

The Parish of St Thomas, Mellor

Registered Charity No. 1130414

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Outlook



**May
2020**

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50p

*Articles for Outlook should be sent to the Editor (preferably by email).
The deadline for the June edition is 15th May*

Vicar's Viewpoint

A familiar line in a T.S. Eliot poem remarks, 'We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.'

This past month has seen us all having to spend more time staying put. Stay at home we are reminded daily by politicians. Life as was is on pause.

But for me, life has taken on a new richness. I am seeing and hearing things as if 'for the first time'.

It's the little seemingly insignificant things that are stopping me in my tracks.

Noticing the sunlight coming through the window and the beauty of the light changing throughout the day. How that affects the rhythm of the day which in turn affects my rhythm.

Hearing birdsong and thinking that I have never heard anything more beautiful. All for free if I care to stop and listen.

Realising how much I love the beauty of stillness and quiet. Thinking that this must have been how the world sounded before the noise of modern life took over and became the normal.

Nature is being given a breathing space to shine instead of playing second fiddle to us human beings. This time of stopping is a gift to us.

It is a space in time to re-examine who we are, the part we play in our world and to re-evaluate what is important to us.

The poem below speaks into this new place we find ourselves in.

I prefer this me.

The slower me.

The me that has time to give my family my full attention.

The me that has been given permission to stop striving,
stop comparing and just focus on the things and people that really matter.

This me has time to see the need right under my nose
and see how I can help and find time to respond, however small.

This me is kinder and gentler
and cares less about what everyone else thinks.

I hope when this is all over this me stays
around a while longer.

As we travel through this new landscape may we arrive back where we started and
with fresh insight know the place as if for the first time.

Best wishes, Tracy

Calendar of NON-events for May 2020

Normal Service(s) will be resumed as soon as possible!



See p14

find out how the church choir are coping with isolating!

The Women's Evening Fellowship meets on the second Wednesday at 8.00 pm (Parish Centre)
The Choir practises each week on Friday at 6.30 pm
Tea and Friendship meets on the first Wednesday 1.45pm to 3.45pm (Parish Centre)
Toddlers Group meets on Thursday each week 10.00-11.30am (Parish Centre)
Prayer Group meets on Monday each week 10.30am (Parish Centre)

The bell, the bell

Tracy heard an item on the radio saying that the only sounds that could be currently heard in Rome were ambulance sirens and church bells – despair and hope. Given this piece of information the church bell-ringers intend to ring the bell every Sunday until it is once again calling the faithful up the hill.

Given the size of the belfry, social distancing is not possible so the Tower Captain has drawn up a rota for an individual ringer each Sunday. As the clock has a seven-day mechanism it has to be wound each week so the ringers will be busy. Fortunately, to maintain strength they have taken the advice of Dr Butterworth, the Tower Medical Officer, who has prescribed a tot of whisky every Sunday morning, although with no weddings and therefore no gifts from grateful wedding parties there is a fear of shortages and possible panic buying.



Mellor Church Fête

The fête committee will make a final decision in 3 weeks' time about whether the fête, in some shape or form, can take place on 27th June as planned. Watch out for further news in June *Outlook*.

Editor's Note

Because of the current uncertain circumstances I am sure readers will appreciate that dates printed in *Outlook* regarding any future events or meetings could be subject to alteration or cancellation.

