

INSIDE OUT

news from
WOODBIDGE, ST MARY

Issue 6 April 2022



FROM DUST TO RESURRECTION



Just a year ago a former colleague was helping me adapt our own 'virtual' Lenten prayer walk, 'Stations of the Cross' for our church website during lockdown. His subsequent and tragic death, like so many others we know, makes one ask all kinds of difficult questions about God's presence or absence. On the global stage too, we inevitably think of the devastating effects of climate change on the one hand or the barbaric invasion of Ukraine on the other. We react with loud and emotional protest or, its opposite, with deafening silence and tears. Is it no wonder that one shopkeeper asked me a few years back, why do we dare to speak about a 'GOOD' Friday at all? That's not an easy one to answer when you are just buying your daily newspaper...

The former Archbishop of Canterbury can help us through this conundrum or inner conflict, when he said:

"St John of the Cross, in the 16th century, wrote that Jesus achieved more in his motionless silence, dead on the cross, than in the whole of his ministry... all we can do is keep silent. But for John of the Cross, as for all Christians, that silence is the beginning of a global renewal. It is the darkness in which God is allowed to be God, in which the world, descending into its inner chaos, returns to the very moment of creation, when God speaks into the darkness."

So when today's pilgrims come to join us again at St Mary's this year on their way to Walsingham, and stop the night in our Hall on Palm Sunday; when all our churches of every denomination, walk silently together and hold up the Cross until we arrive in Elmhurst Park on Good Friday...perhaps prayer is the best response of all, instead of lots of well-meant words and piety or loud Gospel songs? Isn't that where renewal and re-birth come from, in that 'dark night of the soul' on a hospital ward, a refugee camp, or a bombed out neighbourhood of high-rise flats? Silently.

Out of the rubble of dereliction, we look at death in the face and stare at the futility and sadness certainly. But we must also look for and seek out the empty tomb, for those sunflowers nearby (which are the national flower of Ukraine) and for our Risen Lord among them. Christ's first greeting will always be: 'Peace be with you.'

May this Lent and Easter teach us all how to live and love more sacrificially and prayerfully. And may we see that in all the dark places of this world, the glimmer of God's light, justice and peace, can never be extinguished. Our common faith will matter more than ever if we can trust, look for and discover 'Stations of the Resurrection' in the world also.

In love and hope

Fr Nigel, Rector

Email: rector@stmaryswoodbridge.org

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

In a week in which war has broken out on the eastern edge of Europe, it might have seemed inappropriate that the cycle saw 2022 focus on our home nations on the western side. But God works in mysterious ways. This annual service, whose forerunner The Women's World Day of Prayer, originated in 19th century USA, and whose first service in England was 90 years ago this year, draws churches of every hue together in one near-synchronous day.

How fitting that the first reading drew on Jeremiah: "The kingdom of Judah had been invaded and many people taken from Jerusalem into exile. The people had lost their land, they longed to return, but the future looked bleak".

We - men and women of every church in Melton or Woodbridge - joined at St Thomas to pray for those in our country living in "exile" due to poverty, living in fear of abuse, living in loneliness and isolation. But our hearts were with those in the Ukraine who have been physically dislodged: exiled and in fear of losing all they have known.

We - men and women across the world - ended with a prayer specially written for the day.

God of the past, the present and the future, Our thoughts and prayers are with our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and the surrounding countries in their fear and distress. We pray too for all other regions of the world where there is conflict, unrest or oppression. We pray that reconciliation will overcome hatred, peace will conquer war, hope will replace despair and that your plans for the world and for us people will be fulfilled. God, in your mercy Hear our prayer.

Jane Cole

PILGRIMAGE

An opportunity to re-evaluate one's life in recognition of a need for change, and a desire to do so, can be a reason for pilgrimage today. Or perhaps the Camino experience provides 'opportunities to live another reality for a while, discovering different perspectives of seeing and being in the world.'

The most popular (and famous) destination for the modern pilgrim is Santiago de Compostela, but most pilgrims believe it is the journey to the site that enables growth and insight, with the shrine "merely" signifying the end of that journey, whilst some are convinced of the importance of the return home and its place within the pilgrimage. Just as the journey outwards and the destination are opportunities for spiritual growth and understanding, the return home offers renewed settings and circumstances for longer reflection and the putting into practice of those insights gained while away.

Rita James



'HERE & THERE' - IT'S SPRING!

NEW BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR: We are delighted to welcome Linda Rumbold into the upstairs Office at St Mary's House and hope she will enjoy working with us all. Her hours at present are different from Katherine's, namely: Tuesday to Friday, 9am – 2pm. Please do pop in and say 'hello'.



