'. This suggests four things: that time crests like a wave; that there is a right moment for things to happen; that it's not ours to plan that moment, but to recognise it; and that we are not the primary agents of what happens in the world.

So, feel free to accept God's offer of rest when you are weary; receive each moment of your life as a gift from God's hand; pray to discern what each new encounter you make requires of you, and freely entrust everything else to God's care.

## **Lent Course at Warmingham**

If circumstances allow, we hope to organise a Lent Course either by Zoom or in the Village Hall as last year on Monday evenings during Lent - that is from Monday 22nd February for five weeks.

## The birds and bees

Here is some good news: all new major roads will have wildflower-friendly verges that could boost our numbers of birds and bees.

Highway England has said that vibrant road verges will be created as standard on new roads over three hundred miles in England, using low nutrient soils which will be seeded with wildflowers or left to grow naturally.

A staggering ninety-seven per cent of our meadows have been destroyed since the Thirties, due to modern agriculture. This means that the 238,000 hectares of road verges across the UK could become a vital habitat for pollinators.

The Government has pledged to build 4,000 miles of new road by 2025.

## National survey finds our favourite walks

Where do we most like to walk? A recent survey has found that two places in the Lake District are clear winners.

Top comes the gently accessible Buttermere Circuit, with its rippling silver water, mountain views, peace and quiet. Second is the demanding eight-hour climb up Helvellyn, which is not for the faint-hearted.

Then comes the Rhossili Headland walk in Gower, and the Solva to St David's route in Pembrokeshire, both in Wales.

The survey was done by the consumer champion group Which?

## 😊 Slow down

Each Sunday morning our minister was mildly irritated by a member of the congregation who was a fast reader. Finally, announcing the 23rd Psalm, he added:

“And will the lady who is always by ‘the still waters’ while the rest of us are still in ‘green pastures,’ please pause until we catch up?”



## **It is not enough to love – you need to be loved**

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others - without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity - of great strength. But it can also be one of pride - we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem - we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger - we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs - whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual - you will not last the distance.

If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker and accept God's love, given to you through other people.

## **Can you find sixteen books of the Bible?**

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a real revelation, some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the truth finally struck home to the numbers of readers. To others it was a real job to find them. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you.

Yes there will be some really difficult ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little old lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of the Bible books hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes, but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one.

*Kath Burgess*

Clue – some of the words run together. Answers on page 29.

## **☺ Pray with grannie**

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"

## Candlemas: Tuesday 2nd February

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Feast of the Holy Encounter, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple.

Candlemas is celebrated annually on 2nd February. It celebrates three occasions according to Christian belief: the presentation of the child Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the temple; and it celebrates the Virgin Mary's purification (mainly in Catholic churches).

The Candlemas Bells, also known as Snowdrops, symbolize hope according to Christian belief.

Snowdrops (*galanthus nivalis*) are known as Candlemas Bells because they often bloom early in the year, even before Candlemas.



The superstitious used to believe that these flowers should not be brought into the house prior to Candlemas. However, it is also believed in more recent times that these flowers purify a home.

According to folklore, an angel helped these Candlemas bells to bloom and pointed them as a sign of hope to Eve, who wept in repentance and in despair over the cold and death that entered the world. Many Christians see the flower as a symbol of Jesus Christ being this hope for the world.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

## St. Peter's and St. Leonard's February Services

**St. Peter's and St. Leonard's are temporarily closed for public worship. This situation will be kept under review.**

### St. Peter's February Readings

Date	Communion 10.45am	Evensong 7.00pm
Sunday 7th February The 2nd Sunday before Lent	Colossians 1:15-20  Gospel: John 1:1-14	Genesis 2:4b-22  Luke 8:22-25
Sunday 14th February The Sunday next before Lent	2 Corinthians 4:3-6  Gospel: Mark 9:2-9	1 Kings 19:1-16  2 Peter 1:16-end
Wednesday 17th February Ash Wednesday		Isaiah 58:1-12  John 8:1-11
Sunday 21st February The 1st Sunday of Lent	Genesis 9: 8-11  Gospel: Mark 1:9-13	Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7  Luke 13:31-35
Sunday 28th February The 2nd Sunday of Lent	Romans 4:13-25  Gospel: Mark 8:31-38	Genesis 12:1-9  John 8:51-59
Sunday 7th March The 3rd Sunday of Lent	1 Corinthians 1:18-20  Gospel: John 2:13-16	Exodus 5:1-8  Matthew 10: 16-20