Editorial Meanderings

Good morning, Gentle Readers. Came downstairs this morning to be greeted by Mrs. Editor saying to me, 'My Weather Station isn't working.' I said, 'What's the matter with it?' She replied, 'Well, it's recording but it's not transmitting.' I said, 'Well, that's a bit like me in the mornings.' However, a word of explanation. As I have probably mentioned previously, Mrs. Editor started her working life in the Meteorological Office, studying and recording weather systems, patterns and conditions, etc., etc., and after training and qualifying, one of her postings was at Ringway (Manchester Airport). She was nineteen years old and she said the thing that worried her mainly was that she would have to go out, during her shift period, and check the outside recording instruments. She would then have to do various calculations from the recording instruments and this information would be relayed to the pilots. Don't forget this was the days before computers were doing everything. This obviously was a bit of a responsibility and all I can say is that the pilots (and passengers) were lucky it was Mrs Editor doing it and not Mr. Editor. Anyway, back to the Editorial Weather Station. One of Mrs. Editor's older sisters was also with the Met. Office and a few years ago bought her younger sister a small domestic household weather recording item. It takes the form of a small plastic box and screen which hangs on the wall in the kitchen and a second small box is placed - in an appropriate position - in the garden and registers the outside temperature and humidity and relays it to the screen on the box in the kitchen. However, Mrs Editor was holding in her hand the small box from the garden which, although it had the recordings showing on the screen, for some reason was not transmitting them to the small box on the kitchen wall. We are still trying to fathom out why. Now don't tell me that information hasn't enriched your life somewhat. Will keep you informed of developments.

One morning last week as I sat at the breakfast table, the door-bell rang. I opened the front door to find a large box lying there. It had a few sticky labels on it informing the carriers and recipient that the box *contains glass*. It was addressed to yours truly. My first thought, of course, was who is sending me glass items? However, imagine my surprise and sheer joyous excitement when I opened said box and withdrew three bottles of single malt whisky. All quality stuff. These turned out to be have been sent to me by one of my beloved sons, Edward. It was to comfort his aged father during his period of alcoholic isolation. As I have been writing these meanderings for longer than I would care to remember, I'm sure I have also informed my readership that when my children were young and I was drinking a glass of wine, they would invariably ask for a taste and I would let them have a sip with the words 'Now sippy, sippy not gloppy, gloppy' - meaning, of course, sip it gently and not gulp it down. Accompanying my whisky gift was a card which said: *Emergency Corona Relief. Please find enclosed medicinal relief to be administered in sips and not glops. Yours, Dr. E. W. Nicholls.*

Mellor birds

Maggie Williams

The good news is Cath at Knowle farm reported two swallows returning to Mellor on Saturday the 11th April. Previous first sightings are 1/4/19, 7/4/18, 30/3/17 and 7/4/16.

Sadly I had to cancel the order at Potts the baker in New Mills for 60 rolls for the Easter early morning sunrise service. So on Easter Sunday morning I got up at 6.30 and sat outside eating my porridge and listened to the dawn chorus. It was lovely. I can recommend it. I heard blue tit, great tit, goldfinch, jackdaw, crow, Canada geese, woodpigeon, house sparrow, green finch, blackbird, starling and wren.

A couple of days ago I was hanging around in the road outside my home, when a tandem stopped and a couple from the High Peak RSPB said they had just seen a wheatear on Sandhill Lane up near the quarry end. These birds are the first migrants to come back from tropical Africa. To me their spring colouring is a bit like a nuthatch, having a black eye stripe and slatey blue back with black edges to the wings and tail. Their distinguishing feature is their white rump seen when they fly off. It is said the name wheatear comes from the 'white arse' (*Thank you, Maggie. No doubt true but I must remind you this is the church magazine. A bit of delicacy wouldn't go amiss. Ed*). They are typically birds of the open country and frequently perch on stone walls or a fence post.

Down at the Mellor Mill by the Wellington wheel pit a song thrush has been singing its heart out in the top of the surrounding trees.

I've also seen a treecreeper climbing up the trunk of a tree at the engine house end of the site near the weighing station. Dave has seen dippers between the Garden House and the Midland.

Why did the owl owl.? Because the woodpecker woodpecker. (Thank you Jen.)



Maggie and Mellor Birds enthusiasts, please see Letter to the Editor from Liz Hannaford on page 25.

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[Quote 'Mellor Parish']

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Apricot, cranberry and pistachio loaf cake

Jill Baker

I was attracted to this cake recipe as I have left-over pistachios and cranberries from Christmas plus an open pack of apricots. However all apricots and almonds would work well. You could use sultanas to replace the fruit and forget the nuts. It is the cake which is really soft and delicious.



