



SPOTLIGHT

The magazine of Offington Park Methodist Church



July/August 2020

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Cover Picture

Our cover picture is Worthing's wonderful pier, voted Pier of the Year 2019 by the National Piers Society, beating Clacton and Clevedon. It is one of only a few piers to have won the award twice, the last time being in 2006. Worthing Pier opened in April 1862 as a landing stage, but in 1889 a Pavilion was erected on the pier head. In a storm in 1913, the Southern Pavilion, as it is now known, was severed from the pier but the gap was restored in 1914. During WW2 the pier was deliberately cut in half, but reopened to the public in 1946. The Denton Lounge was added in 1959. The pier makes for a lovely (if bracing) walk and houses an elegant eating place as well as a performance area and wedding and conference venue.

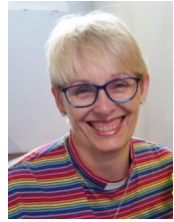


Richard T's plant sale raised the fabulous sum of £200 for Action For Children. Thank you all for your generosity and thanks of course to Richard for his green-fingered skills!



Dear Friends,

This time last year I was in Lindisfarne enjoying the beauty and tranquillity of that wonderful Holy island that is cut off from the mainland when the tide comes in each day. A place where pilgrims go for solitude, to give them time to reflect and perhaps restructure their living pattern for a little while. Such a unique experience, I thought, up until now.



We haven't all, sadly, been able to travel to that idyllic place to experience solitude, but we have all had a taste of what it means to be cut off from our usual activities and distractions. Shopping, except for the basic necessities of life, has been curtailed and even that has taken on a new twist: delivered by the store or others; alternatively forming an orderly queue, waiting to be invited into the store and then having to negotiate which way the arrows go on the floor, in order to get to the aisle you want. Much more time is now needed for these trips.

We have been mostly fortunate with the weather and standing in the sunshine for a while is bearable unless of course you have difficulty standing for any length of time. Can you imagine doing this in the winter? Can you imagine what it must be like to do this just for a handout of bread or flour or rice - or even water? We have been able, in a small way, to identify with people for whom this is the reality of daily life with little or no chance of it changing in the near future.

One of the downsides to posting out the reflection so early on in the week is that things happen which, in normal circumstances, would become an integral part of the week's sermon. This is the case with the recent demonstrations and marches declaring 'black lives matter'. We saw scenes from Bristol on the news, where a statue which could be thought to be celebrating slavery was torn from its plinth and tossed into the floating harbour. Rev. Dr. Jonathan Pye, my ex-College Principal and now Chair of the Bristol District was interviewed on the local radio about what should happen to the statue. His advice was for it to remain in the water. It would be a fitting way to acknowledge thousands of slaves who were thrown from boats into the sea when they died en-route, sent to an unknown and unmarked grave.

This year the Circuit Stationing Committee have committed to undergoing some training on unconscious bias, an enormous subject and one that will need to be integrated into many areas of training for the future. We cannot change history, but it is up to us what we learn from it. We are making history of our own as we journey through this pandemic. I pray we are brave enough to admit to the areas where things were not dealt with as well as they could have been and to learn from them. Honesty and acknowledgement is always the first step and some seem to find it a lot harder than others.

(continued on next page)

(continued) I hope that in the next Spotlight letter I will be able to give you more news about how we will proceed over the coming months in preparing for the building to open. Please be aware that this will be a slow and gradual process in order to keep people safe.

With every blessing,

Dawn

USING SELF-ISOLATION AS A MEDITATION TOOL

We're all probably heartily sick of hearing the new buzzwords, like social distancing, self-isolation, lockdown and of course unprecedented. So, here's a way to use one of those dreaded and much overused words to help meditate on God's word and trust in Him to help us through this.

Save souls, but save our planet too

God created it and we have abused it Genesis 1 v31

Everyone has sinned and fallen short

We have mistreated God 1 John 1 v8-10

Listen to God and obey His commands

Luke 6 v47, 48

Forgiveness is yours to receive

Matthew 6 v14,15

I must be less selfish and think of others

Philippians 2 v4

Share the gospel with those around you

Matthew 28 v19,20

Obey God's command

John 14 v21

Love one another

John 13 v34, 35

Acept one another

Romans 15 v7

Trust God for everything

Proverbs 3 v5,6

Involve yourself in the needs of others

Matthew 25 v35- 40

Opportunities must be used

Colossians 4 v5,6

Never forget what God has done for you,
Because He loves you

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15 v13

A prayer for use in times of challenge



Many of us may still be feeling a sense of dislocation as our normal routine has changed beyond recognition. Loneliness, fear, anxiety and worry are very real emotions that swirl around us every day. If you are looking for comfort in God's words, read this different version of Psalm 23 slowly and use it as a prayer.