## Schools and term time amid Covid-19 uncertainty

As we launch in to 2021, with rapidly rising numbers of infections, it is all too easy to lose our bearings. So says Nigel Genders, the Church of England's Chief Education Officer.

He urges that rather than argue along the “usual political fault lines”, or to follow newspaper articles putting the blame either on ‘incompetent politicians’ or ‘radical school staff’, according to their editorial bias, “there must be a better approach where we can take a step back and consider what is really in the best interest of the children, staff, and communities we serve.

“The Church of England provides a quarter of England’s primary schools and more than 200 secondary schools, so I know first-hand, from school leaders the length and breadth of the country, how tirelessly schools work for the good of the nation’s children and how committed they are to continuing that work in 2021.”

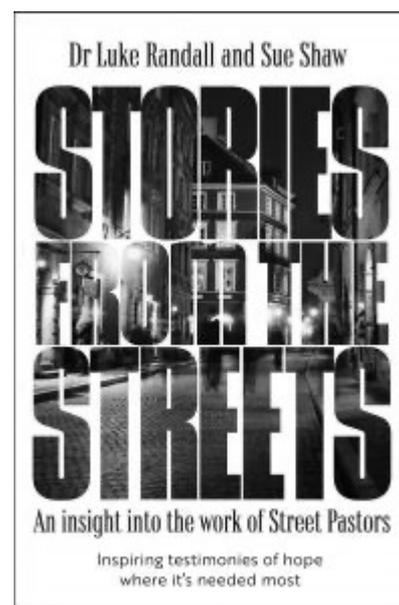
### – an insight into the work of Street Pastors

By Luke Randall and Sue Shaw, Instant Apostle, £9.99

This book celebrates the excellent work done by the formidable army of ‘Street Pastors’, Christian volunteers who have become a welcome presence in their various towns and cities across the nation.

Founded on the streets of Brixton by the Revd Les Isaac, OBE, in 2003 as a response to critical social issues, there are now two hundred and seventy Street Pastor groups across the UK and seven internationally. More than 12,000 volunteers have been trained to serve as Street Pastors, not only on the streets but in many other public spheres as well, such as schools and after terrorist attacks.

Whether offering a listening ear to a vulnerable clubber, mentoring a troubled teen, giving food to a homeless person or responding to a national emergency, Street Pastors have been credited with saving police and NHS time and money, reducing crime and improving neighbourhoods. The work is supported by churches of every denomination.



## **St. Paul's Pantry**

Hightown, Crewe. CW1 3BY Tel: 01270 586186

Here's our monthly Foodbank data for December that you may wish to share with your congregations:-

Donations of food received weighed 5866 kg and we were able to help 257 people during the month.

If you are able to donate, we are currently running low on long life milk, sugar, tinned meat pies, and rice pudding. We are open Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.30pm for donations at our rear entrance. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best Wishes, John Rivers

Website <http://stpaulscentre.org.uk/book/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscentre/>

## **Sir Keir Starmer praises churches**

Christianity has provided a blueprint for social improvement, according to the Labour Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer.

Writing in a recent issue of Church Times, he said, "For all the loss and difficulty, we should not let this year be defined by pain. Throughout the pandemic, we have also seen the best of humanity."

Sir Keir said that during this past year "religious institutions and local communities have banded together for the common good, showing us the very best of Britain." And he went on to say that "the best of British values" that have surfaced during the pandemic "are also the best of Christian values."

