

Group 4
NEWS



The Parishes of Barton Bendish & Eastmoor; Beachamwell, Shingham & Drymere;
Boughton; Wereham

April 2021

WELCOME

We are so pleased to be able to provide a printed edition again. I hope those who had an online edition were able to pass it on to at least some of their friends.

Many thanks to those who volunteer to deliver the magazines around the villages, and to Andrew Stephen and his wife, who collect from the printers. Having done it myself for many years, I'm very grateful to him.

As always, 'Happy Reading '
The Editorial Team
Eileen and Pam



Thanks to all contributors and apologies to any whose work has not been shown in this issue.

We promise to include your articles wherever and whenever possible. Please do keep them coming.

Many thanks to the distributors, we couldn't do without you!!!

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**Deadline for copy for the
May 2021 edition:**

11th April

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Priestly Ramblings



Last month I spoke of love and hope and as we look to Easter Sunday, again that theme remains; I can never approach Easter without thinking of Mary, Jesus' Mother and the anguish and torture she must have endured at the foot of the cross. Like most mothers world wide she must have prayed that it was she that was suffering there rather than her beloved son.

However, she knew better than most that it was God's will that this should be - she knew it from the instant she met Simeon in the Temple with the, then, baby Jesus and was told that her heart would be pierced. Likewise, Christ, despite the agony of crucifixion, had his Mum on his mind:

John 19:25-27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, ^[a] here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Jesus' love for his Mother overpowered his physical agony as he asked his disciple to look after her when he was gone; and this is what the disciple did, with love.

Most families, no matter who they are, suffer in one way or another at some stage in their life through ill health, death or falling out. It can be a very difficult time for all concerned but if love is kept at the heart of ones being then these things can be faced with openness, dignity, respect and hope that a new brighter day will dawn.



At this Easter Time my prayer is that we, God's children, can find it in our hearts to love, not only our friends and family but also keep a look out for those who are struggling with life, struggling with ill health both mental and physical and most of all if things do go wrong to have the courage and dignity to speak to those we feel have harmed us in any way with love and compassion and to resist the temptation to seek retribution and to tell the wider community of our hurt and

anger. At the end of the day we all have to live alongside each other, united in our common goal for happiness, peace and love.

Happy Easter Everyone

Rev Carol Nicholas-Letch

Priest in Charge Wissey Valley Benefice

01366 500704

caroln153@hotmail.com

How is Ken getting on? A question that is often asked.....

NEWS FROM THE RUNAWAY VICAR



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS

Our new post in Cyprus was due to start in April 2020; but we didn't actually manage to get out here until August 2020. Straight into 44C hot and humid weather (me: "Great", Wendy: "I need more linen clothes! Oh and a new bikini"). Floki didn't manage to join us until late September after three cancelled flights.

Our Parish (The Anglican Church of Paphos <https://paphosanglicanchurch.org>) has three churches: Ayia Kyriaki (by St Paul's Pillar) in Kato Paphos, St Stephen's in Tala and St Luke's in Prodromi. The congregation is approximately 140, mainly ex-pats. We have been made to feel really welcome, although everyone keeps apologising that we can't meet socially; but that will come eventually.

We have a lovely three bedroom villa halfway up the mountain from Paphos, (300m above sea level, just a little different from Norfolk), on the south-west side of the island. All the rooms have views of the Mediterranean Sea, including my study. Sadly there is no swimming pool. The church supplied us with a brand new Renault Kadjar.

Wendy and I have now been here for 7 months of which I've really only worked 2 months because of COVID restrictions. The lockdown has been more substantial than UK, for example, we have to text a government number to get permission to go out of the house and we are limited to only twice a day. There is a curfew between 9pm and 5am every night. We have to wear a mask at all times when we are outside the house. The good news is that most of the shops are now open and restaurants (outside seating only and social distancing, with a maximum of 8 people to a table) opened this week. We can hold church services (including singing) but masked and social distanced. Wendy and I have both received our first COVID jobs.

We had lovely sunny weather most of the time with temperatures around 17c to

20c. Late December it started to drop to around 15c with night time getting down to as low as 4c. It doesn't sound bad but the houses are built to keep the heat out, have no insulation and no heating so it has been fleeces and electric blankets. As I write the temperatures are starting to rise again J.

Wendy and I hope you are all coping well under the circumstances and must warn you that we will be back in a few years!

God Bless from the land of sunshine.

Ken & Wendy

GOOD AND BAD IN ALL

The abandonment of by most of our society of the annual religious cycle of Lent, Passiontide and Easter , which in the past has influenced so much of our national life and thinking has, it seems to me to have adversely affected much of our national, political and cultural life in ways that at first seem unexpected. All that is left is the enjoyable self-indulgence of chocolate eggs at Easter. Lent was among other things about fasting, prayerful self-reflection, study, and acts of charity, concluding with the joyful celebration of the new life and hope shown forth in Creation and in the Redemptive Victory of the Resurrection.

In Lent we, among other things, acknowledge our frailty as human beings. Humanity is a deeply flawed but brilliant species capable of the most wonderful inventiveness and concern for our fellow humans and the whole creation but also capable of appalling deeds. In Lent we acknowledge not that some people are good and some bad but that we are all, as individuals, capable of good and bad personally. The Lent Prose, sung by many congregations during Lent includes the following verses:

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated
bow down and hearken to thy children
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. [Refrain]
Sins oft committed now we lay before thee
with true contrition, now no more we veil them
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution

A fundamental tenet of Christian theology is not just an acknowledgement of our brokenness “*Sins oft committed now we lay before thee, with true contrition, now no more we veil them*” **but** also the possibility of forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption: “*grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution*”. Every we time we celebrate the Eucharist, we recall the important central piece of Christian theology, the possibility of confession, forgiveness and reconciliation with God and neighbour.

In our national life and culture we are now far removed it seems to me this basic concept of penance and reconciliation, and the acceptance that we are all of us, made in God’s image, but through the freewill he has given us, capable of dastardly deeds and acts of goodness in the same person.