Know that you are protected by the Shepherd's hand.

The Lord is my Shepherd,
He will always provide for me.
He will bring peace and tranquillity
To a troubled and anxious mind,
And renewal to my soul.
Daily He will guide my steps
To fulfil His plans and purposes.
Though in a world of falling moral standards,
Of violence, illness, loneliness and despair,
I will not be afraid,
For I know You are with me.
Your power and compassion comforts me.
You give me strength to cope
In a busy and stressful environment.
You fill me with an inner joy,
Your blessings overwhelm me.
Surely I will always be surrounded
By Your goodness and love,
And I will live in Your presence...for ever.

Amen



Psalm 23

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COVID-19: IS IT ALL GOOD NEWS?



From a rapid fall in air pollution to curious goats exploring an almost empty Llandudno, the COVID-19 crisis is set to leave a notable environmental footprint. But sadly not always for the best. Read on to find out more.

BENEFIT: Reduced Pollution Levels

As the world ground to a halt in March and April, the sudden shutdown of most industrial activities had a dramatic impact. Air pollution levels dropped significantly with virtually no air travel. Satellite images have revealed a clear drop in global levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), a gas which is primarily emitted from car engines and commercial manufacturing plants and is responsible for poor air quality in many major cities. **BUT:** sadly, the reduced air travel is likely to last only as long as the virus.



BENEFIT: Green Gas Emissions

Like NO₂, carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) have also been slashed in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. When economic activity stalls, so do CO₂ emissions — in fact, the last time this happened was during the 2008-2009 financial crisis. In China alone, emissions fell by around 25% when the country entered lockdown. Reduced demand for oil saw reduced emissions from motor vehicles, but a welcome drop in fuel prices for motorists.

BUT: again, as the world restarts, this change is likely to be only temporary, although we can hope that some destructive habits may have changed.

BENEFIT: More room for wildlife



As everyone retreated to their homes, some animals were seen taking advantage of our absence. Reduced road traffic meant that fewer little critters like hedgehogs, emerging from their hibernation, were less likely to be hit by cars. On the slight downside, other species like ducks may be wondering where all the people have gone!

They will need to find other sources of food besides breadcrumbs in the park.

BENEFIT: Reduced global wildlife trade

The global wildlife trade is responsible for pushing a number of species to the brink of extinction. COVID-19 likely originated in a Wuhan wet market, which was, and still is, a hub for both legal and illegally trafficked wildlife. A crackdown on trading live wildlife may be one very positive thing to come out of this crisis.

BENEFIT: Clearer Water

We probably all saw the incredible images of crystal clear canals in Venice shortly after Italy entered lockdown. The pristine blue waters were a far cry from their usual muddy appearance. And with those huge cruise ships either docked or travelling very little for the time being, our oceans are also experiencing a drop in noise pollution, lowering the stress levels of marine creatures like whales and making for a much more peaceful migration.

BENEFIT: Easier travel for those that need it

There has been (and this should remain) more room on our overcrowded public transport system and on our roads as more and more people realise that they can work just as effectively without commuting. Public transport should also be much cleaner with Transport for London, for example, now rolling out extra-strong viral cleaning fluids.



DOWNSIDE: Plastic waste on the rise

But it's not all good news. One of the worst environmental side-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic is the rapid increase in the use of disposable plastic — from medical equipment like disposable gloves, to plastic packaging as more people opt for pre-packaged foods. In a bid to stop the virus from spreading, Costa Coffee stopped accepting customers' own cups and reverted to non-recyclable single-use cups.

DOWNSIDE: Climate crisis goes ignored (for now)

With the coronavirus dominating, the climate crisis has been pushed to the side-line. But that doesn't make it any less urgent. Experts are warning that important decisions regarding the climate should not be delayed — even with the UN climate conference postponed until 2021. While emissions have dropped since the pandemic began, we're currently unlikely to see widespread and long-term change as a result.