### **It's all in the spelling...**

G - God

R - Ran

A - Alongside

C - Carrying

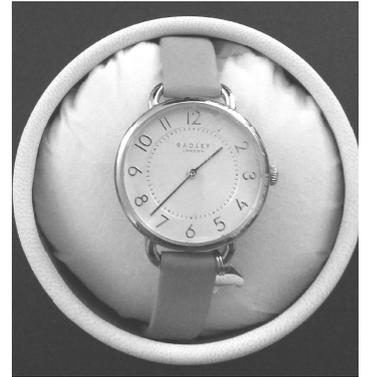
E - Everything

## Thank you for our gifts!

Many of you have very kindly and generously contributed to a farewell present for Gail and myself. Gail has received a rather nice Radley wrist watch with which she is well pleased.

We have also been given a dovecote for the garden which we are delighted to receive.

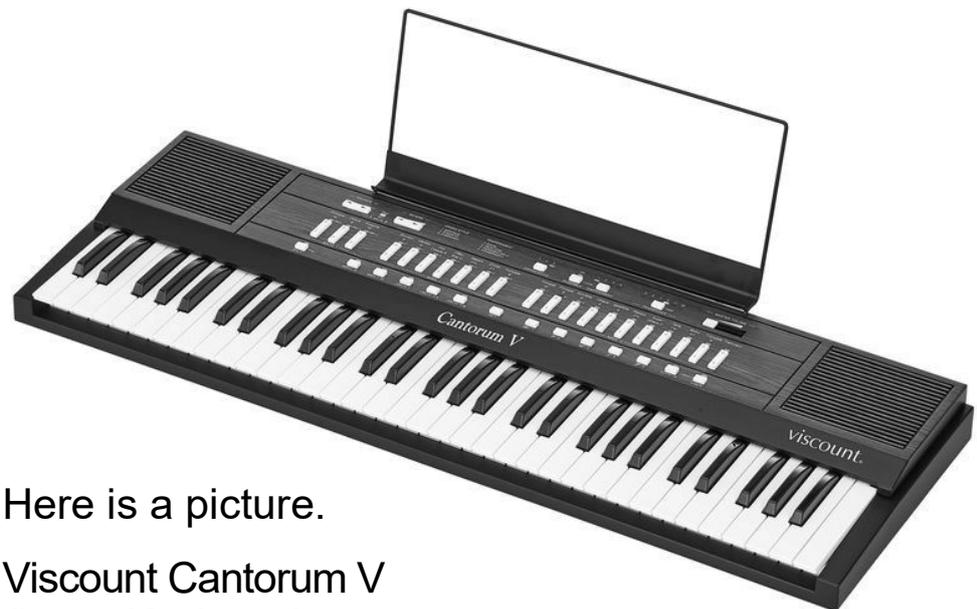
I have been given a splendid keyboard – but not any old keyboard! This one only plays as an organ for the accompaniment of church or other choral music. So it replicates in miniature what you might expect of a church organ.



This is precisely what I have wanted for a long time.

A few of you have already listened to the sorts of beautiful sounds it can produce, but if you haven't then paste the following into your PC browser and click on the demo options.

[https://www.thomann.de/gb/viscount\\_cantorum\\_v\\_organ\\_keyboard.htm](https://www.thomann.de/gb/viscount_cantorum_v_organ_keyboard.htm)



Here is a picture.

Viscount Cantorum V  
Organ Keyboard

So Gail and I say a very big Thank You.

We ask you to remember Catherine, my successor, Carl her husband, and the two parishes in your prayers. I am confident you will give her your support and encouragement. These are challenging times for us all, and present special challenges for a new incumbent taking over a parish. *Philip*

## News from Warmingham CE Primary

Firstly, we would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year – and boy what a start to the year we have had!