Historic figures from our national past are condemned for somethings they may have done but the philanthropic things they may also have done with their riches, be it founding hospitals, schools or whatever are not acknowledged. And the same applies to our national figures today. There seems to be an assumption by many, in politics and the media, if others disagree with you they are in some sense rebarbative, morally degenerate and not worth fair consideration. In fact one’s opponents may well also want the best, but have differing ideas about how the best may be achieved. Christian Lenten theology includes an important reminder that we are all flawed, all capable of the bad but also at the same time capable of the good too, and all in need of forgiveness and reconciliation. Easter reminds us too of the hope of redemption and healing for all that is for all. This applies not just to us, the those in public life too.

William

Fincham Bellringers You may not have heard us for some time, but we are still together and hoping to be back towards the end of June. In the meantime we have been using Zoom and a platform called Ringing Room to practise together. Our latest learners have been learning lots of theory, but will still need to start again with their 'bell-handling'. No, we don't handle the bells themselves, only what looks like a totally inadequate length of rope, given that even the lightest bell weighs more than twice as much as the heaviest of us humans in the tower. That is the challenge! Learn to move the bell about with elegance and finesse; pulling too hard is just wasted effort, like driving in short bursts speedily forward, and having to brake sharply. You don't need any special skills, so if you would like to know more contact Pam.

Anne Carpenter

HISTORY QUIZ

1. Which queen had the shortest reign of Henry VIII's six wives?
2. In 16th-century Japan, who was Yasuke?
3. In which country is the Bay of Pigs?
4. Who was the first human to journey into space?
5. Guy Bailey, Roy Hackett and Paul Stephenson made history in 1963, as part of a protest against a bus company that refused to employ black and Asian drivers in which UK city?
6. What is considered the world's oldest writing system?
7. Who was the mother of Emperor Nero and the wife of Emperor Claudius?
8. What was Mary Anning (1799–1847) famous for?
9. Who gave Queen Elizabeth I the soubriquet 'Gloriana'?
10. Although never taking her seat, who was the first woman to be elected to the houses of parliament?
11. In August 1819, around 60,000 peaceful pro-democracy protesters were attacked in an open square in Manchester. This event was known as...
12. Who was the wife of the future Henry VIII's older brother, Arthur?
13. Which prominent Kurd, born in Tikrit, united Muslim forces against the crusaders in the 12th century?
14. Which rebellious leader of the Catuvellauni tribe was caught and taken to Rome in AD 50, then pardoned by Emperor Claudius?
15. Where were Charles I's headquarters during the Civil War?
16. Who assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in 1914?
17. Who was the last tsar of Russia?
18. During 1963, in Washington DC, Martin Luther King Jr gave his famous 'I have a dream' speech on the steps of which famous landmark? (answers on page 42)

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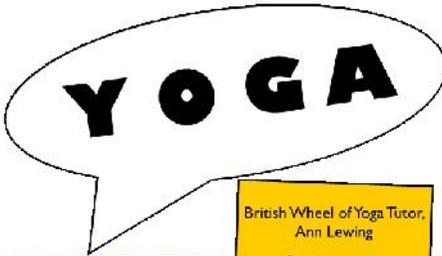
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RAW MEAT & POULTRY: These are also high in phosphorous and are a potential source of salmonella.

BREAD, BISCUITS & CAKE: These contain no nutrients and are often high in sugar.



WALKING THE LINES

One of the things I have done to protect my sanity during lockdown is to walk as regularly as possible . How successful I have been, I realise, is open to question but there is no doubt that the combination of exercise and fuller appreciation of Nature makes me even more pleased that I came home. Sometimes I have walked alone, very often with Liz and every Sunday I have tackled something more ambitious with David Impey or Stephen Ward, my colleagues from the satirically named , Men of Steel". I didn't realise that doing something legal could be so much fun.

One of my favourite walks takes me along the old railway track, where access is still possible, between Narborough and Swaffham. There is a car park just South of Narborough on Chalk Lane by the old bridge abutments. The first part of the walk is along a lengthy, prominent and well cleared embankment, which is now a nature reserve as well as a footpath. It is maintained by Norfolk Wildlife Trust and it is a lovely walk, easy underfoot and fringed by Hazel trees , ponds, fields and evidence of its former use. It is popular with butterflies, birds and walkers....although never that many. It is a fine example of how closed railway lines should have been used but that is an argument for another day. After a time you reach a wood where the path narrows. When you emerge you face a long field with the original railway fence to your right. Follow this until you reach a substantial railway bridge. Go through it and continue until you come to a farm track to your left. The trackbed is clearly marked by fencing on either side but the surface is more challenging. The final part of this route before reaching the A1122 is fenced off. You can reach the road by going through the field to your right or you can take a more interesting way through the wood on your right where off road vehicles are often seen at play.

Cross the road and turn right past the Swaffham Raceway. You will find a track to the right which takes you behind a trucker's stop on the A47. You will have done just over 3 miles by now. Turn right towards Lime Kin Cottage. Nearby you will find an overgrown railway bridge and an old lime kiln complete with warning notice. After a while you will reach Shouldham Lane. Turn left here. It is a wonderful way into Swaffham through fields and overhung buy trees for much of its length. You will emerge on Whitsands Road close to the water tower. Turn left to Lynn Road. Cross the road and turn left until you come to a new housing estate. Behind this you will find the trackbed which, once more, is being used as a regular footpath. Cross an ornate bridge and keep going, passing the remains of a colour light signal and a magnificent road bridge which carries the road to

West Acre. When you emerge by the Tesco car park you will have done seven and a half miles. Rest and recharge before retracing your route to Whitsands Road. This time, instead of turning right onto Shouldham Lane, go past the cricket club onto Shoemakers Lane, past the allotments with all its attractions, as well as the Football Club and Swiss Cottage. Turn right at Town Farm and rejoin Shouldham Lane. Turn left there and then left again towards Lodge Farm. Before you get there, turn right onto a Forestry Track and follow it to the A1122. Cross the road and follow the track straight on until you come to the railway bridge that you walked under some hours earlier. Turn left and then straight on until you reach the car park. You will have done just over fifteen miles through wonderful countryside. You may feel tired and probably exultant.