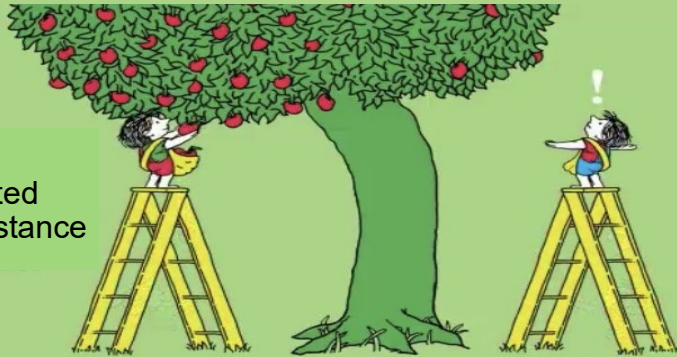
Inequality

Unequal access
to opportunities



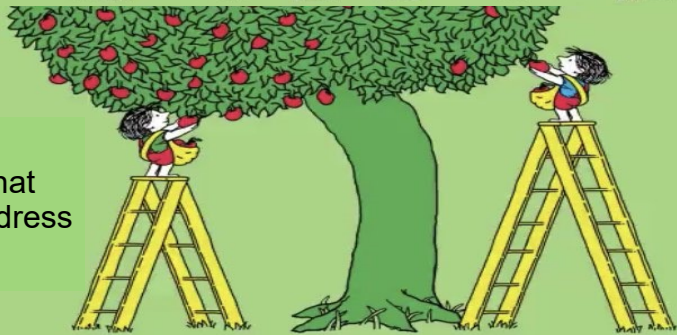
Equality

Evenly distributed
Tools and assistance



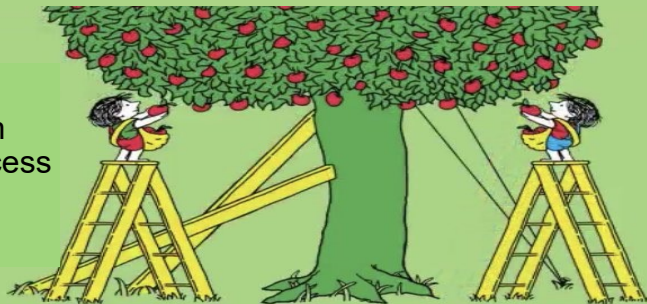
Equity

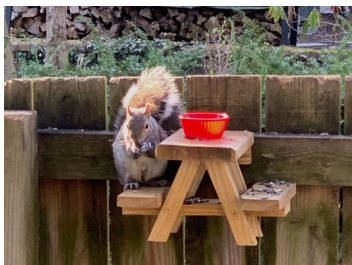
Custom tools that
identify and address
inequality



Justice

Fixing the system
to offer equal access
to both tools and
opportunities





NUTS ABOUT A PICNIC?

New Yorker Rick Kalinowski has turned building miniature picnic tables for squirrels into a quarantine trend.

Rick got the idea while watching squirrels in his backyard one morning after his workplace closed down. He created a table from scraps of wood lying around his house and snapped some photos after he got his first squirrel visitors. The photos were shared thousands of times on Facebook, helping Rick launch a very successful online Etsy store to sell his adorable creations.

Thank you from us all at Worthing 4Refugees for your continued support and prayers for the Syrian refugees who have made their home in our area.



With Covid-19 so much in the news, it is easy for other world events to go from our screens and away from our minds, but regrettably the tragic war in Syria continues.

Last month we remembered refugees with Refugee week (June 15th - 21st). Be assured that we are keeping in contact virtually with our families and supporting them from a safe distance for now.

Again a great big thanks for all your valuable support and prayers.

John Carr

ART CLUB ONLINE!

Art Club Members may know that Jenny, our resident artist, is not in good health at present and has had to suspend her online tutorials on Facebook. However, you can still access Jenny's posts and practice on her older works. Just search for "Jenny King from Worthing Paint Along With Me" (Jenny's art name) and send her a friend request. There might never be a better opportunity to learn a new, wonderful, skill.



REMEMBERING EILEEN FLITT



Eileen Grace Flitt was born on 13 September 1925 at Leyton, to Sidney and Grace, and lived there with her parents, brother Russell and pet dog 'Spot'.

When war came Eileen worked at Potten Farm, Chandlers Cross, where she was a member of the Land Army from 1943 to 1947. It was of course during this time that a certain Tom Flitt asked for a lift on her horse and cart and the rest, as they say, is history.

Eileen and Tom were married on 10 December 1949 and were based in the Watford area with Eileen finding work in the 1950's at the tax office in Watford. During this time Eileen met Dorothy Lawrence which turned out to be a lasting friendship for over 70 years. Sadly, only a month before Eileen passed away Dorothy also passed away, so the friends are together again.

In the late 1960's Eileen and Tom left Watford for Worthing and made their home in Loxwood Avenue. This proved to be their family home where they brought up their sons Malcolm and Graham. As an older mother in the 1960s, Eileen was ahead of the trend. Eileen and Tom lived happily in their house in Loxwood Avenue, tending their beautiful garden and volunteering at the church for many years until sadly Tom passed away in 2016 and Eileen had to move into the Offington Park Care Home.

Eileen had become very much involved in Offington Park, her local Methodist Church, and over the years took on many roles including Church Pastoral Visitor. She worked tirelessly in this role, visiting people on her trusty bicycle in the morning, afternoon and sometimes in the evening. Indeed, Eileen was so much part of the team that the Church Council voted to pay her 'bicycle travelling expenses'!