The children returned to school excited to find out about their new study theme. There had been an alien invasion in Otters class, Hedgehogs started their space journey by learning about Buzz Aldrin, Squirrels were designing and making paper planes and Badgers had a real strange day. Miss Rauer started the day by introducing lots of silly new rules. After play she split them into two groups – some had to sit on the floor to complete their work and the rest were able to sit at the table with their feet up on the spare chairs. They then spent the afternoon learning about Rosa Parks. The children left school really enthused about their new study themes. Later that day, 8pm to be precise, we heard that schools were to close once more for the majority of our children. We then spent the next few hours ensuring that we would be open in the morning for our key worker families and start remote learning with the rest of our families.

Luckily, we were prepared. Our children have been using Google Classrooms in school so they were more than prepared for the change. On the Tuesday morning, we met with the children via Zoom to explain what was going to happen and to reassure them that they would still be learning and seeing their friends in the virtual world. This hasn't stopped. Along with two live lessons, there is also a weekly plan of tasks and activities for the children to complete. This is linked to their study theme. We are now into our fourth week and things are going well. It's not the same as being in school – nothing will ever beat being in a classroom with a talented teacher – but we're making the best of a bad situation. Our parents are doing an incredible job, considering that most of them are also working from home.

*with God*  
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. . . MATTHEW 19:26

## Have you done something which haunts you?

Do you ever worry that your past failings mean that God will not accept you now? Some of us have done many things which we regret, things that have caused us, or others, great pain.

We've given our children short shrift, we've betrayed our marriage partners, we've been dishonest at work, we've been ruthlessly greedy and ambitious, no matter what the cost to anyone else. And now the memory of the wrong we've done lingers, and makes us ashamed. Our past failings make us very reluctant to turn to God. Why should He forgive the damage we have done?

If you think this way, then you have a big surprise waiting for you: God isn't like that. You haven't yet encountered His GRACE. God knows all about you, and most of all He knows you need His help. Jesus said that He came into the world to reach sinners, to help anyone who turns to Him in true repentance to find forgiveness, and a new start.

You can't do anything to turn yourself into a good person. But you don't have to. All that God asks of you is that you turn to Jesus in prayer, and say you are sorry, and ask Him to forgive you, and to put His Spirit within you. Then you find His GRACE – which means His loving-kindness, beginning in YOUR life. Just try it.

Today let God begin to set you free from the past!



### The Cat's Prayer

Dear Lord if you have time to spare,  
Please listen to my feline prayer,  
I want to thank you for this day,  
It's gone so quickly but I humbly pray,  
Thank you for giving me a loving home,  
Food to eat and a garden to roam,  
And for those of us who go without,  
Please watch over them, don't leave them out,  
My eyes are sleepy, it's time to end,  
Goodnight, God bless.  
Your faithful friend.

Prayer for dog owners:

"Lord, please make me the kind of person my dog thinks I am."

## What happened to your New Year's resolution?

If you are already struggling to keep it, here is something that might help you.

Psychologists advise that it is useless to say you are going to quit anything. Instead, make your resolution to change into something positive. For example, instead of "I will give up sweets," say "I will eat fruit twice a day."

It seems that people with an 'approach goal' score greater success than those who see themselves quitting something they still like. As one Swedish doctor explained: "You cannot erase a behaviour, but you can replace it with something else."

The most popular resolutions regard physical health, weight loss and change of eating habits. The research was done at Stockholm University.

## Want to feel better? Cuddle your pet

If you think you feel better after cuddling your dog or cat, there is a good reason: you really *do* feel better.

After only three minutes of cuddling your pet, your levels of oxytocin, the 'love' hormone, increase, according to a recent study from Australia's Monash University.

And just five minutes of cuddling will also raise your levels of the two wellbeing and happiness hormones, endorphin and dopamine. So says a recent report in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*.

In her recent book, *Your Pet, Your Pill*, vet Margit Gabriele Muller says that caressing a dog or other pet provides exactly the same health benefits as skin-on-skin contact with another human. The hormones that are released "are the same as when you're breastfeeding or cuddling a partner."