100ml/3.5 fl oz light olive oil (a neutral tasting oil such as sunflower will be fine)

150g /5oz caster sugar

175g/ 6 oz plain yogurt(I use Greek)

2 large eggs

Finely grated zest of a lemon

140g /5oz plain flour

1 tsp baking powder

½ tsp bicarb

75g/2.5oz ground almonds

70g /2.5 oz soft apricots chopped

70g /2.5oz dried cranberries

3 tbsp chopped pistachios



Icing

100g /3.5 oz icing sugar

4 tbsp lemon juice as needed to making a thin icing

few chopped pistachios to decorate

Preheat the oven to 180C /G.Mark4.

Grease and line a 900g/2lb loaf tin

In a large bowl mix the oil, sugar, yogurt and eggs. Add lemon zest, flour, baking powder and bicarb, fold in the ground almonds along with the fruit and nuts.

Spoon into tin and bake for 45-50 mins. Allow to cool a little in tin and then tip onto cooling rack.

When completely cool drizzle icing made by mixing icing sugar and lemon juice together and scatter with chopped nuts.

The trouble with young people today is that all they have learned how to do is defrost frozen food. Why can't they learn how to open tins like we used to do.

Choice of the Month – Wines of Chile

William Heijbroek

In thinking about this month's wine topic during a period of lockdown while the news each day brings figures of Covid-19 deaths that shock and frighten and for some of us even sadden in grief of lost loved ones, I find the idea of coping with a pandemic an appropriate topic – showing how we can get through it all in the end and still enjoy the simple pleasure of a good glass of wine.

In the 1860s a pandemic called phylloxera caused decimation of the European wine industry, when vines were attacked by small sap-sucking insects, related to aphids, feeding on the roots and leaves and killing off their defenceless hosts. The agent of this destruction was *Daktulosphaira vitifoliae* originating from North America. There the indigenous vines had developed a natural resistance and perpetuated a stable ecosystem. But in a similar scenario to the global pandemic of today, over-enthusiastic travel and sharing spread the potentially hostile agent to unsuspecting shores. Between two-thirds and nine-tenths of all European vineyards were destroyed.

One of the countries that had a charmed life was Chile. Whether the soils were slightly more sandy or conditions dry enough to disrupt the life-cycle of the infection is of historic interest but to this day Chile is one of the few major wine-growing countries where European *Vitis vinifera* vines grow comfortably on their own and don't have to suffer the inconvenience of having a phylloxera resistant North American root-stock grafted onto their underside (for that was the way to defeat the infection). Today's ungrafted grapes of Chile are mainly the international varieties like the white and black grapes of Bordeaux, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, and one French variety that found a natural home in an Andean setting - Carmenère.

My choice of the month therefore are the wines from ungrafted vines that sing out strongly for Chile. A well-known producer Errazuriz runs the successful Costa Estate in the Aconcagua Valley east of Valpariso; their Errazuriz Costa Sauvignon Blanc at £8.99 from Waitrose is all 'tingling gooseberry fruit and lime acidity, ... a fantastic partner to grilled halloumi'. (Because of lockdown these wines haven't been personally tasted for you - unfortunately.) For the reds I choose Con Sur 20 Barrels Pinot Noir at £14 available at Morrisons; a fantastic commercial success story for Chilean wine made on the sandy granitic slopes of the Colchagua Valley south of Santiago and since 1998 is certified sustainable. Congratulations in order here for keeping the local ecology in balance while making great tasting Pinot Noir that offers 'rich red berry flavours ... topped off with a warm, smoky hint, upping its deliciousness another notch or three'; the men with the scores on the boards are out again!

Continued on p14

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Head Chorister's Report



Hi, this is Laura writing to you from home. I hope everyone is well and managing to find things to do. My family and I have been enjoying the sunshine from our garden, as well as our hour of exercise each day.

