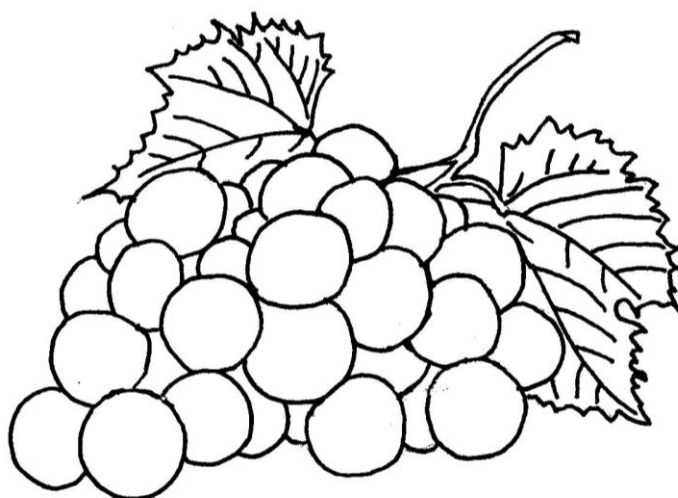


GROVE VINE

ONLINE EDITION

**The Magazine of
Grove Methodist Church
Horsforth, Leeds**

May 2020



**The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the
Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its
discipleship in worship, service and mission**

Minister – Rev Mark Godfrey

Phone: 0113 258 2678 or email: revmgodfrey@gmail.com

The Easter Cross



It was amazing!! We thought we wouldn't be able to do one this year but the Flower Guild all made posies from their gardens and Alli Maud collected them and arranged them on the Cross. Everyone who went down Town Street saw it and many were overheard positively commenting on it. The other interesting thing was that Jenny put a photo of it on the Horsforth Community page on Facebook and it got over 400 likes and loads of very positive comments. Perhaps more people have taken notice of it this year than usual.

Thanks to all who helped in this wonderful reminder to the people of Horsforth of what Easter is really about. Ed.

Minister's letter

Dear Friends,

Those are the words with which I regularly start these letters, and I thought it would be appropriate to reflect on what a friend is. Most of us want to be liked by other people and to have a wide circle of friends. How would you describe a friend? We could say that friends are those people we like and with whom we get on extremely well. We could say that friends are those with whom we share our joys and sorrows, our successes and our failures. We could say that friends are those from whom we accept help and to whom we give help, especially when it is needed. The depth of our friendship is shown by what we are willing to do for each other. Friendship is shown by our love for one another.

At this time we see plenty of evidence of friendship in action. We see support being offered to neighbours. We see communities supporting the most vulnerable among us. When I have spoken to the more elderly members of our congregation I haven't yet found anyone who is struggling to get the help and support they need. That is a sign of friendship in action.

Within church life we have the opportunity to develop friendship, though it can sometimes be difficult because of our different characters and personalities. We are, however, united by the fact that we meet together in church as the friends of Jesus. He is a friend who is always with us, whatever our need. Jesus was the perfect example of what a true friend is and what a true friend should be.

We regard our church as a friendly church and hopefully this is what our new friends experience when they worship with us for the first time. Not that friendship is in any sense limited by the four walls of the church. Friendship is also one of the ways in which the gospel is communicated. A significant proportion of new Christians say that they were introduced to the Christian faith by a friend.

Friendship is about love and concern, it is about reliability and it is about being there when needed. We are all aware that it is needed now even more than it usually is. This is the friendship that we are called by God to share with each other.

With best wishes,

Mark

Thought for the month

In these days of 'social distancing' and 'self-isolation' what a blessing that the God of the universe does not isolate Himself from us, His creatures. Instead he draws near to us and gives us the blessing of His presence.

Caring for Life Journal.