Furthermore, a study at Liverpool University last year found that dog owners are four times more likely to be fit than other people.



## 😊 Collection

The church newsletter announced details of the church creche: 'Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.'

## **National Nest Box Week – time to help your garden birds**

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nest Box Week, which is celebrated from 14th February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nest boxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nest boxes. Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>



## **Smart bird**

Ravens have been found to be among the cleverest animals in the world. These largest members of the crow family can even score as high on intelligence tests as chimpanzees.



Ravens can remember where food is hidden, can use tools to get at it, follow human faces with their eyes, and understand what people mean when they point. All in all, researchers praise their “general, sophisticated cognitive skills.”

The study was carried out at Osnabruck University in Germany.

## **Mountains make you feel better**

The natural environment can make a real impact on your mood. Mountains can leave you feeling more optimistic, while the ocean can help boost your inspiration.

A recent study at Goldsmiths University of London found that water is most effective at increasing positive emotions, such as happiness and inspiration. Woodlands can help you forget your worries, and fields and meadows can enhance your energy levels.



## Church Action on Poverty

### Sunday, 21st February

This month you can join churches around the UK in prayer, giving and action, on behalf of those who are struggling with poverty. Society

should be “founded on compassion and justice, where all people are able to exercise dignity, agency and power,” says Church Action on Poverty.

For free resources to encourage prayer and fund-raising, go to: [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/).

### Fairtrade Fortnight: 22nd February – 7th March

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.

In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heat waves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.

So this month, why not visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) and see how you can send some support.



### 😊 Disperse them

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the harsh realities his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, “What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?”

He thought for a moment and then said, “I would pass an offering plate.” He got the job.

## Ten points to ponder as we look back on 2020

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
3. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
4. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came to my house and told my dog... We had a good laugh.
5. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
6. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
7. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a six-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
8. I need to practice social-distancing... from the refrigerator.
9. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip out to the bins!
10. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go into a bank with a mask on and ask for money.

## Friend

If there's someone you can turn to  
when no one wants to know.  
If there's somewhere you can go to  
when there's nowhere else to go.  
If there's someone who will help you  
without ever asking why,  
and always give you answers true  
when others, they just lie.  
If that someone's like an oak tree,  
that with the wind won't bend,  
then you're truly very lucky  
for you really have a friend.



*H. K. Banks*

# Warmingham Village News

## Facebook Groups

Warmingham Village Community Group is a Facebook site for community announcements and events. This is a group you can join or put posts on.

Warmingham Village Hall is a Facebook site that has news about events at the Village Hall.

## Warmingham & District W.I.

Unfortunately the Women's Institute is still unable to meet.

Some planned events for Spring if we can get together:

March 3rd      A Crewe Factory Girl – The Life of Ada Neild Chew  
*Talk by Graham Dodd*

April 7th      Black and White Film Night      *A Members Night*

May 5th      Tropics Pamper Evening      *With Jo Mathers*

Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of every month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome and for further information please contact Helan on 01606 841711 or

helan.isherwood@sky.com

## A Lovely Surprise

Some villagers had a lovely surprise just before Christmas when they received a hand-made Christmas card and a gift of some chocolates from children in "Badgers" class at Warmingham School.

What a generous and thoughtful idea from the children.

Watch out for more ideas from the pupils who want to be helpful and friendly members of the Warmingham community.