Eileen also ran the church creche and was a member of the Monday and Tuesday clubs. When Betty Marris ran Tuesday lunches Eileen served the soup which her husband Tom had made. Outside the Church Eileen's passion was flower arranging and gardening and when Eileen got involved with flower arranging for weddings and other events she was duly assisted by her good friend Terry Atkinson.

Over the years the ladies enjoyed a great partnership and one of the highlight weekends I am sure was when they arranged the flowers for “Four Weddings and a Funeral”.



One of my first visits on coming to Offington Park was to visit Tom and Eileen in their shared hospital room, where I also met Malcolm and Graham. Latterly Eileen and I spoke most Sundays and I always complemented her on her beautifully matching outfits always set off with an appropriate brooch. She had an engaging smile and was always easy to talk to, sitting quietly and often looking quite serene.

In retirement, Eileen very much enjoyed travelling and she and Tom made several memorable visits to Canada to see Graham, Melanie and grandchildren Emma, Sophie and Cameron. In 2009 and 2011 they went on two cruises. The first was very much enjoyed and fulfilled a lifetime’s dream of Eileen’s to see the Norwegian fjords. Other trips included seeing her nephew John and his family in Sweden.

Eileen was a warm and caring person and loved her family very much, always putting Tom and the boys before herself. Eileen loved her sons unconditionally and kept them busy, encouraging them to take up sports and hobbies. She was always there for them through life’s ups and downs.

Eileen was very excited to become a grandmother, although missed her growing family living in Canada and always looked forward to having them stay when they visited Worthing. In 1996 Graham, Melanie, Emma and Sophie came to stay for six months. Eileen had a wonderful time with the little ones, taking them to childcare and looking after them while Graham and Melanie were at work in Brighton. Family was important to Eileen and she was always interested in what everyone was doing, including not only her immediate family, but that of nephew John and family in Sweden and niece Penny and family in Brighton. Eileen was surrounded by a close network of friends and neighbours and formed many long-term friendships.

There will be an ‘Eileen-shaped’ hole in our church family when we return, but we will gather together when it is safe to do so and have a celebration of her life.

Dawn



Last month I explained how the church is facing a potential hole in our finances as a result of the lockdown which has caused us to close our doors physically for the time being.

Of course, we are not alone. Covid-19 is causing an economic crisis for congregations throughout the world. However, our leadership team are being innovative, resilient and proving themselves well up to the task of leading us and our community through these uncharted waters in matters of both faith and finances.

While some congregations will not survive, we are reasonably well-placed to weather the storm. When we emerge from this crisis, we may be bruised financially, but we will not be beaten.

It is in a crisis that we must continue to look at different ways of being and supporting church. We can ensure we have a regular stream of income from freewill offerings by encouraging people to give by standing order.

Giving by standing order is better for the church than the envelope scheme where you have to remember to put the cash aside each week and be at church to give. It is also much better than cash giving where generally we can't even claim Gift Aid on the amount given and again if you don't come to church you can't make an offering.

With standing order, you do not need to set aside the money each week. The amount YOU state is paid by your bank regularly to the church's bank and once set up requires no further action. You can of course change the amount you give any time you wish. The huge benefit to the church is that we receive your offering whether you can attend church or not, and we can budget and plan our expenditure knowing that your offering will be there in our bank when we need it.

Please think about switching to standing order giving, and if you feel led to make the change, please contact the Treasurer, Alison Wright, via the church office or by email to treasurer@offingtonpark.org.uk. Thank You.

Mike Powell, Lay Chair of Finance

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE CORNER

WORDWHEEL: The 9-letter word was Vegetable **COURT REPORT:** A pack of playing cards is being described; **WHAT AM I?:** A horse

I would like to thank everyone who sent or delivered flowers to me following the death of Douglas.

Our house was like a florist shop for quite a long time, and the smell was glorious.

Thank you all so much.

Thank you also for thinking of me and my family and for all your prayers and cards that I received. I found the verses in them very uplifting and helpful.

Love to you all and thank you once again. God Bless you.



Heather G

Editors note: Heather mentioned that it is helpful when sending cards to people (for whatever reason) to include surname as well as first name. We are a large church and there are several people with the same first name! It's important for the recipient to know who is thinking of them and who to thank.



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SUDOKU (medium difficulty)

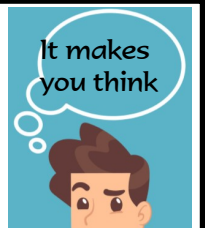
6		4						3
		5	4					7
	9				2			6
			3		1	6	7	
7								2
	3	6	9		5			
5			6				2	
1					4	9		
9						4		5

CONNECTING WALL

(rearrange the words to make 4 lines of 4 connected words)

Pique	Daisy	Rose	Magic	?
Vicious	Dress	Westwood	Dewey	?
McCartney	Donald	Expose	Guinness	?
Hemingway	Louie	Lame	Crop	?