Alan Firth

I would never have thought two months ago as I went down into the operation theatre for part of my lung removing that a few weeks later we would all be in this terrible predicament. I had recovered so well from the operation and had been doing various jobs like decorating and maintenance, only a little at a time as my breathing still wasn't 100%. I had even been doing some deliveries of food and medicine! However 3 weeks ago I gradually became dreadfully ill, losing a stone and a half over 2 weeks, a few phone calls to 111 and losing a week all together I was so ill, I was on the verge of hospital. I could hardly manage half a flight of stairs my breathing and pain in my kidneys was so bad, but thanks to the surgeon Mr Brunelli who operated on me at St James, actually ringing me out of the blue at home, I can now say, after 10 days of antibiotics, I am really feeling good again. I just need to get exercising my lungs (as much as possible under the restrictions)

The surgeon believes I have had Covid-19 which caused an infection in my lungs as many of my symptoms matched. Thank goodness I am through it, whatever it was. I am now of course observing the lock down rules but at least I have the whole Grove to myself to carry out various works and keep me busy.

My wife Sharon has been so fantastic during my illness and operation, indeed taking over my duties at the Grove and nursing me every day and even injecting me twice a day! until we had to close. I can never thank her enough. Sharon of course working for the Police is a key worker and back to very long shifts to make up for all those workers ill or isolating. Out of 200 in her department, 80 are off work! Throughout everything though we have never lost our sense of humour as this picture shows with my cardboard potty on my head in hospital.



I am forever indebted to the Grove for their concern, kindness and patience during my absence.

Alan Firth, Premises Manager

Thank you Alan, we wish you a full recovery. God bless you. Ed.

Church Family News.....

Please remember in your prayers all those known to us who face a variety of difficulties; bereavement; health problems; anxiety about loved ones loneliness and isolation. Remember especially those who have Covid19 that they may fully recover their health and those who are caring for them risking their own lives in so doing; all vulnerable people that they may stay safe and well.

Pray also for our government that they may have wisdom in the days that lie ahead.

From the Church Registers

Funeral

17th April Bill Kemp

Beryl Thompson writes

"I write this on Good Friday.

24th March. A text message received saying you are high risk isolate for 12 weeks except for necessary outings such as essential shopping, exercise and medical reasons. Did that . Managed a nice walk into Ilkley from home on the 5th April. Ilkley was just like the 'olden days' very quiet and all the shops closed.

7th April I received another text. Do NOT go out for 12 weeks. Do not go to the dustbin, do not walk the dog. The latter easy as we don't have a dog!!!

Only thing left to do was to attack the cupboards. The kitchen done so we upset a few spiders when we started



on the conservatory.

On a serious note in two days time Jesus rose from the dead and we, too, will rise from this and thank God that we have come through it safely."

Many thanks and keep safe.

Beryl Thompson

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Michael Rosen wrote a children's book called, " We're going on a Bear Hunt " in which the children went out to count how many bears they could see. Someone has suggested that if we all put a Teddy Bear in our windows then children passing could play the same game and count them. I have put a knitted Teddy in our window and if I see children going past without noticing it I tap on the window to attract their attention and then I pick up the Teddy and wave it's paw. The children are delighted, smile and wave back. The parents are grateful and mouth a "Thank you". It's a bit of fun and relieves the monotony of not being able to go out. Try it if you have a Teddy! If not I have some knitted ones you could borrow if someone could collect.

Take care and stay safe.

Dorina Overson





Advice for Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2020

Dear supporters.

As all of our thoughts are on the Covid-19 situation, we wanted to share an update on Christian Aid's response. We value our volunteers enormously and want to ensure you all keep safe when fundraising for Christian Aid Week. The health and safety of our community, including loyal supporters like you, is of the utmost importance to us, and we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis.

Many of you will have been planning house-to-house collections and events. Under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections and delivery-only collections should not go ahead. In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies or Lent lunches cannot go ahead.

Instead, Christian Aid Week is moving online! We are building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week so you can take part with our online community. We would love you to join in to show love for our neighbours near and far, as a global family.

I am keeping you all in my prayers.

With every blessing,
Amanda Khozi Mukwashi
CEO Christian Aid

A prayer for the church

May your love that never fails
strengthen the weak
encourage the fearful
calm the anxious
heal the sick through your church –
your washed hands
and feet on earth –
distant but still present
virtual but still connected
apart but still helping.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen.

Together with our local partners, we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world. We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.

- We are providing essential soap, water and hand washing training.
- We are ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe.
- We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

With your help we can do even more.