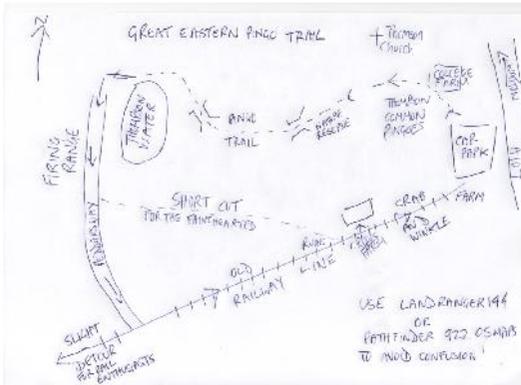
Great Eastern Pingo Trail

There is a well signposted car park in Stow Bedon. Leave it by the track parallel with the road. You will soon be in a wood where you will be walking past pingoes and unusually flooded woodland. This is the stunningly beautiful Thompson Common which soon gives way to a fascinating nature trail taken you through a landscape which currently resembles a mangrove swamp. You cross a bridge and pass Thompson Carr. You cross a second bridge and bear slightly to the right. Eventually, the track meets the Peddars Way. Turn left if you want to walk to Hunstanton or left if you want to get back to your car.

A Ministry of Defence training area is to your right. Stay off it! They use live ammunition here. Ironically, nature and wildlife thrive here rather more than they do on agricultural land.

Thompson Water, a shallow lake created in the 1840s, is a good spot to stop for lunch and probably worth a photo or two. Avoid the next left turn to Crow's Farm. It is a tempting short cut unworthy of proper walkers. Keep straight on until you reach the trackbed of the old Crab and Winkle line, obvious from the railway fencing and the huge stone level crossing gateposts. At this point, railway enthusiasts might want to divert right to look at a fine bridge still being used by motorists. Its only half a mile away and is a remarkable survivor of a line cruelly closed in 1965 as RAF Watton approached its end.

Retrace your steps and keep going for another two and a half miles along the old track. You will reach Crows Farm opposite the ruins of a Crossing Gatekeeper's cottage. The rest of the route is picturesque and often quite



soggy. The reflections from vast stretches of water are hauntingly beautiful. Eventually, and with some regret, you reach the car park, what remains of the station buildings and a farm. In normal times the Chequers in Thompson, a 17th century inn with thatched roof and oak beams, would be a must. The church is well worth a visit too and College Farm stands on the site of a Priest's School,

built in 1349. Some ruins are visible. It and the railway were conceived as being permanent but nothing lasts forever.

NB When Lockdown ends, as it soon will, I look forward to stopping at Norfolk's finest pubs with my intrepid companions. I have rediscovered a love of walking which I know will continue for years to come. I look forward to the return of the Barton Bendish Breakfast Club. Most of all, I look forward to cuddling our children and grandchildren. It has been the longest of long years and this is what I've missed most of all. *Andrew Stephen*



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COUNTRYSIDE NOTES

HOPS/BEER

Beer is one of the oldest drinks humans have ever produced and it's known that it was being made in Iran 7,000 years ago. 300 years ago in England people drank it instead of water as it was safer. Water then was very contaminated but because that used for brewing beer had been boiled there was less risk of it carrying disease.



Hops for the beer industry were first grown in England in the 1500s. Once widely across the country but commercial production of hops is now confined to the West Midlands and the South East. There are still 50 hop growers in England but a lot are now imported. Each of the 34 British hop varieties has a different flavour.

The most traditional are Fuggles and Goldings although commercial brewers often use higher-yielding modern varieties.

The hop plant is a perennial that dies back in winter. Green shoots appear from



the rootstock in spring, the plant grows quickly and the stems, or 'bines' as they are known, can reach 26ft (8m) in length within three to four months. They are wound or trained up strings attached to a framework of poles and wirework up to 20ft (6m) above the ground. The flowers, which are actually seed cones, are ready to harvest in September and afterwards have to be dried. There are now machines that pick the hops but before them it was work all done by hand. The strings were cut allowing the bines to fall and the hops would be picked before being taken to a kiln where they would be spread out and left to dry for several hours. In Kent they were dried in distinctive buildings known as oast houses which have now mostly been converted into houses. Fields where hops were

grown were known as 'hop gardens' or as 'hops yards' in the West Midlands. The dried hops weighed very little and would be stuffed into extra-large hessian sacks known as 'pockets' or 'pokes'.

Until the 1950s less well-off women and children from London would move down to Kent for their annual three weeks 'summer holiday' of hop picking. It was the only time they exchanged urban life for a taste of rural living and, before mechanisation, hop growers were very dependent on their labour.

Beer, as we know it, has been brewed for hundreds of years. It is an exacting art and there are many different styles of beer. Stout, porter, bitter, mild, brown, old ale, IPA and lager being some of them. England is renowned for its real ale which finishes maturing in casks or kegs in pub cellars rather than at the brewery. This is known as draught beer and served with only natural carbonation. The flavour comes from a combination of water, yeast, malt, variety of hop and the way it is brewed. Ideally beer in the UK is served at cellar temperature between 10–14 °C (50–57 °F).

The brewing process begins with malted grains being mixed with hot water in a procedure known as mashing. Liquid extracted from this process is known as wort. After being strained (lautering) the liquid is boiled vigorously for at least an hour. Typically the hops are added at this stage. After this the wort is cooled, yeast is added and fermentation takes place. When this is completed the beer is left to mature in barrels which can be for a matter of only a few days through to months, or even years. Beer is sold in bottles, cans and kegs where it will continue to mature slowly.

Apparently there are now 60 breweries in Norfolk. In the last decade the number of micro-breweries has rapidly increased as craft beers, known for having bold, hoppy flavours have gained in popularity. Over the last twenty years there has been an upsurge in interest and there are now well over 2,000 independent brewers. Independent artisan brewers are free to experiment by adding additional ingredients to put their individual stamp on craft beer. They can create their own unique recipes with an emphasis on flavour and quality. Some flavours are unusual, to say the least, and are not to everyone's taste!



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Jill Mason

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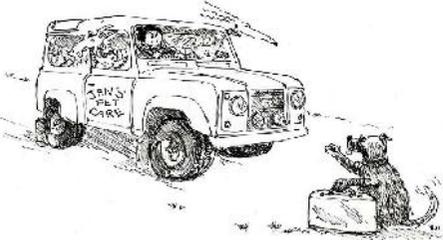
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CSV needs volunteers who can offer a couple of hours of their time each week to mentor the young people as they make choices about their futures, raising aspirations by exploring together the young person's skills, interests and abilities.