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE: 'A Celebration in Flowers' at St Mary's Woodbridge from 2 - 5 June. It is going to be spectacular but we still need more arrangers and helpers (there will be Royal Tea and Cake available every day) and, nearer the time some kind sponsors.



VISITING CHOIR: Imperial College, London, Chamber Choir are singing Haydn's 'Little Organ Mass' on 10 March, Palm Sunday, to mark the beginning of Holy Week at St Mary's. Come and hear them on their first visit to us!



'MESSY CHURCH':

Thank You to those who recently took part by 'jumping into spring' and reviving our 'Eco Garden' in the churchyard. Children and families are welcome for our next get together on Saturday, 16th April, (from 10am) preparing lots of Easter fun!



ELDERS' RETIRE: A big thank you to Jill Richardson, Jeremy Stewart, Margaret Lowe, and Margie Stagg who have helped over so many years in official parish matters, liturgical and pastoral (and we suspect always will unofficially). They have shown such faithful friendship and company to so many in Woodbridge. Well done, and our prayers go with you.



A NEW VOTIVE CANDLE stand is currently being made by our great local blacksmith, Tom Moye – and our thanks to David and Christian Berridge for helping with the various design issues and Fr Nigel for getting PCC and Diocesan blessing. With the many visitors we welcome, it will be wonderful to offer the opportunity for people to be able to light their own candles in front of Our Lady's beautiful statue.

ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL. Fr Nigel recently joined the CEO of Fairtrade, Mike Gidney, for a special assembly on what this campaigning organisation does (as well as present two writing prizes to two of the children). We discovered that the teachers drink a lot of tea and coffee in the staffroom - but it was not FAIRTRADE! So we decided that this must change and the school are going to apply to become a Fairtrade school; this could mean bigger orders from our own church shop. Watch this space!

ART EXHIBITION: A 'Celebrating 70' art exhibition will be on show in St Mary's from 2 -16 July to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Curated by local artist and gallery owner Claire Fried, the show will feature 70 works of art, portraits of people in all shapes and sizes. Come and see for yourself.

LENT BOXES: Thank you to Stuart Wade for designing and making our special charity (Tearfund) fridge boxes this year. Please return these at either our Easter Vigil at Woodbridge or, Easter Morning services at both our churches. See our weekly pew sheet for details of the grand total and the countries supported, particularly Afghanistan and Yemen.

PILGRIMAGE: Rita James will be walking the Diocesan pilgrimage from Ely Cathedral to Bury St Edmunds on 4 - 5 April. Another Diocesan pilgrimage in May traces the path from St Benet's Abbey in Norfolk. Delayed by the pandemic both pilgrimages mark the foundation of the Abbey in Bury St Edmunds in 1120.

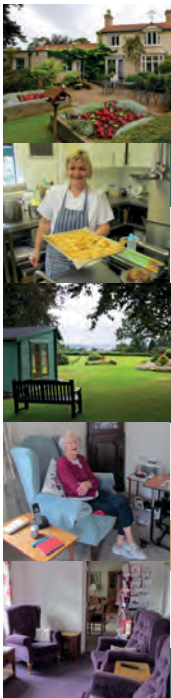
Later in the spring Patrick Lovett walks to Canterbury from Rome along the Via Francigena, an ancient pilgrimage route. He suggests you take part too by supporting Mary's Meals who help children worldwide on their learning journey or ABF The Soldiers' Charity which helps Soldiers and veterans in need along their road to dignity and independence. Help these helpers and travel by proxy on pilgrimage: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/patlovett>

The Parish Pilgrimage this year will be a day revisiting Walsingham on 16 July.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marked by an extended bank holiday weekend in June celebrates the Queen's 70 years of faithful service. In honour of the Queen's service, HOPE Together has listed 70 Acts of Service to start all of us thinking about others and how we can make a difference in our community. The full list can be found on theplatinumjubilee.com hopetogether.org.uk - here are just 7 of the 70 suggestions to do something individually or with friends, family, community and we can let others know by tagging 'hopetogether' with the hashtags #70acts#theplatinumjubilee

- Drop a small card to a hidden hero, just to let them know they're noticed.
- Find out how you can volunteer for a local cause you love.
- Strike up a conversation with someone you don't know at the bus stop or in a café maybe.
- Become an Age UK Digital Buddy. Learn how to inspire older people in your community to make the most of technology - www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/become-an-age-uk-digital-buddy/
- Set a target to encourage everyone you talk with today. Everyone.
- Invite someone who normally eats alone to have a meal with you.
- It's easy to feel powerless in the face of large-scale injustice or to switch off when it comes to national or international events. Write a letter, add your name to a campaign, or share on social media things you feel passionate about.