Without my first, I'm culture mad.
 My first three show I'm not too bad.
 Odd letters mean to delve into.
 First, second, last is money due.
 Drop off my last, and that's not all.
 My whole word means to have a ball.



CODEWORD

Every letter of the alphabet in this grid is represented by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle. All you have to do is decide which letter is represented by which number!

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

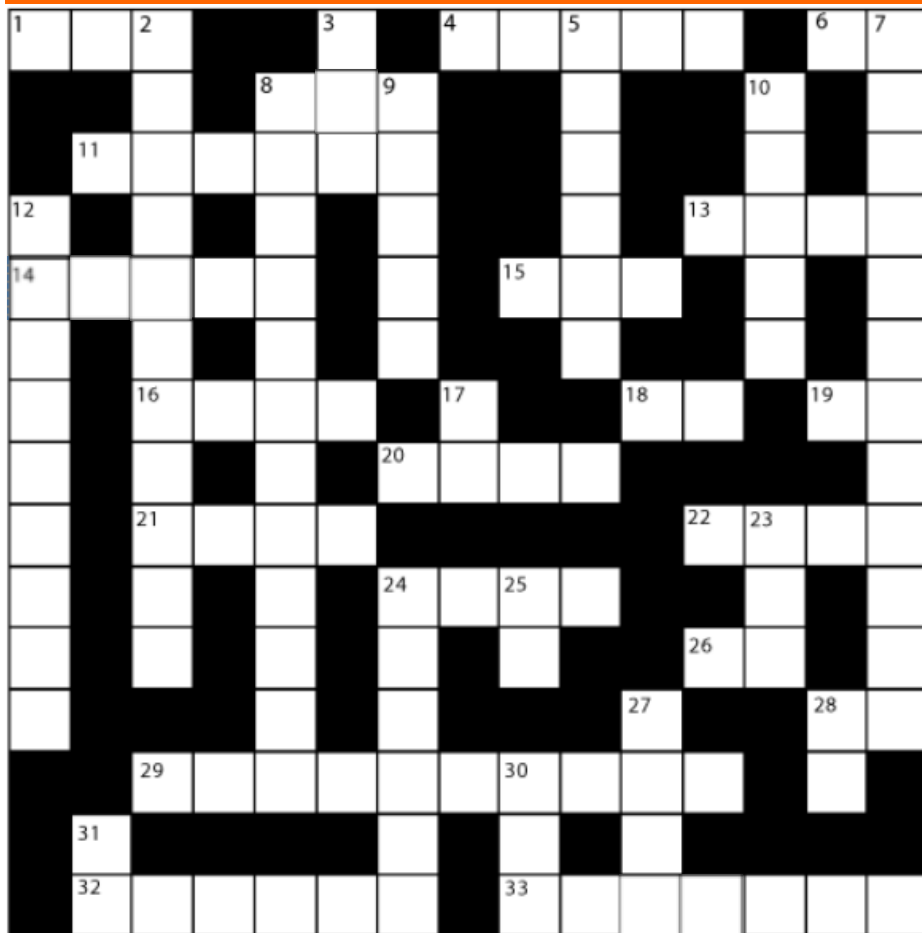
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Martin Luther King Jr

FAMILY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Hostelry
 4. Speak hoarsely
 6. Leave
 8. American tramp
 11. Withdraw labour
 13. Conceal
 14. Mix together
 15. Muscle contraction</p> | <p>16. Fertile soil
 18. Alongside
 19. Returns all right!
 20. Leave out
 21. French biscuit?
 22. Nothing
 26. A name I call myself
 28. We two</p> |
|--|---|

CLUES ACROSS (continued)

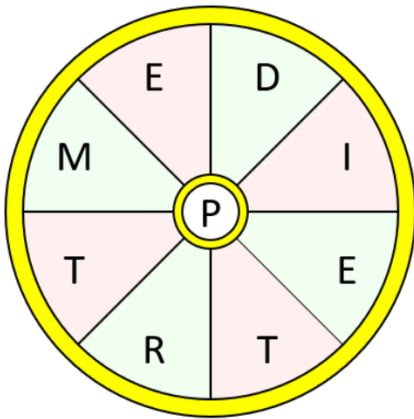
29. Cylindrical fuel containers
32. Leading batsman

33. Concealed entrance

CLUES DOWN

2. European country
3. Great sea bird
5. Flower
7. Brittle bone disease
8. Twitchers
9. Paris underground, in short
10. Whip up
12. Plenty

17. "I __, I said", sang Neil
23. River in Devon
24. Horror film maker
25. Dad, informally
27. Globes
28. Disney film
30. American faucet
31. Tibetan Yak



WORDWHEEL

How many words of three letters or more can you make from the letters in the wheel?