We are looking for people ages 16+ - Mentors can come from all walks of life and no experience is needed but patience, the ability to listen and a sense of humour are all useful skills. Mentors receive full training and support and out of pocket expenses are paid.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Volunteer Mentor for the CSV Futures Project please contact Vicki Howling, the project co-ordinator for an informal chat. Telephone 01366 386972 or 07926 044845 or email vhowling@csv.org.uk

CSV (Community Service Volunteers) is the UK's leading volunteering charity. Social justice is at the heart of what we do; empowering people to have a positive stake in society and tackle barriers to community participation through creating volunteering and learning opportunities.

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- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance

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NORFOLK VINEGAR CAKE

- 450g plain flour•225g unsalted butter
- 225g golden caster sugar
- 225g raisins•225g sultanas
- 275ml milk
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- Pre heat oven 180C / 160 C fan assisted oven/350F /gas mark 4

1. line 23cm round tin with baking paper

2. Place the flour in a bowl, rub in the butter or use food processor

3. Stir in sugar, sultanas and raisins. Measure out the milk. Remove one tablespoon of it into a small bowl. Add the cider vinegar to the larger amount of milk. Stir the bicarbonate of soda into the tablespoon of milk in the small bowl and ensure it is fully dissolved.

4. Add to the milk and vinegar mix, wait and a gentle frothing will occur - so allow for growth when choosing your bowl! Add the milk mix to the dry ingredients and stir in gently but thoroughly.

5. Spoon the soft cake mix into the prepared tin, level the surface. Bake for 30mins then reduce the heat to 150C /130Cfan/300F/gas mark 2.

6. Bake for approx a further hour until the tester comes out clean. Check after 40 mins. Cover loosely with foil if it is browning too quickly.

7. Leave to cool in tin until OK to handle . Yummy!

Anne Hackett, Mulbarton WI

Easter Sunday

Sunday, 4th April Planned 'in church' services

Please remember to check before setting out.

09.30 am	Methwold	Holy Communion
09.30 am	West Dereham	Holy Communion
09.30 am	Wretton with Stoke Ferry	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Barton Bendish	Service of the Word
10.00 am	Shouldham	Morning Prayer
11.00 am	Boughton	Holy Communion
11.00 am	Wereham	Holy Communion
11:00 am	Marham	Holy Communion
11:00 am	Watlington	Morning Prayer

Mobile Library

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the mobile libraries service is suspended until further notice.

All items currently on loan will be automatically renewed and no further charges will be incurred until further notice.

[Visit the Library service coronavirus update page](#) for further information on service closures and what you can still access from home. Some of the libraries, including Downham Market, are now open for returning books and for picking up pre-ordered collections. There is also an excellent ebook service.

BARTON BENDISH NEWS

Coming out of lockdown!!

With Covid cases falling and more and more vaccinations being done do we dare to start looking forward to anything? Will the Village Hall reopen so we'll be able to see the improvements carried out over the last year? What are the chances of holding our 'Open Gardens' once again in June? Will we be able to have a holiday? We'll cling to hope. I've begun to wonder, though, when we eventually emerge from Lockdown what we'll find when we venture back out into the big wide world. A lot of things will obviously be different. What shops will remain? How many businesses will be able to reopen? How many venues will there be left to visit? Will the NGS be back up and running? I've not had reason to get dressed up to go anywhere for more than a year now, not even to the four funerals which, in normal circumstances, I'd have gone to. My concern now is that my clothes have probably all 'shrunk' during Lockdown!!

What am I personally looking forward to most? Well, my family all live in Sussex so top of my list for the immediate future is having a drive out somewhere in the countryside so I can enjoy a change of scenery and feel free again. The farthest I've been in the last five months is Lynn and that was for my job! Close second is going out for a meal, not particularly to a posh place, but just where there is a menu to choose from. It certainly won't be fish and chips though, that's for sure! I've not had a meal out for over a year and I'm absolutely fed up with my own cooking! David is most looking forward to once again meeting up with friends in Waitrose café for a latte and a cake (fingers crossed it reopens) and a holiday. We've taken a gamble and booked a self-catering apartment in Scotland but whether we'll get there is another matter. Our line of thinking is it's worth the risk. At our age time is running out and deferring a holiday until next year doesn't seem a good idea; we've lost enough time already. (I hope he manages a haircut before then because he's beginning to resemble Boris). David's just pointed out that by the time restrictions are lifted (hopefully) he'll have spent two birthdays under Lockdown!

What are top of the list for other people?

Mhari *"can't wait to see my family in Scotland! It has been hard being so far from parents and not being able to help them with the small things like shopping. Luckily there is family there to keep their spirits up."*

Lesley says *"Meeting up with friends and neighbours and, of course, family. Our daughter moved in August and I think we have only been to her new house two or three times. Can't wait to see what they have "done" to it. Our grandson is graduating this year too. And, probably near the top of the list, a HAIR CUT."*

Graham is starting to look like Albert Einstein."

Lesley and Graham moved into Barton just before the first Lockdown.

Janice is "most looking forward to the **FREEDOM TO DECIDE** whether I want to ... hug friends, go to a restaurant, get my hair cut, visit the theatre

Maureen says "Three things I'm most looking forward to are-
1 Being able to have my hair cut,

2. To eat a meal that I haven't prepared & cooked myself

3 To be able on the spur of the moment to make arrangements to meet friends for coffee."

Ian is "most looking forward to a return to a reasonably good state of general health, although I am not sure that that is linked too closely to coming out of Lockdown! I would add that I am also really eagerly anticipating a good haircut and am very much looking forward to a pint at the pub! Andrew writes "When Lockdown ends, as it soon will, I look forward to stopping at Norfolk's finest pubs with my intrepid companions. I have rediscovered a love of walking which I know will continue for years to come. I look forward to the return of the Barton Bendish Breakfast Club. Most of all, I look forward to cuddling our children and grandchildren. It has been the longest of long years and this is what I've missed most of all."