FAIR – a simple 4 letter word that can magnify itself as the years slip by - to explain

Being the runt of the family I was always the last to do everything and the unfairness of it all really hit me most when I was 16 going on 17. I was in the working world by then and would watch my sister drive off in her Morris 1000 each morning while I trudged 20 minutes to the nearest bus stop to get to my work. How I longed to be mobile! I must have driven everybody mad! I had 2 elder brothers, long since gone from home and with families of their own, yet it was through them a wonderful solution was concocted. "What you need to do is get yourself a bubble car that has no reverse gear and you can apply to drive it on a motorbike licence," they told me. Wonderful! Once that seed was planted it shot up like an amaryllis does. My sister was saving up to get married and she loaned me the £60 to buy an old bright blue Isetta bubble car. It had 4 forward gears which protruded from a hole in the hardwood side of the interior, it had a bench seat, no petrol gauge but a lever that could transfer you to a reserve tank if the main one ran out - and it was (being Italian) a left hand drive. Now all I had to do was drive it.

My brother took me to a very quiet road bordering Windsor Great Park and the Saville Gardens and explained how to drive. "You do your feet like a see-saw, down with the clutch when you change gear and up with the accelerator then vice-versa when you want to take off". He showed me the position of the gear stick for 1,2,3, and 4th gears, he opened the door and we both got out so I could shuffle over into the driving position and then he stood in the road and said "Right-o, off you go".

"Aren't you going to get in?" I asked.

"Not on your life" he said.

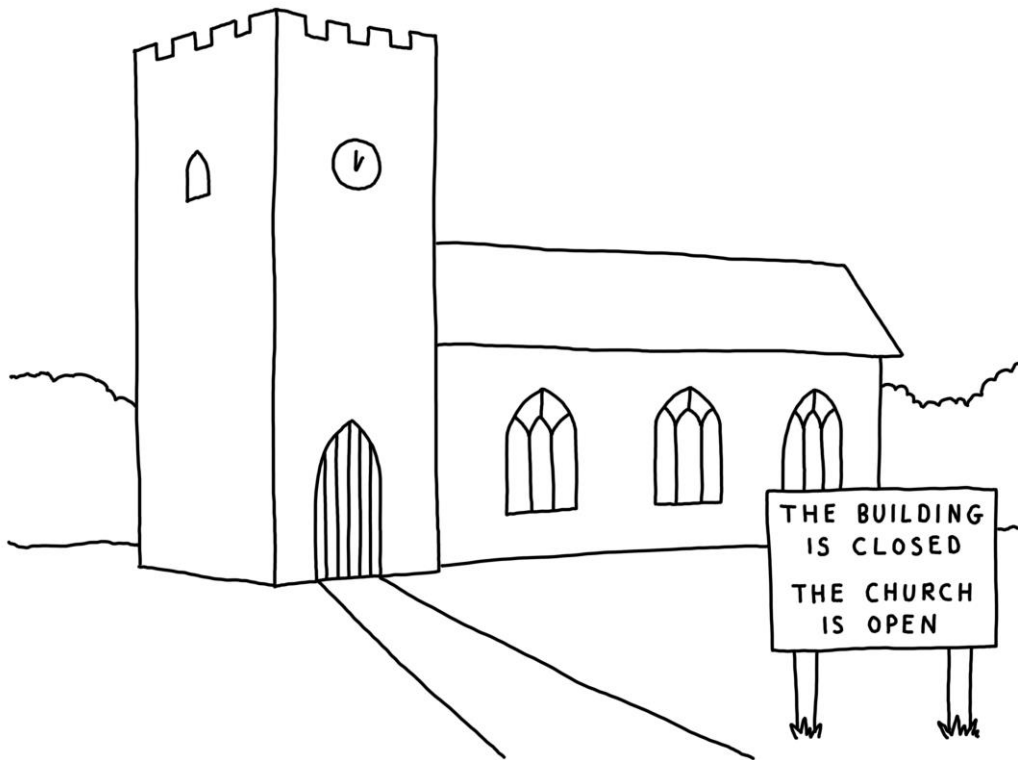


I suppose he was thinking that as a motor-cyclist you were not allowed to take a pillion passenger until you had passed your test. Thus it was that I went kangarooing up the road feeling a mixture of fright and exhilaration! When the time came to take my test the examiners all marched in the waiting room with their clipboards and one was exceptionally tall. I thought "I hope he doesn't call my name" but of course he did! He banged his head getting into it and held on for dear life when I did the emergency stop but I passed and drove away without my L plates. I expect he realised I would

drive off anyway whether he passed me or not and perhaps he was considerate of his colleagues that they might not have to re-test me and have the same experience as he had just had.