All words must include the middle letter and proper nouns are not permitted.

Can you find the 9-letter word?

GOOD SCORE: 45 words

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Cap; 3 Betrothed; 9 Ire;
10 Extraction; 12 At; 14 Talon;
16 Catcher; 18 Forecasting;
22. Enlists; 24 Links; 26 TC;
28 Irrelevant; 32 Roi;
34 Yesterday; 35 See

DOWN

- 1 Create; 2 Petal; 3 Boa; 4 Tot
5 Oxo; 6 Hi; 7. Era; 8 Deters;
11 Ira; 13 Chin; 15 Neeps;
16 Crass; 17 Total; 19 Owls
20 Sentry; 21 Tsetse; 23 Tor;
25 Nears; 27 Coe; 29 Rue; 30 Eid
31 Ely; 33 Is



Spotlight on NIGER

Niger is around five times the size of the UK, but has less than a third of the UK's population. It is neighbour to seven other countries including Benin, Mali, Algeria, Libya and Chad.

The official language is French with Hausa and Djerma as other languages. However, less than a fifth of the population is literate.

Niger is mostly desert and the people face daily challenges from poverty, climate change and Islamist extremist attacks. Now, Covid-19, which can be potentially catastrophic, can be added to that list. Churches are poorly equipped to serve the country's Muslim population.

Please pray for the poorest people as they balance the need to survive and work against the need to stay safe. Pray also for the work of the Bible Society which is struggling with few economic reserves and is desperate to keep their doors open in Niger.

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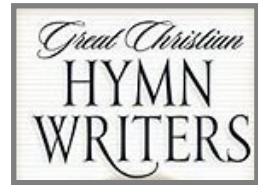
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GEORGE BENNARD

The Old Rugged Cross



Many of us will have sung the stirring words to The Old Rugged Cross, written by George Bennard. This is the chorus of this great hymn, which speaks of the writer's adoration of Jesus and his sacrifice at Calvary:

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

George Bennard was born in the coal-mining and iron-production town of Youngstown, Ohio. When he was still a child, his parents relocated the family to Albia in Iowa. Later, they moved again to Lucas, also in Iowa.

The young Bennard aspired to become a Christian evangelist, but he was compelled to support his mother and sisters when his father died suddenly.

After marrying, Bennard became active in the Salvation Army and preached throughout the United States and Canada. He was ordained as a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church and spent much of his life in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin.



He wrote the first verse of "The Old Rugged Cross" in Albion, Michigan, in Autumn 1912 as a response to ridicule that he had received at a revival meeting. On 12 January 1913, at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, where he had travelled on an evangelical mission, he finished the hymn. It was the last night of the mission meetings, and Bennard performed it for the first time as a duet with Ed Mieras before a full house.

Bennard retired to Reed City, Michigan, and the town maintains a museum dedicated to his life and ministry. There is also a memorial in Youngstown at Lake Park Cemetery. A plaque commemorating the first performance of the song stands in front of the Friend's Church in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

George Bennard died in Reed City on 10 October 1958. He is buried in Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, California.

The local Chamber of Commerce later erected a cross near his home.

REMEMBERING PETER RODEMARK



Peter Rodemark was born in Notting Hill, North Kensington on 5 December 1925. His family had moved there from Five Ashes to get work. Peter was the ninth of ten children and life must have been hard, but there was a true family spirit working together with a real love for each other. He often spoke about several of his siblings having to share one bed and joked about the bed bugs at No. 4 Bletchingden Street.

His mum, Lucy, had trained 'in service', as a cook. He loved and appreciated a good-hearted meal, always! I remember as a child Dad loving his bread and dripping and nothing would ever be wasted. His father, James, must have shown Peter many skills from his time in the Navy and working as an engine driver at an electrical works.

Peter said, often as a boy, he would go to Wormwood Scrubs, where he played football and cricket on the large recreation ground and sometimes kicked the ball against prison walls. He spent time watching the trains at Kensal Rise and taking the engine numbers. His brother Jimmy, who he didn't know, was buried at Kensal Rise cemetery. Peter sometimes visited there and said it was a sad place, but at least he could watch the trains.

He had an old bike and had many adventures cycling as much as 20 miles. Some Sunday mornings he would walk to Kensington Gardens, around the pond, and enjoy a lovely roast dinner on return. At about the age of 12, the family moved to Perivale. Peter said he was sorry to leave his friends but the house made up for it. "What a treat", he said, "to have a small room of my own and a bathroom and toilet in the house".