One thing Covid has taught us is that there can be no certainty as what the future holds for every one of us. To some extent we already knew that but what was a vague notion at the back of our minds has suddenly been thrust to the forefront. It's brought home just how vulnerable we are and that we can't take anything for granted ever again. Jill

Update from Barton Bendish Parish Council The Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman continue to manage the day-to-day running of the Parish Council during the Coronavirus outbreak. Please contact the Clerk on the details below if you have any matters to bring to our attention. The Parish Council will continue to hold virtual meetings until we receive advice that face-to-face meetings can resume. The Parish Council held a meeting on 10th March and at this meeting it was agreed to make a further donation to the Village Hall of £420 to cover the annual cost of installing broadband in the Hall.

Borough Councillor Colin Sampson offered to the village a swift box which he had obtained. We are currently looking into options for where this could be installed, initial suggestions have been the Village Hall or the Church.

At the meeting an incident of fly tipping was reported. The Parish Council would like to advise residents that issues of fly tipping should be passed to the Borough Council by completing an online form which can be found on their website. For further information please go to https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/homepage/312/fly-tipping_illegal_dumping

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th May 2021 from 7.30pm. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting. At this stage we are waiting for guidance on whether these meetings will take place virtually via Zoom or in the Village Hall. All meetings are open to the public, and information on how to join the meeting will be available on the Parish Council website approximately seven days before the meeting, or alternatively contact the Clerk for details.

Miss Sarah Thorpe, Parish Clerk

Telephone number: 01945 430930

Email: bartonbendishparishcouncil@aol.co.uk

Further information is available on the Parish Council website at bartonbendishparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

“Almost Sinful”

I seem to have been reading a lot of recent speculation about the future of rural parish churches which, frankly, looks bleak. Only last month a working party reported back to Lambeth Palace, suggesting that all churches which regularly have a congregation of below thirty should be sold off for housing. Some could become Festival Churches, which is the next step up from a museum or backdrop for Wedding photos .The Church of England, which remains staggeringly wealthy, has a shameful record of closing village schools and, effectively, churches. Our neighbouring village, Beachamwell seems destined to lose its church because its dwindling congregation were no longer able to pay the parish share, which the C of E uses to pay its clergy and which it insists must be paid even when the churches have been kept closed. You may well ask whose decision it was to abandon church services. Not the Government certainly.

Last week the Reverend David Keighley submitted plans to the Archbishop of Canterbury urging that the many churches which are, “Just museums gathering dust,” should be sold. Selling them could raise millions of pounds for poor people throughout the UK. He argues that the cost of the upkeep of

many rural churches with small congregations is, “wastefulness,” that, “could almost be considered sinful.” He goes on to say that churches need to respond to the needs of the community. But, what are those needs? And how does the C of E know what they are ? The Established Church, after years of decline, had a gilt edged opportunity to show its relevance to our increasingly secular society in the last twelve months. Some have run food banks, organised counselling sessions and , when allowed, run groups for those for whom English is a second language. They have comforted the lonely and the sick and been clearly visible. In Barton Bendish the stirring efforts of the PCC have lead to the church being open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays and of course they have been behind the Barton Aid initiative which has protected our most vulnerable citizens. Most people understand that churches are special places. Even those with no particular religious belief recognise a presence there which isn't found anywhere else.

I don't deny that faith is inside you, everywhere you go, if you have it. You can worship in a hall or a neighbour's house, if you have to, but its not the same. Worship on zoom is ok but its not the same. Many of our clergy have lead sheltered and secure lives while their flocks have been abandoned, or felt like it. One of the greatest needs people have been aware of during the pandemic is the need for real and human reassurance. It isn't a luxury. Many, for the first time perhaps, have felt a need for spiritual nourishment.

As T S Eliot said in Little Gidding,

“You are not here to verify,
Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity,
Or carry report. You are here to kneel,
Where prayer has been valid.”

St Andrews has witnessed prayer and spiritual connection for centuries. The idea that it should be demolished or sold for housing is outrageous, unless you have never been to Barton Bendish or if it doesn't affect the smooth passage of your own cloistered and disinterested life. I don't hear the bean counters suggesting that Lambeth Palace or the vast property interests of the Church of England should be sold. Furthermore, I would say that the bureaucrats have demonstrated a stunning lack of what's been required all year; moral leadership, setting an example and providing hope. If anyone has been doing that, it hasn't been the people at the top. If we all stay silent we will end up with more Bishops than churches. (*continued on page 65*)

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

Beachamwell Parish Council



The Parish Council has been advised that it should not be holding face to face meetings for the foreseeable future, due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Meetings will therefore be held virtually via Zoom. Members of the public are still able to take part in these meetings. Information on how to access meetings will be provided on our website or you can contact the Clerk on the details below.

The Councillors and Clerk will continue to manage the day to day running of the Parish Council during this period and you can still get in touch with us in

the usual way if you have any matters to bring to our attention.

Clerk to the Council:

Miss Sarah Thorpe

01945 430930

beachamwellparishcouncil@gmail.com

Councillors:

Cllr. Tom Sanderson (Chairman)

01366 328244 / 07803 963804 tomsanderson@btconnect.com

Cllr. Diana Lambert (Vice Chairman)

01366 328227

Cllr. Richard James

01366 328968

rj1james@gmail.com

Cllr. Pat O'Donnell

01366 328385

Thank You

A big thank you from Shingham residents to:-

- 1) Heygate's and all the local farmers who promptly stepped in to alleviate the flooding across the Shingham road on the 9th February. Also for reinstating the track to bypass the flood and access the Swaffham Road.
2. Our local postman, who donned wellies to deliver the post on foot when he was told by his office that he wasn't allowed to bring his van down the road!
3. Our paperboy (man) for continuing delivering soon after the initial flood.

Bob Baker

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS



The photograph on the left shows the “Shingham” trench from the path opposite the Chapel.

The photograph below shows two swans on the lake formed by the floods, by the “gallops”.

Both photographs taken by Bob Baker of Shingham



BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

Betty Phillpot September 27th 1931 – March 4th 2021

We were very sorry to hear that Betty died recently. Condolences to all her family. She will be missed by her many friends in the area.