That was all many "bubble car adventures" ago and through the years realisation of what you consider fair takes on a far deeper meaning. Looking back it's easy to reflect on many a more important thing that you question the fairness of. The words of David Bannister come back to me who often would say in conclusion "Think about it".

Rita Grainger



CartoonChurch.com

This is printed free from cartoonchurch.com

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April Puzzle Solution

Wordsearch

My twenty-five are:

(L↔R) Adam, Abigail, Ahaz, Ananias, Apollos, Aristarchus, Artemis, Asa, Asaph, Augustus;
(Up↔Down) Abimelech, Absalom, Amnon, Amos, Aquila, Abraham; (sloping down L↔R) Abel, Aeneas, Andrew, Anna, Annas; (sloping up L↔R) Aaron, Abner, Ahab, Asher; but there are a few more.

Sudoku

I	L	U	A	P	H	M	T	R
T	M	P	R	U	I	H	L	A
A	H	R	L	T	M	I	U	P
L	A	T	I	H	P	U	R	M
U	I	H	T	M	R	P	A	L
R	P	M	U	L	A	T	H	I
P	T	L	M	R	U	A	I	H
M	U	A	H	I	L	R	P	T
H	R	I	P	A	T	L	M	U

Lockdown in Cyprus. A letter from Ruth Symons

Hello everyone. I thought you might like to hear about how things are in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) at the moment.

As many of you know, my parents came to live out here over 20 years ago after Dad retired. It was very rural back then but, like most such places in the world, has now become relatively crowded, commercialised, and – dare I say – spoiled. But it still has beautiful spots, a rich history, good food and, above all, lovely people.

Mum and Dad are now well into their 80s, and since Mum started losing her sight and developing dementia, dad has been her carer. My sister and I have been taking it in turns over the past few years to come and spend time out here to give dad a break, and it was my turn for a quick 10-day visit when I came out on 7th March.

I'd been here a week when the southern border (between the Turkish north and the Greek south) was closed. I was due to fly out from Larnaca, in the south, and there was a final chance to cross, but I was worried about getting over the border and finding my flight out was cancelled and not being able to get back here. I was also rather concerned about the thought of leaving Mum and Dad here alone, with none of us able to get to them if anything happened (Mum would not be able to look after herself).

I did book an alternative flight for a few days later from the north, via Istanbul, but then that border was closed too, so rather than make a dash for the last flight out, I decided to stay. Just as well I did really because Mum has been quite poorly.

So, what's it like here at the moment? It's a small country, both in size and population, so relatively straightforward to control. Restrictions limiting all except the essential services of supermarkets, pharmacies, banks and petrol stations, were quickly imposed, although Cypriots don't like being told what to do any more than anyone else so adherence to the rules has not always been strictly met. Mum and I continue to drive down near the sea for our morning walk - breaching the age curfew but maintaining social distancing - though that was on hold when she was poorly (the doctor and staff at the hospital were brilliant). There have been no shortages in the supermarkets - I think people in the Mediterranean are too laid back for panic buying! Unfortunately, takeaway meals are not available, so Mum and Dad are missing their weekly fish & chips. And no, I'm not prepared to find my inner Harry Ramsden and cook it myself!

A couple of problems are starting to arise now... Dad has always preferred to go into town to pay the bills, so is not set up with direct debits etc. Now that offices are closed and he hasn't been able to pay the phone bill, the phone has been cut off, and although we've bought a SIM card, we can't get through on that or online to pay the bill because we don't have a password etc. (I'm sure a number of you will be able to relate to this kind of dilemma!) It's alright so far, but the internet bill needs paying soon and, rather concerning, so does the electricity bill! But I'm sure it'll be fine, and today is Friday when we get our weekly update from the government, so perhaps there'll be some good news.