Life is certainly different at the moment and it seems a long time since our last choir rehearsal. However, Tom has ensured that we are all still in contact with each other and we are continuing to sing. Every Friday he has arranged a 'Zoom Treble biscuit' session. This involves all the trebles being at home (with their own biscuits) and appearing on screen so we can see each other. We have a chat about what we have been doing in the week and attempt to do a little singing together. This is a bit tricky but we try our best. It is lovely to see everyone each week. There is also an adult choir pub quiz, again via Zoom and they have to bring their own beer.

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter, celebrating from home instead of church. The choir were still involved with the celebrations. Many of the younger choir members drew Easter-themed pictures which were posted on Twitter and Facebook for everyone to enjoy.

One of the highlights of this year's Easter service (live on YouTube) was the choir singing the Easter hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today. This was organised and produced by Chris Mann. Each Choir member filmed themselves singing the hymn from their homes to the music provided by Ian and Ben Collyer. These little clips were then sent to Chris who put them all together so we sang as a choir (virtually). It was certainly different but worked out well and was fun. Easter wouldn't have been the same without the choir singing together and it was greatly appreciated by all those who took part and all those who listened to it.

I hope to see you all soon. But for now, stay well.

Choice of the Month

Continued from p12

My final choice is the signature grape of Chile, Carmenère, spelt with an accent to show off its historic Bordeaux origin. My choice is De Martino Legado Carmenère at £11.99 from Waitrose. Here is the grape that was rejected by the Bordelais yet found redemption in the sandy soils of Chile. It's green pepper and gamey characteristics might not be to everyone's taste but with clever winemaking De Martino get some lively peppery and cassis notes as well as a balanced richness, which sounds nice on paper. But it's all in the drinking – and the toast could be 'to the end of the pandemic'.

Catchcropping Vegetables or getting more out of your growing area!

Diana Cole

So what is a catch crop? It is a crop which will grow quickly so that you can fit in growing it around another main crop which takes longer to grow. Growing catch crops for a second harvest maximises productivity, especially if you have a limited growing space, and helps to keep the growing area weed-free through constant use. It is most successful as a technique in sheltered/sunny gardens, but will work well anywhere with reasonable conditions if you plan ahead.

Growing two cultivars which both need short growing periods can partner well; or pairing crops which require longer growing periods with ones which are quick-maturing. Examples of crops which are quick to mature are rocket, radish, lettuce and spinach. Cloches and fleece can usefully extend the growing season too, both early on in the spring, and later on in the autumn.

Where the second crop needs to be sown before the first crop is ready to harvest, sow into modules or a separate seedbed, and transfer or plant your seedlings out straight out after harvesting the first crop.

Where second crops are to grow into the autumn, ensure that they can either withstand frosts, or mature before the first frosts are expected. You also need to ensure that the vegetables you are planning to grow will crop well as the day lengths shorten as we go further into the autumn.

Some vegetables are more suitable for growing as a second crop, such as bulb-fennel and Oriental brassicas (eg pak choi) - these are less prone to bolting if grown after the longest day. Other vegetables are more susceptible to disease as second crops, such as peas and broad beans, and do not produce as well as they do earlier in the year. Examples of first and second crops:

- A) First crop - onion (sow seeds in February, plant sets in April)
Second crop - turnip, salad leaves, radicchio (sow August)
- B) First crop - early potatoes, lettuce, carrot, beetroot (April or earlier if possible)
Second crop - French (and dwarf French) beans, runner beans, swede, celery (sow July)
- C) First crop - broad beans, garlic (sow/plant November)
Second crop - spring cabbage, kale for overwintering (sow July).

The other technique of ensuring a continuous supply of vegetables throughout the summer months is the succession sowing. This is where you sow seeds every few weeks so that you have a continuous supply of maturing vegetables. You can do this with, for example, peas, lettuce and rocket. Finally, if you can get the seeds, you can get continuous supplies of certain vegetables e.g. lettuce if you use 'cut and come again' types of plants, where you cut leaves off the plants to eat, and they grow back again! This may be a more familiar concept in children's stories, or Greek myths, but these plants will regrow!