Eileen Powell



Betty was the only child of Jack and Eva Whitham. They lived in Heston, Hounslow. Most of Betty's memories from her childhood were influenced by the impact of the second world war and the London Blitz. She recalls having to take most of her exams in the air raid shelter, but nonetheless passed her eleven plus and opted to go to the Green School, an all girls grammar in Brentford. The three mile cycle ride was frequently disrupted by doodlebugs sent over by the Germans. Betty remembers that when the engines cut out, she had to jump off her bike and lie on the ground until it was over. Despite the trauma of the war, she describes it as a happy time, when you made your own amusement. It was at this time that she learnt to cook, a passion that continued throughout her life.

BEACHAMWELL, SHINGHAM & DRYMERE VILLAGE NEWS

She left school at seventeen and went to work at the Prudential Assurance Company in Holborn. She joined the sports club and regularly played netball at lunchtime and weekends. This is how she met Ian, also a keen sportsman and an employee at the Prudential. They were married at Heston Church in 1956.

Life was busy for the young couple. Ian started his own business and by 1962, they had 3 children. They were both very involved in the scouting movement and for years she was the Akela of the local cub group. Dad went on to become District Commissioner for the Scouts.

However, Betty's biggest passion was her dogs. She bred King Charles Cavalier Spaniels and enjoyed going to shows all over the country.

In 1991 they moved to Norfolk, initially to Terrington St John, and in 2001 they made their home in Beachamwell.

They embraced life in the village wholeheartedly. Both were very active in the church. Ian was Church Warden for many years whilst Betty was a member of the Flower & Brass Cleaning Rota, contributed to The Flower Festivals, helped with refreshments for The Family Service (which Ian organised) and was very involved with the Open Gardens.

Betty was a lifelong member of the W.I and a regular contributor and attendee at the local club, where she made many friends. I remember the first time she sent the minutes by email, and promptly dispatched my father to go round the village to ensure they had been received. She was secretary of Beachamwell WI for 5 years [2002 – 2007]

She entered the local Horticultural show each year and usually won in The Flower Section – she was passionate about gardening. She loved cross stitch and knitting, producing some excellent pieces of work.

She helped distribute G4N for many years until walking became too difficult for her.

Betty enjoyed life and always had a smile on her face which was very welcoming.

RIP

Beverly Peacock [Daughter]

Mobile Post Office

Monday and Thursday 13.00 – 13.15

Tuesday and Wednesday 11.10 – 11.30

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL (Priory Group)

At the time of publication, these are the only confirmed services for April. We hope that other churches may be able to open for services as the lockdown ends.

All services are subject to change or cancellation as the pandemic situation changes.

For the latest information check our website at:

<http://finchamgroupnews.co.uk/> or the WNPg website at:
<https://www.westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk/calendar>

Sunday, 4th April Easter Sunday

10.00 am	Shouldham	Morning Prayer
11:00 am	Marham	Holy Communion
11:00 am	Watlington	Morning Prayer
6.00 pm	Online	Evening Prayer (see link below)

Sunday, 11th April Second Sunday of Easter

11:00 am	Watlington	Holy Communion
6.00 pm	Online	Evening Prayer

Sunday, 18th April Third Sunday of Easter

11.00 am	Shouldham	Holy Communion
11:00 am	Marham	Morning Prayer
11:00 am	Watlington	Holy Communion
6.00 pm	Online	Evening Prayer

Sunday, 25th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

11:00 am	Watlington	Morning Prayer
6.00 pm	Online	Evening Prayer

Midweek Services

Every Tuesday at 10 am **Tuesday@10 Zoom service** via Link below.

Every Wednesday at 11 am **Watlington Morning Prayer**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84842560875?pwd=Ym82ajBzWlZzdXRoYVNiUW1JSWRsQT09>

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL (Wissey Group)

These are the projected services during April, but all are subject to change or cancellation as the pandemic situation changes.

Sunday, 4th April Easter Sunday

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 9.30 am | Methwold | Holy Communion |
| 9.30 am | West Dereham | Holy Communion |
| 9.30 am | Wretton with Stoke Ferry | Holy Communion |
| 10.00 am | Barton Bendish | Service of the Word |
| 11.00 am | Boughton | Holy Communion |
| 11.00 am | Wereham | Holy Communion |

Sunday, 11th April Second Sunday of Easter

- | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------------------|
| 9.30 am | Methwold | Service of the Word |
| 9.30 am | West Dereham | Service of the Word |
| 9.30 am | Whittington | Service of the Word |

Sunday, 18th April Third Sunday of Easter

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 9.30 am | Methwold | Service of the Word |
| 9.30 am | West Dereham | Service of the Word |
| 9.30 am | Wretton with Stoke Ferry | Service of the Word |
| 11.00 am | Wereham | Service of the Word |

Sunday, 25th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

- | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------------------|
| 9.30 am | Methwold | Service of the Word |
| 9.30 am | West Dereham | Service of the Word |
| 9.30 am | Whittington | Service of the Word |

Midweek Services

Mondays and Wednesdays 9.00 am **Wretton with Stoke Ferry** Morning Prayer

Thursdays 8.30 am **Methwold** Morning Prayer

Thursdays 9.00 am **Wretton with Stoke Ferry** Holy Communion

ONLINE SERVICES IN APRIL

Online Zoom services are due to take place as below.

Services may change as the pandemic situation changes.

Thursday, 1st April

10.00a Holy Communion See link 1 below

Sunday, 4th April Easter Sunday

6.30pm Service of the Word See link 2 below

8.00pm Compline See link 4 below

Thursday, 8th April

10.00am Holy Communion See link 1 below

Sunday, 11th April Second Sunday of Easter

6.30pm Service of the Word See link 2 below

6.30pm Evening Prayer See link 4 below

Thursday, 15th April

10.00am Holy Communion See link 1 below

Sunday, 18th April Third Sunday of Easter

6.30pm Service of the Word See link 2 below

8.00pm Prayer and Meditations See link 4 below

Thursday, 22nd April

10.00am Holy Communion See link 1 below

Sunday, 25th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

6.30pm Service of the Word See link 2 below

8.00pm Prayer and Meditations See link 4 below

Link 1 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3119595155?pwd=dy9nNzRJby91OVprZG9nSzlMSEIPZz09>