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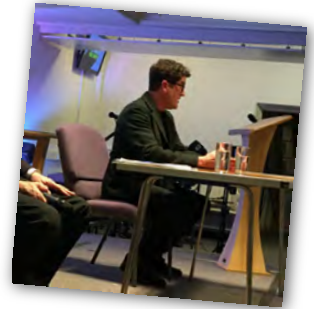
FAIRTRADE

Why is buying FAIRTRADE products so important?

Everyday we buy coffee, tea, sugar, bananas, chocolate, and cotton clothes produced by small farmers and workers in the developing world. We have a vague idea that these products often are inexpensive and that little of what we pay goes to the producers. Yet we accept all that – continuing to ignore that the low prices we pay keep people in poor. For instance, a male cocoa picker in Ivory Coast who produces our chocolate is paid 73p/day - whereas the World Bank defines poverty as earning less than £1.50/day.

The CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation – Mike Gidney – spoke recently to the Woodbridge Society and explained how Fairtrade is making it possible for all of us to truly help farmers overseas who produce our food. They ensure producers are paid fairly and justly for their work. If you buy things with the Fairtrade symbol, you:

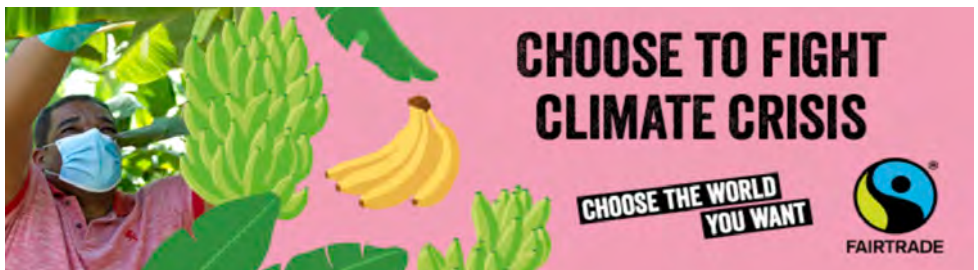
- Give a minimum guaranteed price to the farmer – not the “world market price” they usually get
- Ensure producers have decent working conditions
- Help Fairtrade to invest in local social and environmental projects.



Mike pointed out that two of the heroes of the slavery abolition movement – Thomas and John Clarkson lived in or near Woodbridge. He said Fairtrade is trying to finish the work that they started.

Woodbridge's three Co-op stores have many Fairtrade foods in stock and the prices charged are very similar to those of competing lines. St Mary's Shop on Market Hill also stocks a good range of Fairtrade products. The Town Council has voted to become a Fairtrade Town again but people are needed to assist in the next stages. Could you help? If so, please contact

secretary@suffolkfairtrade.org.uk



JOHN CLARKSON



Did you know that the tomb of John Clarkson (1764-1828) can be found in St. Mary's churchyard? John was the younger, and less famous, brother of Thomas Clarkson, who along with William Wilberforce, Granville Sharp and others, campaigned relentlessly for the abolition of slavery. Unlike his brother, who devoted his whole life to the campaign, John's involvement was relatively short, but his forte was never organising meetings, making speeches, or writing pamphlets. John was a man of action. At 13 he went to

sea as a mid-shipman, later becoming a Royal Navy lieutenant and surviving many naval engagements.

His involvement with the abolitionist movement came about while he was on shore-leave. During the American War of Independence, thousands of slaves fled the horror of their plantations on a promise of freedom from the British, only to find them-selves on the losing side. But, rather than returning them to their 'owners', as part of the armistice agreement the British were allowed to evacuate them, along with many white loyalists, to be settled elsewhere in the British Empire. Many ended up in unhappy poverty in Nova Scotia.



Back in Britain the idea was hatched of transporting those that wished to Africa where they would form an utopian self-governing society. John Clarkson was persuaded to arrange this exodus. In the end 15 ships made a gruelling winter crossing of the Atlantic with John as commodore. When landfall was eventually made, John, who was expecting to return home immediately to marry, was shocked to receive a letter appointing him governor of the Sierra Leone. Despite John's efforts and his unwavering Christian belief in the equality and dignity of all, the perfect society never quite materialised. However, he did oversee the creation of 'Freetown', the first society in which ordinary people had a vote; women had a vote; and black and white had an equal vote.



A 'Blue Plaque' marking where John Clarkson lived and worked in Woodbridge can be found on what is now Barclays Bank.

FROM ST MARY'S PARISH REGISTER 2021 - 2022

IN MEMORY - name as per Minister's Notice

Sarah Elizabeth Crimp 28 November 2021 • Phyllis Maud Davis 10 December 2021 • Janet Deakin Hogarth Scott 10 December 2021 • Elsie Doreen Austin 11 December 2021 • Debbie Vivienne Barr 20 December 2021 • Michael Gooding 23 December 2021 • Paddy Hayward Smith 28 January 2022 • David George Burnside 6 February 2022 • John Nesling 6 February 2022 • Mary Jean Thompson 10 February 2022 • Kay Pluke 23 February 2022 •

THE ORIGIN OF HOT CROSS BUNS ?