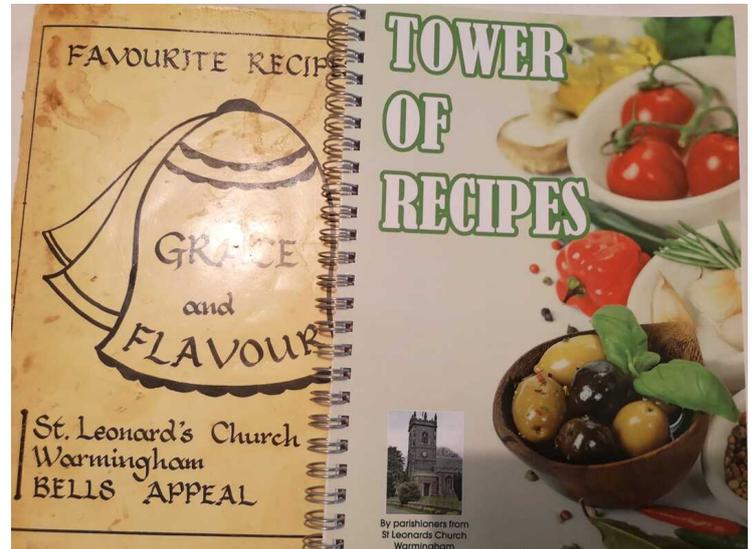
## Wanted

Plot of land to rent or buy in Warmingham suitable for an allotment.

Contact: Colin Ure, 1 Cornmill Close Warmingham on 07368 955941

## A Tower of Recipes

St Leonard's Church are selling copies of our recipe book, 'A Tower of Recipes' with all proceeds going to the restoration of the Church Tower. The book also includes some original recipes from the first book, 'Grace and Flavour' made by the ladies of Warmingham in the 1980's! It costs just £6 and includes over 60 recipes. To purchase a copy, email [lucyfurber@talktalk.net](mailto:lucyfurber@talktalk.net)



## Leave them be

The National Trust has urged the public to stay away from certain areas during breeding season this Spring. It hopes to mimic the effects of lockdown last year, which helped more vulnerable species.

The call follows the discovery last year that lockdown did our peregrine falcons, grey partridges and other species a real favour.

The tern colony at Blakeney Point in Norfolk had a bumper season, with more than two hundred little tern chicks fledged, the most in twenty-five years. The Peak District saw more curlew, and the Llyn Peninsula saw more stoats, weasels and rabbits emerging from the woodlands of Plasyn Rhiw. Meanwhile, the ruins of Corfe Castle in Dorset became home to peregrine falcons, and a cuckoo arrived in Osterley, west London. Even Dartford warblers were on the move, some to as far as Shropshire.



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## St. Peter's February Book of Remembrance

4th	Frank Thomas (1987), Mary Corsbie (1990)
5th	Frank Foster (1956), Vera Riley (2007)
7th	Stella Whiston (2002)
8th	Elizabeth Hobson (1984), Samuel Foster (1998)
9th	Lilian Riley (2012)
10th	Margaret Edge (2013)
12th	Robert (Bob) Harding (2014), Claire Gough (2019)
15th	Richard Callwood (1997)
16th	Doris Craven (1935), Anne Hulse (2004)
17th	William Morrey (1917), Maggie Ollerhead (1995)
18th	Edith Wood (2006), Richard Hollinshead (2020)
19th	Frances Mason (2004)
21st	Doreen Gray (2010)
22nd	Gladys Bostock (1993)
23rd	Elizabeth Pollard (1997), William Birchall (2005)
24th	William Coates (Priest) (1894), Philip Curzon Powell (1995), Jayne Evans (2010), Keith Wood (2012)
26th	Frank Thomas (1976), Harry Gallimore (2011), Elfriede Peake (2015)
27th	Violet Ollerhead (1969), Charles Newton (1880), Bessie Didsbury (1999), Thomas Craven (2014)
28th	Mary Webster (1920), Roy de-la-Haye (2001), Kathleen Evans (2009)

### Answers: Did you find sixteen books of the Bible?

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **fluke**). It kept people **looking** so hard for the **facts** and for others it was a real **revelation**, some were in a **jam** especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the **truth** finally struck home to the **numbers** of readers. To others it was a real **job** to find them. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you.

**Yes there** will be some really difficult ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it usually** takes a minister to find one of them. There will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little old lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. **Relax now**, for there really are sixteen names of the Bible books hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes, but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one.

# Grants

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