Link 2 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82822775006?pwd=eU12TDN0VTJpZFVocld4WlpuZEM4dz09>

Link 3 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84842560875?pwd=Ym82ajBzWIZzdXRoYVNiUW1JSWRsQT09>

Link 4 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83015183191?pwd=Y2toS2RkeEJDQUhBSXICektzZXg4dz09>

BOUGHTON VILLAGE NEWS

Boughton church news

This should come out just in time to tell you about our first 'in church' service since October. **Sunday April 4th is Easter Sunday and we will have a live service at 11 am with our Priest in Charge, Carol Nicholas Letch.** Many of you will know Carol and we can be guaranteed a good service. We can't yet have singing, so no good Easter hymns, but we can meet and celebrate the



resurrection. Even if you aren't a regular church goer, come along and celebrate so that Boughton church comes alive again. The seating will be socially distanced and hand sanitiser will be available. Masks must be worn, I'm afraid. It's the first Easter Sunday service in the church for some years, as we normally have the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday, so I hope you will come along. The thought of gathering in the churchyard on a cold April evening looked unlikely to inspire many of you to attend, but perhaps a warm church in the morning will help. Sadly, we are not yet permitted to offer refreshments, but we look forward to the lifting of all restrictions so that we can think about holding Breakfast Church again! Stay safe

BVC Social 2021

We are planning a comeback, hopefully in the Autumn and as always, it would be great for us all to meet up in the church for a well overdue get together and to welcome newcomers to the village. Usual arrangements, The Boughton Village Caravan will supply the wine and soft drinks and all we ask of you is to come along and bring a plate of food to share.

We realise that our plans may be subject to change so watch this space. Meanwhile, if you would like to register your interest – date pending – then please contact Angela or Andrew on 501335 or Sue on 500461.

The Boughton Village Caravan

From Boughton Parish Council

As I write this the sun is shining, Spring is threatening to return, vaccinations are in full flow and we are all looking forward to the easing of lockdown restrictions. I hope that by the time you read this we are able to meet once again, even if only in small groups and outside.

Following the virtual Parish Council meeting of 2nd March 2021 I have following items to share.

I am delighted to announce that the council unanimously voted to co-opt Sarah Miller as a Parish Councillor for the current term. Sarah brings a wealth of expertise in business and voluntary work and I am sure she will be an asset to the council and the village in general.

Our Borough Councillor, Cllr Colin Sampson, reported on this year's council tax bills and noted that it has been kept as small as possible, but post-COVID financial challenges remain. He gave assurances that tackling fly-tipping is a priority.

Our County Councillor, Cllr Martin Storey, updated the Parish Council on the Norfolk County Council budget setting. He also mentioned that he does have some 'members fund' money he uses for highway expenditure and we asked him to consider providing bollards to protect the verges at and around Boughton Surgery.

We reviewed our recently updated Water Safety Inspection Report for the pond and the four recommendations it makes. At our next meeting we will need to decide on whether we make changes to the pond area by, for example, adding emergency equipment such as a throw rope or adding public safety notices.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 4th May at 7pm and on the same evening we plan to host the village Annual Parish Meeting at 7:30pm. This is an important public meeting, where priorities for the Parish Council are set. We would like to see as many residents take part as possible. It is not a Parish Council meeting, but a village meeting. There is no set agenda, but the Parish Council will submit a number of reports on the work we have been doing on your behalf, and we will have a chance to discuss how residents see the village developing, including the pond and playground.

As lockdown restrictions ease, it may be possible for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in person, in the church, as it has been in years past. (It had to be cancelled last year for obvious reasons). It will need to be delayed a while yet, but we would like to hear your opinion on whether the meeting should be held in-person when we can, or should go ahead virtually in May.

The speed awareness sign has now been deployed in all four locations we have permission for, and provides useful information about the number of vehicles going in and out of the village and the speed they do. It will continue to be rotated between locations and roughly monthly intervals. See the Boughton Parish Council website (boughtonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk) for regular updates.

WEREHAM VILLAGE NEWS

Wereham Parish Council

Next Meeting Date – May 2021 at 7.00 pm (Check website for date)

Agenda items must be received before the end of the month prior to each meeting, items received after this time will not be possible to discuss. Please send to the Parish Clerk at werehampc@gmail.com. The Agendas for meetings are always published on the Wereham Village Notice Board three clear days before the meeting, and notified via the Wereham Parish Council Facebook Page and on the website

www.werehamparishcouncil.co.uk You will also find minutes of all meetings here too. Please contact the Clerk should you wish to attend virtually once the agenda is public for joining instructions. The Council are meeting via Zoom virtually until further notice and in following guidance issued to it by authority bodies, invitation information and how to attend is placed on each meeting agenda. The meetings to be able to meet online expire on 7 May 2021, so please check the Parish Council website for further information on meetings post 7 May 2021.

Consultation with Wereham Residents – Needed by end of April 2021.

Grant Fund – St Margaret’s Church

Wereham Parish Council have received a grant funding application from the Wereham Parochial.

Church Council (Friends of St Margaret’s) for £4k to help with the running costs as Covid has affected their ability to fundraise leaving them with a deficit of funds to be able to be open and going forward. The Parish Council feel that in order to make a decision at their May meeting, they need to engage with Wereham residents on whether they would be in support or not of the Parish Council making a grant fund of £3k - that ultimately is from taxpayers funds in the village. The Parish Council agreed to fund £1k of the £4k requested based on a budgeted amount held for the Church Clock, so this will leave a grant fund of £3k requested. So please phone 07795006811 or email werehampc@gmail.com the Parish Clerk by 28 February 2021 to say whether you are in support or against an additional grant fund of £3k from council tax payer funds.

The Church currently are trying to fundraise themselves via a 'Just Giving Page' as below website, or contact them direct for in person donations.