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As seen from Cow Corner

Silly Point



Life as we remember it has been put on hold for the foreseeable future and this obviously applies to the activities at the local cricket club. Members have once again returned to storage the equipment which had been brought out for an airing and a spring overhaul, but there is now little or no urgency for there to be the usual rush to ensure readiness for the forthcoming season.

They can now cower behind closed doors and re-join the nation of troglodytes.

In fact as with all activities, recreational cricket has been put on hold and it is very probable that this summer season will be a write-off.

The professional game is, likewise, dramatically affected, with the possibility of no cricket in any form being played. This has given commentators and players alike the opportunity to put forward variations for the different competitions. This could provide a chance for an overhaul to the confusing formats and, who knows, the longer form of the game, that is county cricket, could be made more appealing and come back into its own.

This is all very depressing for the cricket aficionados but let's not be too downcast and remember that the season of spring is in full flow with the blossom on the trees and the birds in their bright plumage. But just to emphasise that nature has a harsh side as well, a sparrow hawk swoops down to the bird feeders in the garden and grabs its lunch.

Stockport County Football Club

Ed.

As most of *Outlook's* readership are avid Stockport County fans, I felt that I must share with them an item I read on County's website. I and two of my sons, have been County supporters for some years now. However, one of them now lives in New York and supports New York Cosmos (he said you don't get that many away supporters). When I first started supporting County they were in a top division and played some major sides. I was a season ticket holder for many years. Then, disaster! An executive gentleman left the club and took his money with him and the club collapsed. From the days when we played against, and invariably beat, clubs like Manchester City, we were relegated to playing clubs who had about twenty supporters and a dog (and losing). However, my friends, County seems to now have a new owner and a financial kiss of life and great things seem to be happening so watch this space. My main reason for this item though is that the new business owner of County, a local man, I believe, has just given, on behalf of County, £75,000 to Stepping Hill Hospital (Coronavirus assistance) and the sale of all County items (from the shop, etc.) for the month of April also went to Stepping Hill. **LET'S HEAR IT FOR COUNTY !!!!!**

Captain Ken

Ken Owen

For those readers who missed Maggie Williams' delightful talk describing her Antarctic Bird Watching Holiday, I will share with you why I was particularly interested in this event.

When I heard that Maggie was intending to take this trip, I was a little apprehensive as I recalled that not many years previously, a cruise ship named *Explorer*, making a similar voyage, had struck an iceberg and sank leaving all passengers and crew abandoned in open lifeboats. Miraculously, the weather was uncharacteristically calm, and all crew and passengers were rescued by a Norwegian cargo ship.

My main reason for being so interested in the voyage, however, was that in the sixties, when I was serving as Second Officer on the cargo liner *Glenroy*, I became firm friends with one of the passengers, a gentleman named Dr. Jim McIlroy. Jim was then in his late eighties and was making a final retirement trip to the Far East, where he had spent much of his life. I found him to be one of the most interesting people I have ever met. He had been a member of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic *Endurance* expedition in 1914 and apart from his medical skills, also ended up being put in charge of the dog team after the original dog handler deserted. After the *Endurance* was crushed in the ice in the Weddell Sea, Jim and the rest of the crew were stranded on Elephant Island. Shackleton then made his epic open-boat voyage to South Georgia whaling station to get help. He managed to reach South Georgia and after three attempts the men were rescued after managing to stay alive by eating seals and penguins. During his Elephant Island experience, Jim had to amputate the gangrenous toes of a fellow member of the expedition and was later presented with the Polar Medal. Jim then served in the First World War and was badly injured at Ypres and taken prisoner. After the war, however, Jim then accompanied Shackleton on his 1921 expedition during which he nursed Shackleton, who became ill and died at sea off South Georgia. The mission was completed by another member of the team, Frank Wild. To cap this extraordinary and eventful life whilst serving, during the Second World War as a surgeon in the Orient Line's ship *Oronsay*, the ship was torpedoed and Jim was among those rescued by a French ship.