It wasn't long before he left school at age 14. He started accompanying a neighbour who drove a delivery lorry around the south of England and soon started to know his way about. He then had a number of jobs working at Wolfs drills making drill parts and became a capstan operator. The war had just started and he helped build Anderson Shelters in both his and his neighbour's gardens. Peter then worked in a factory making ammunition boxes, before joining J. Lyons where he did electrical work and a bit of coach building.

Peter was called up for National Service in 1943 at age 18. He wanted to join the Navy, but ended up in the Royal Air Force and trained as an electrician. He was sent to Egypt and then Palestine, servicing aircraft.

Whilst there he managed to visit Jerusalem, which he said was 'an experience'! From there he was sent to East Africa, Nairobi and then to Mogadishu in Somalia, which was a staging post. Peter said it was like stepping into an oven when you got off the plane. He loved the warmth and would joke even on a hot day, saying he would be glad when it warmed up!

It was in Mogadishu that Peter received the sad news that his father had died on VE day in 1945, but he couldn't get home. In fact, they delayed his demob for a further two years until December 1947. He did plenty of swimming and tennis and he always said that washing his hair in the salt water had made it drop out! He ran an outside cinema with a small projector and managed to get films sent from Nairobi.

Peter transferred back to Nairobi, and did a refrigeration course in Cairo. He flew up by a small Sunderland four-engine flying boat and landed on the Nile near Luxor, which he said was quite an experience. With a friend, he bought an old Austin 7 for £10 and they managed to travel around a bit in the car and as a passenger on his friends' motorbike. He said they visited game reserves seeing giraffes, wildebeest and antelopes. They went swimming in Lake Nikuru, although you had to keep an eye out for hippos and the ants really bit your toes whilst dressing, so you had to be quick!



Peter married Barbara in 1953, and they made their home in Greenford, Middlesex. He worked as a refrigeration engineer, covering a wide area across London. The family soon grew with the arrival of Timothy, in 1957, June in 1958, John in 1960 & Susan in 1961. Peter was a wonderful, devoted and supporting husband, helping his family where he could, even boiling nappies in the garden.

Life became very busy and he had the opportunity to change his work area to West Sussex, which resulted in the family moving to Worthing in 1968. Peter loved both the countryside and being by the sea. As his family grew up, he was always there to support them. He became involved with Worthing swimming club and was a member for 51 years. He supported his family with their involvement in the club with training and swimming galas and loved the club exchanges to Solingen, Germany. He helped by teaching adults and then having a regular swim every week for many, many years. Peter had a love for the sea and helped Worthing youth sailing in the 1970's, helping to repair their dinghies and sailing from Goring beach.

Peter also went on the shake down crew on the Malcolm Miller, a tall ship, in the cold winter months, which he loved. He also enjoyed sailing at Cobnor, in Chichester harbour, helping to instruct youth groups. He bought a scorpion dinghy in the 1970's, which needed repairing, to make it sea worthy. It was his pride and joy, and he spent much time, carefully tending his boat, painting and varnishing it every spring. Great times were spent on it over the years.

Sadly in 1992 he lost his Barbara, just as he was beginning to start his retirement. These were very sad times. In 1995 he married Genny and moved just along the 'road' to Sompting. They had many years together and enjoyed some wonderful travelling both in the UK and abroad. They were members of the rambling club and loved their weekly walks.

Peter wasn't frightened of hard work and could turn his hand to anything. He always had a vegetable plot, whether it was an allotment during the war, in his garden or at East Worthing allotments. He worked hard to prepare the ground and rejoiced in his fruits of the earth.

Peter always had a strong faith in God and was confirmed at St Clements church, Kensington, in 1936. As a boy he went to the Isle of Wight on a church camp which was a holiday for him. He practised his faith throughout his life and was a church member at Offington for 51 years. He joined House Groups, drove the minibus, helped with Shopper trips and days out and was a pastoral visitor. He helped erect the Christmas tree in the church for many years and joined in with the men's club and Jubilate. He enjoyed being part of Friday badminton club and was a steadfast member of the congregation.

Peter was a wonderful father. He loved his family dearly and was always pleased to see anyone - and said so. We will always remember his beaming smile, welcoming handshake and twinkle in his eye. He was a kind-hearted, gentle, humble person who loved being active and surrounded by people.



He appreciated the beauty and wonder of the world as well as respecting simple things in life. He always had a positive outlook and if anyone could fix it, he could! He would willingly help anyone. He was a devoted husband, Dad, Grandpops, & great Granddad. We are so thankful for his life and remember him with such fondness as he sails into glory. God rest his soul.

June Martin and Family

FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

During the last few months the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have had to cease their monthly clearance mornings and tours, but for many the cemetery has been a tranquil place to walk whilst maintaining social distancing. Do try it if you haven't already.