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/stmargaretswereham>

Defibrillator – Red Telephone Box at the Pond

Message to All New Residents and Reminder for Others: There is a Defibrillator owned by the village in the Red Telephone Box at the Wereham pond. This is managed and checked by the Parish Council. You don't need training on how to use it as it has a screen that offers step by step instructions. The only occasion any person who finds themselves seeking this equipment would be following a 999 call and not before. The device is registered with the ambulance service and therefore upon anyone calling 999 they will advise that person to collect it. The ambulance service would provide the code that is required to access the defibrillator. However, the Parish Council did purchase some key fobs and fridge magnets with the cabinet code on should anyone like one, please email werehampc@gmail.com and it will be posted through your letterbox. Obviously keep this very safe as it is good to have this information close to hand, but we would prefer emergency access only to the cabinet. There is also an emergency telephone in the red telephone box that is paid for by the Parish should the device be required it will enable assistance, you would simply push a button. Should you wish to register interest for an awareness session in 2021 for its use please email werehampc@gmail.com.

Coronavirus – Covid-19 (As at 02.03.21)

Volunteers and Assistance with Shopping If there are volunteers that could help other residents in the village with essential shopping, please contact the Parish Clerk who will add you to a register that is being kept. If there are residents that still need help with essential shopping or medical prescriptions with no family or friends network affected by covid-19, please also get in touch with the Parish Clerk who will be able to discuss options available for helping you. This will be in place until June 2021 should it be confirmed at that time by Government that we have reached the intended point.

Please continue to keep to the social distancing guidelines, for the latest Government Advice view the following websites:

The HSE have now created a dedicated Coronavirus page for businesses here:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>

This should be used in conjunction with the NHS information here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The Borough Council have support available for individuals and businesses more information can be found on their website:

<https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The Norfolk County Council have support available for individuals and businesses more information can be found on their website:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus>

Highways – Paths and Roads – Defects Please report anything that you see verges, trees, potholes, main holes, drains to Norfolk County Council Highways via their defects page of their website. You need to set up a login, and once on the site you can easily report issues and upload pictures of the issue. They will then arrange inspection. You are also able to track the report. Should a report not be resolved as you wish please then contact the Parish Council. The Parish Council will report issues that it finds, but if residents do this also, we can increase the repairs that we notice need doing. <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/HighwaysDefect/>

Helen Richardson Wereham Parish Clerk and Finance Responsible Person
Email werehampc@gmail.com or phone/text 07795006811

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SHORT MAT BOWLS AND CAR BOOT

You will be aware that everything is very difficult at the moment. The end of May will be the very earliest that Short Mat Bowls and Car Boot would start, depending on what the government has to say. When Short Mat Bowls resumes it will be every Thursday afternoon 2pm until 4pm this will be the new permanent time. Car Boot will be usual times, the last Sunday of the month, 8am until 1pm. Not sure how we stand for the Craft Group as there are 14 of us and not sure if the rule of 6 still applies. *Rosemary*



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In this ever-changing situation regarding what is permissible within the guidelines for all government tiers, it is difficult to provide definitive information about the operation of the Village Hall in the early New Year. There is great enthusiasm from many of our existing groups and activities organisers to recommence meetings and sessions as soon as possible. Therefore, we encourage everyone to check with our website - www.werehamvillagehall.co.uk - and our Facebook page on a regular basis for the latest updates. Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their understanding and support during these uncertain times. We hope very much to be fully up and running again as soon as possible and to welcome everyone back into our lovely Village Hall.

Keith Murray Trustee, Wereham Village Hall



Answers to quiz on page 7

1. Anne of Cleves
2. Yasuke is known as the first foreign-born samurai in 16th-century Japan
3. It was the site of a failed attempt by a group of Cuban émigrés, with the backing of the US government, to invade the island in 1961.
4. Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, in April 1961
5. Bristol | Read more about the Bristol bus boycott
6. Cuneiform, an ancient writing system that was first used in around 3400 BC
7. Agrippina the Younger
8. Collecting fossils, she was a palaeontologist
9. Edmund Spenser, in his epic poem 'The Faerie Queene'
10. Countess Markievicz
11. The Peterloo Massacre
12. Catherine of Aragon
13. Saladin
14. Caractacus
15. Oxford
16. Gavrilo Princip
17. Nicholas II
18. The Lincoln Memorial

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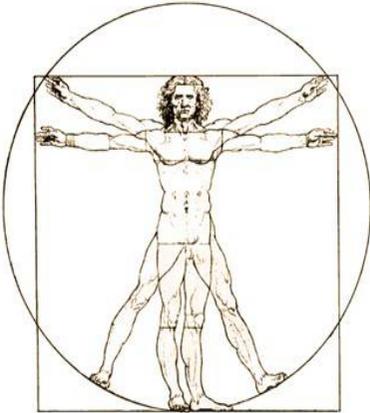
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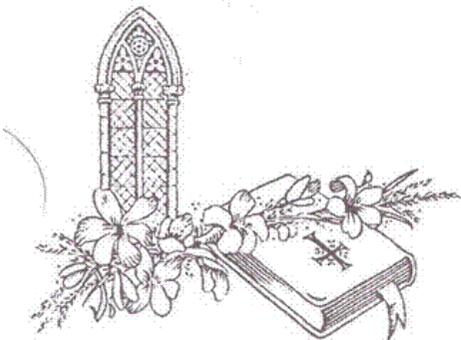
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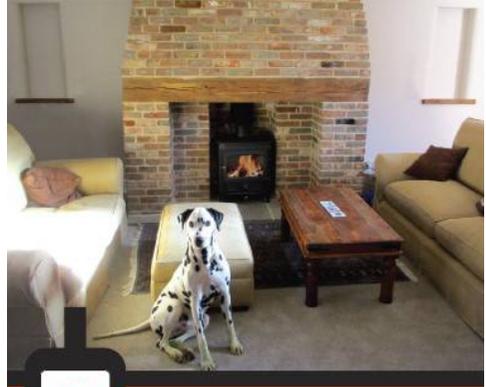
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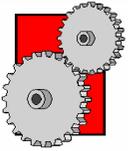
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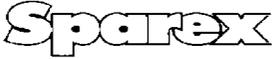
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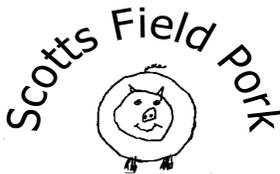
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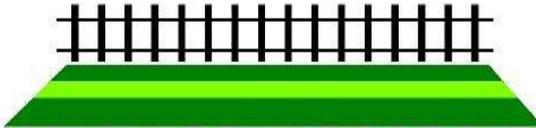
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