From where I'm sitting now, in the conservatory, I can see to my left the mountains shrouded in rain clouds, and to my right (if I stand up and crane my neck) the blue sky above the equally blue sea. Mum and Dad are both in their chairs fast asleep. I have no idea when I'll be able to get home, but I send my love to you all,

Ruth Symons

Lovely to hear from you Ruth. Stay safe and we hope to see you before long. *Ed.*

Spring in your gardens



Bumble bee on apple blossom

Peter Reasbeck's beautiful
Viper's bugloss



Jean & Tony's colourful
osteospermum



Paul Shagouri's lovely garden

Crossword

Across: 6 Damascus, 7 Brim, 8 She, 9 Epistle, 11 Wide, 12 Oracle, 15 Esther, 16 Vivace, 18 Schism, 20 Eden, 21 Hymnals, 24 Eli, 25 Peal, 26 Caesarea.

Down: 2 Sage, 2 Magi, 3 Scythe, 4 Essene, 5 Kindness, 7 Bewitch, 10 Pea, 13 Reindeer, 14 Channel, 17 Ethics, 18 Samuel, 19 Ill, 22 Ahab,

Fill in the words of the crossword. Each square has a number, each number represents a letter, and every letter of the alphabet is used. The columns on the right are to help you match letters and numbers. It helps if you know which letters occur most frequently and which only rarely in English prose! Three letters are provided.

16	12	3	6	12	5		25	1	5	9	9	1	1	T	14	
26		6		18		12		5		15		2	2		15	
25	11	2	4	9	1	25		2		5		1	3		16	
9		10		4		25	12	17	17	12	1	8	4		17	
11	9	12	13	25		2		6				9	5	R	18	
8		4				10		4	9	12	5	25	6		19	
		22		9	1	6	10	9		21			7		20	
21	6	9	25	1		26				6		12	8		21	
6				9		6		9	20	9	5	25	9		22	
12	14	14	2	5	18	25		7		10		8	10		23	
23		12		4		13	9	2	25	6	5	9	11		24	
9		1		12		19		13		22		5	12	A	25	
5	6	9	13	13	9		24	9	25	1	5	19	13		26	

Missing vowels

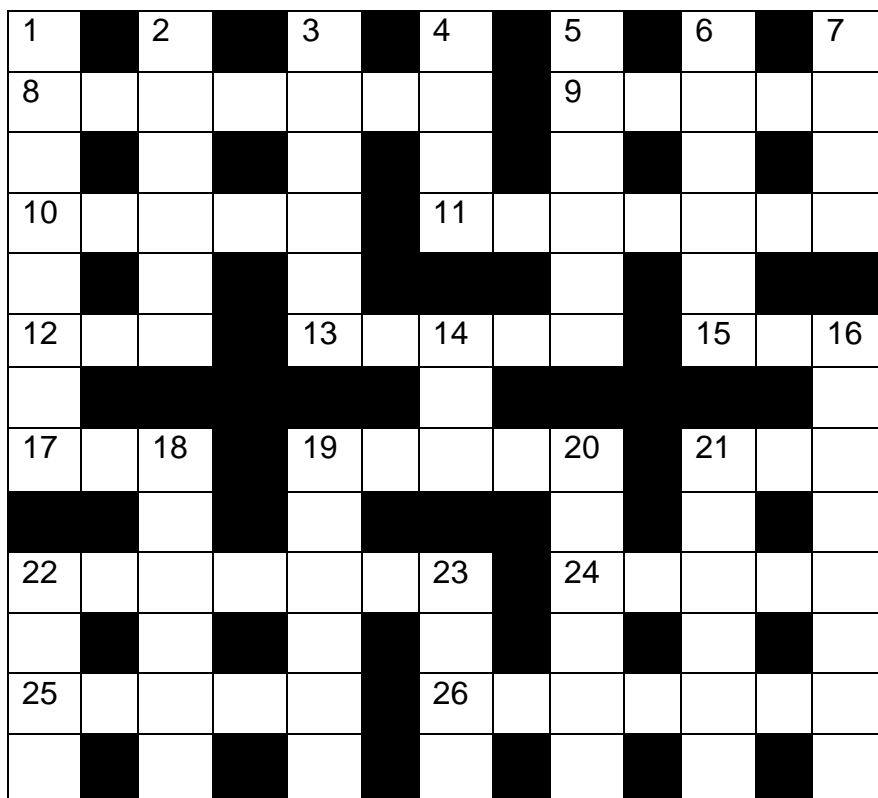
The first lines of six hymns have had their vowels removed. Can you work out what they are:

1. NDT HVR YHR
2. GDMV SNM YST RSWY
3. MTND RGH TTS TSNG
4. LLCR TRSF RGDN DKNG
5. TRNL FTH RST RNG TSV
6. CMLT SSN GFW NDR FLLV

Countdown Number Puzzles

Given numbers						Target	You may combine given numbers however you like, using +, −, ×, and ÷ (/). Each number chosen must only be used once.
75	2	10	10	7	6	660	
25	50	7	10	1	4	161	
75	50	9	4	10	2	173	
100	8	4	9	8	6	550	

Small Crossword 2



Across

- 8 Precious stone (Ex. 28: 18) (7)
- 9 Musical drama (5)
- 10 Applies to space, Mongolia, etc (5)
- 11 Jesus' native tongue (7)
- 12 Full house in Bethlehem (3)
- 13 One who reveals godliness (5)
- 15 Canine stalk track (3)
- 17 'Throw your --- on the right side of the boat' (3)
- 19 Bird seed thing (5)
- 21 A Greek letter (3)
- 22 Ancient wind instrument (7)
- 24 Held by conductors and runners (5)
- 25 It's not mine (5)
- 26 Being whole, sole, unified (7)

Down

- 1 Allegiance, dedication, sanctity (8)
- 2 One who looked after a church (6)
- 3 Jesus healed his daughter (6)
- 4 Thought, plan, aim (4)
- 5 Prolific Austrian composer (6)
- 6 Forerunner, harbinger (6)
- 7 Hydrated magnesium silicate (4)
- 14 Little devil (3)
- 16 A fruit of the spirit (Gal 5: 22) (8)
- 18 It often contains a hot drink (6)
- 19 Cleric, pastor, minister (6)
- 20 Vehicle for transporting commandments (6)
- 21 Composer of church music (6)
- 22 Rare beast of Arabian deserts (4)
- 23 Assert, attest, maintain (4)

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Loved ones not allowed to visit,
Older folk must stay at home,
Carefully avoiding the dreaded Covid 19.
Kindness abounds from family, friends and neighbours,
Disgust felt for those flouting government rules,
Optimism must be to the fore.
We must have faith and trust,
NHS we applaud you.

Caroline Turner

An acrostic for our time, thank you Caroline

§

What Did You Do In The Lockdown, Grandad?

The wonders of modern technology mean that we are able to see and speak to our son, Stephen, in New Zealand. They too have been in 'lockdown'. A while ago he suggested that I should write down my 'memoirs' - not so much for our children as our *grandchildren*. This resonated with me as my four grandparents had died before I was born and, so, I agreed to try.

By strange coincidence, some six days later I read an article in my newspaper by Max Hastings, the historian and author. It was entitled "It's the perfect time to write your life story". He suggested several headings some of which I had already noted. But I was soon adding his and several more besides - it was catching! Lockdown has provided that 'perfect time', and it has proved to be an emotional and yet fun exercise.

It shows what amazing times we have lived in and when you compare *then* with *now*.....For example: what you wore (fashions of the day); what you played (football and cricket and rounders in the street - few cars to worry about); your first wage; the change to decimal currency and how few people had a bank account other than a savings account. Reminders about what you used to eat - especially during rationing (sweet rationing ended in 1953 and all remaining rationing, including meat, in 1954). Recall how many small shops served your neighbourhood. Tell about your childhood house and, in my case, its outside toilet. Travel was on foot or by bus or tram, probably. What about holidays (and how few days annually)? Favourite books; music; pastimes; football/rugby team. The changes in entertainment (the first tv was likely to be a small black and white job!). And the effect that computers have had on our world.

As Max Hastings says "personal memories are much easier than writing an autobiography" and that "there is only one rule: tell the truth".