Sixth century Greeks may have marked cakes with a cross. In 1361 Brother Thomas Rodcliffe, a monk at St Albans Abbey developed a similar recipe called an 'Alban Bun' which was distributed to the local poor on Good Friday. In 1592, during the reign of Elizabeth 1, the London Clerk of Markets issued a decree forbidding the sale of hot cross buns and other spiced breads, except at burials, on Good Friday, or at Christmas. The punishment for transgressing the decree was forfeiture of all the forbidden product to the poor.


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PIP HARE TELLS HER STORY

Stuck in traffic beforehand but bubbling with enthusiasm throughout, single-handed sailor and Vendée Globe finisher Pip Hare captured the imagination of a packed St Mary's Church at the end of February as she recounted her adventures across some of the world's most challenging stretches of water.

En-route to becoming only the eighth woman ever to finish the 24,000 mile Vendée Globe race – more men she reminded the audience have walked on the moon – Pip had to overcome such challenges as replacing her rudder in the choppy waters of the Southern Ocean and coping over a number of weeks with a severe reaction to the sting of a Portuguese Man of War jellyfish. One of her many action-packed slides at the event reminded us of the two occasions when she had to climb the mast of her 60-foot yacht Medallia to make urgent repairs.

Was she frightened, lonely, overwhelmed by what she had taken on? Yes to all three, she suggested, but just taking part in the race and dealing with its challenges – living the dream you might say – brought a smile to her face. "I first came across the Vendée at the age of 17 and became fixated with the race," she told her audience. "When the race started (in 1989) the only people doing it were men, but then women started competing and they were talked about in the same way as the men."

Pip was duly inspired. By the age of 30 she had sailed over 100,000 miles and, while she admitted, "there is no pathway for solo ocean racing" she found her own, chartering what was one of the oldest 60-footers on the 2019 start line, finding a sponsor and completing the required number of single-handed races to qualify. If that wasn't enough she finished ahead of much newer, faster boats in the race to become one of only 84 skippers to complete the course – just 55% of those who have crossed the start line.

As tea and cake approached at the end of Pip's talk, she was able to tell the audience that she now had a newer, faster boat and was looking forward to being even more competitive in the next Vendée Globe, which starts in November 2024. Mum and Dad, Mary and retired St Mary's Priest John Hare, who were in the audience, must have been very proud.

NC



QUARTERLY DIARY "HIGHLIGHTS"

MARCH

- Fri 25th 3pm** The Annunciation to the BVM Stations of the Cross
Sun 27th 10am Mothering Sunday: Family Eucharist & Flowers!
3.30pm Ipswich School Concert followed by Afternoon Tea
Thur 31st 11.15am Woodbridge Prep School 'Easter' Service

APRIL

- Sat/Sun 2nd-3rd** 'Woodbridge Climate Action' Woodbridge Community Hall
Mon 4th 9.45am St Mary's CE Primary 'Easter' Service
Sun 10th 10am PALM SUNDAY and Beginning of Holy Week
 (Please see separate publicity)
Sat 16th 10am Children's Activities
8pm Easter Fire, Vigil, and First Communion
Sun 17th 10am EASTER SUNDAY FESTIVAL
Sun 24th 3pm 'Friends' Piano & Flute Concert

MAY

- Fri 6th 7.30pm** 'Friends' Piano Recital with Ronan Magill
Sun 15th-21st Christian Aid Week
Tues 17th 7.30pm Woodbridge St Mary: Annual Parochial Church meeting
Sat 28th 7.30pm 'Friends' Singing Safari Concert

JUNE

- Thur 2nd-5th** HMQ's Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival St Mary's
Fri 3rd 12-5pm Kingston Field 'Fun and Games' for all!
Sun 5th 11am PENTECOST Platinum Festival and 'Mozart Mass'
 with Guest Preacher: The Archdeacon of Suffolk
Sun 12th 11.30am-1pm TRINITY SUNDAY 'Messy Church' at Gt Bealings, followed
 by Open Air Picnic
Sun 19th 10am CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY Sung Parish Eucharist
Mon 20th 7.30pm Licensing of new Vicar of St John's, Woodbridge
Sat 25th St Mary's CE Primary Summer Fair.

JULY

- Sat July 2nd-16th** Art Festival, 'Celebrating 70' in St Mary's
Sat 16th 4pm 'Friends' Ravenscroft Consort, St Mary Gt Bealings
am Pilgrimage to Walsingham
Sun 17th 3pm 'Friends' Ravenscroft Consort, St Mary Woodbridge