Holly Blue Butterfly

There have been many reported sightings of a variety of birds, including Woodpeckers, Robins, Goldcrests and Goldfinches. Also Insects such as Stag Beetles, Bee Flies and different Butterflies.

In early April the cherry blossom was a welcome harbinger of spring. The sight that has entranced so many visitors has been the sea of Ox Eye Daisies spreading as far as the eye could see. Now there many varieties of wild grasses: Marsh Grass, Canary Grass, Timothy and Cock's Foot to name a few. Take a walk and see how many you can spot! There are Goat's Beard and Fox and Cubs (Orange Hawkweed), Ragwort, Clover, Lungwort, Herb Bennett and the most special, a Pyramidal Orchid.



Pyramidal
Orchid

Sadly now the daisies are beginning to die down and due to the reduced level of maintenance caused by Covid-19, the ivy and brambles are beginning to take over and are slowly reclaiming the cemetery. This is heartbreaking for the Friends who have sacrificed many hours clearing and maintaining the cemetery over the past ten years. We hope that soon the Saturday morning maintenance day will start again.



Ivy-clad
Bookstand

These are held on the last Saturday of each month, meeting by the Chapels at 10.00am. If you are interested in saving this beautiful cemetery, you can find out what maintenance work is required by contacting Paul Robards, the maintenance coordinator: paul.robards2013@gmail.com. Paul will be pleased to let you do some light maintenance work using your own secateurs and gloves!

JC's LITTLE NUGGETS

Castaway....

What to do next? Housework? Maybe gardening? Mind you that's a big job - those two flower boxes on the balcony! What about painting (I had a good excuse - no rollers - until Colin offered me some).



Considering all this physical activity became too much and I felt tired just thinking about it. So I watched a DVD called Castaway starring Tom Hanks as a man marooned on an uninhabited island.

I thought how that's a bit like us. Over twelve weeks ago now, millions of us became castaways, locked down in our homes. Only we had no long sandy beaches or coconut trees nearby!

In reality, for many of us, lockdown has not been a good place. We mustn't forget, though, that whoever we are, God loves us and values us. We have not been cast off by Him or by our great worship team. God's word and our tireless team continue to do so much to sustain us in these difficult times.

God bless you all.

John Carr



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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS

Gill P (60 on 16 July)

Ted W (98 on 13 August)

Jean S (90 on 23 August)

Many congratulations and best wishes for your day!

Although we cannot access our Prayer Book at the moment, we continue to hold in our prayers anyone known to us who is suffering from poor health, loneliness or who may be living in fear of what the future holds.

We speak English!

Last month, we printed an article entitled IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!, about the challenges facing those learning our confusing language.

The Editors were very pleased to hear from Jean and David Singleton, now living on the Isle of Wight, who still receive Spotlight.

They wish to be remembered to everyone and to pass on their love and best wishes to everyone at Offington. David also sent this amusing short story to continue our theme:

*A Frenchman was travelling by train from Dover to London Victoria and thought he would profitably use the time to brush up his English. Near to Orpington he turned over the page to revise the ‘..ough’ words. He read:
Bough - pronounced Bow, not bow(!)*

Cough - pronounced ‘Coff’


Dough - pronounced ‘Doh’

Enough - pronounced ‘Enuff’

Rough - pronounced ‘Ruff’ . There were many more such examples and he became very, very confused.

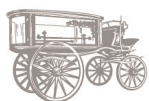
At his destination he made his way out of the station, looked up and saw the Victoria Palace Theatre with all the publicity for its latest show “Oklahoma”.

*Underneath the show’s name was a newspaper critic’s review:
‘Oklahoma - pronounced success’ (Daily Mirror) . He fainted.*



The name of the Lord
is a fortified tower;
the righteous run to
it and are safe.

Proverbs 18:10



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NEXT EDITION

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to the Editors at:

offingtonspotlight@gmail.com

A man made an appointment to see his doctor.

“Doctor”, he told the GP, “I’ve been feeling a little off-colour lately”.
“OK”, said the doctor, “let’s have a look at you. Tell me, what have you been eating lately?”

“Well”, said the patient, “I had a snooker ball for breakfast, a snooker ball for lunch, a snooker ball as a mid-afternoon snack and two snooker balls for dinner.”

“Just snooker balls?” asked the doctor, incredulously.

“That’s right. I usually have a blue one for breakfast, a brown one for elevenses, a pink and a yellow one at lunch, the red ones I have as snacks, and then I have a couple of black ones for dinner.”

“Aha”, said the doctor, “I see what the problem is. You're not getting enough greens.”



Offington Park Methodist Church,
South Farm Road, Worthing,
BN14 7TN

Tel: 01903 205722

Email: office@offingtonpark.org.uk

Web: www.offingtonpark.org.uk