You will be surprised how your memory's juices flow (non stop). Go on - try it!
Gordon Mellor

Pancake Party

During February half term we had a fantastic Pancake Party. Twenty four adults from the church helped with the morning which was amazing and meant that it was much easier and smoother to run. So a big thank you to everyone of you! 58 youngsters came along and they were a delight to be with. Over half were 5 years old and above and in the main hall, where they did games, made pancake mixture, decorated pancakes and made mardi gras masks. Phil then told them where the pancake tradition, carnival and mardi gras comes from and explained about Lent in his own inimitable style. John was amazing – he cooked, & tossed, 60 pancakes, with groups of children taking it in turns to watch him tossing them! The younger children stayed with their parent/carer in the activities room with Alli and her band of helpers, where they did some craft, decorated their pancake & had lots of toys to play with (& cups of tea & coffee for the adults).

All in all it was a wonderful morning which we had hoped to repeat, with an Easter theme, during the Easter holidays. Obviously that was before the Coronavirus lockdown! However we did do a virtual Easter Activity session. We planned an Easter themed activity morning with activities that could easily be done at home, and Phil recorded himself & Wesley Bear telling the story of Easter week in his garden. We then sent this out to all those who'd been at the Pancake party and our own Messy church & J Team children. If you'd like to have a look at it (& send any activities to your grandchildren or other children you are in contact with), there is a copy on the church website.



Jenny Godfrey

VE DAY May 8th 2020



I had been looking forward to a street party in my part of the Brownberries on May 8th, sadly now another casualty of the virus. It would have reminded me of the street parties we had in 1945. Trestle tables in the middle of our street of terraced houses, borrowed, I guess from the chapels. No problem with traffic, as no one in the street had a car. Most traffic was with horses bringing milk, or coal, or Ringtons tea. Seven grocery shops within a hundred yards.

The big Methodist church in the centre of town had had a large notice for a few weeks, announcing a service to be held within three hours of the declaration that war was ended. For years I have wondered at what time the service took place. I remember asking: what if the end of war is announced at midnight? I might have been keener to go at 3 a.m. than at 10.30.a.m. on a normal Sunday, just for the novelty.

Presumably:

- The blackout screens disappeared. My father made wooden frames to fit all the chapel windows with black material. (Hodges, the ARP warden in Dad's Army is only a slight exaggeration of the reality).
- The tape which criss-crossed many people's windows to minimise damage in the event of bombing, was taken down.
- The regular nightly sound of bombers on their way to Europe. Perhaps they were not missed, as I have hardly missed the flights into Leeds/Bradford airport in recent weeks.
- Signposts would be returned soon. Walking on unknown country lanes was not easy without signs, as the invaders would have discovered, had they come.
- The neighbours who had kept hens (with a noisy cockerel), as we were encouraged to be self sufficient, would soon be rid of them.
- I wonder what happened to the gas masks.

With many soldiers and airmen stationed in and around the town, we had an occasional visitor to our Sunday services and, as children, we were always interested when they came home for Sunday dinner. Friendships were forged. My uncle and aunt were in touch for many years with Winston Churchill, who had been stationed locally. He came from Bishop Auckland. Not Blenheim Palace.

In June 1944, after the Normandy invasion, we were encouraged to keep a record and I have it still, in three tatty volumes of black-out paper, for normal paper was in short supply. I pasted in excerpts from the newspaper and photographs. (News Chronicle I guess). It ends on April 30th with a dramatic picture of American and Russian troops shaking hands as they met at the River Oder. I don't know why there is no record the final surrender.

I was six when the war started. I suspect, as children, we had little sense of the enormous fears and privations of which our parents would be only too aware. (The air raid siren still churns me up). But I remember on the night of May 8th 1945, everyone must have been in the town centre. I have no idea what happened; people just seemed to be milling about.

And then Hiroshima followed in August, of which no doubt we shall be reminded.

It does put our present crisis into perspective.

Peter Reasbeck

From the Editorial Group

Note that the Editorial Teams alternate..... n.b. the June issue will be prepared by Paul and Jenny and you should send items to them - no later than 5pm on Wednesday 27th May Please include events and details up to **5th July.**

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Email (or copy as an attachment) would be appreciated!

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