In 1990, in recognition of Jim McIlroy's amazingly eventful life, The Admiralty arranged a complete survey of South Georgia, and they named one of the highest mountains (745 metres - 500 feet higher than our Kinder Scout) **McIlroy Peak**. It is not every day that a former good friend has a mountain named after him and I was absolutely thrilled. Although I have circumnavigated the world several times, I have never sailed in Antarctica, and Maggie was able to send a superb photograph of snow covered McIlroy Peak and a video of her ship steaming through pack ice. She even managed to take photographs of Elephant Island.

One Thousand Beautiful Things

Chosen from the Life and Literature of the World

Arthur Mee

In a previous edition of *Outlook*, I mentioned a book which was awarded to Mrs. Editor as a prize at school (a few years ago now). It was compiled by a gentleman named Arthur Mee and your Esteemed Editor has been browsing through it. It does indeed contain some very interesting, beautiful and thoughtful literary gems and in view of this I intend, for as long as my editorship continues, to include some of them in *Outlook*. The items and quotes vary greatly in subject, length, poetry and prose, etc. But all are well worth reading. I have chosen two items for this edition and this page. The first, because it is relevant to *Outlook's* Captain Ken item and the second because I just think it is good.

The Unseen Friend

“When I look back I have no doubt that Providence guided us, not only across those snowfields, but across the storm-white sea. I know that during that long and racking march of thirty-six hours over the unnamed mountains and glaciers of South Georgia it seemed to me often that we were four, not three. I said nothing to my companions, but afterwards Worsley said to me, “Boss, I had a curious feeling on that march that there was another person with us.” ‘

Shackleton, after one of his journeys.

If all the Good People Were Clever

If all the good people were clever,
And all clever people were good,
The world would be nicer than ever
We thought that it possibly could.
But alas it is seldom or never
The two hit it off as they should;
The good are so hard on the clever,
And the clever so rude to the good.

Elizabeth Wordsworth.

Dates for your Diary

The Mellor March

Tim Lowe

As I am sure readers know, Mellor March is a small charity that that raises money to support a very wide range of cancer charities. It provides a platform for many to support causes close to their hearts.

Most of the money is raised through an annual walk round the boundary of Mellor.

As with so many charities fundraising has been put on hold and while the charity is totally run by volunteers, so all money raised goes to good causes, it is facing an immediate challenge.

During these very strange times some clear recommendations are emerging – get fresh air and exercise. While mass events like the Mellor March are on hold, there is no reason why walkers cannot support a good cause.

If you need an excuse to go for a walk, why not do it with a donation to the Mellor March, knowing your money will go to a cancer charity? Perhaps the donation can be the money you would have spent in the pub on your route - but then, why not do both?

Any donations will be very warmly welcomed –

Donate at mellor-march.org.uk

Mellor Church Women's Evening Fellowship

I hope everybody is keeping well during this very strange time. The April meeting of WEF was obviously cancelled due to the current situation. We are hesitant to cancel future events until we know more about what is happening; however, I am guessing that the Fête Shower will not happen on 21st May. Meg is keeping in contact with members by email, and if anybody hasn't got email they are being contacted regularly by a phone call. If you are a member of WEF and you haven't heard from us please phone Meg on 427 4370. Remember the motto: 'Fun, Friendship and Fellowship'! At least we can maintain friendship and fellowship, even though we may not be having much fun at the moment! Keep safe everybody!

375 Bus Service

Just to let *Outlook* readers who don't yet know (there might be some) that **the 375 bus has been spared the axe** following a U-turn by transport chiefs. There was local opposition to losing the service across the political spectrum from the Liberal Democrats and Hazel Grove MP William Wragg who collected thousands of signatories to petitions between them. Don't forget! Make sure you encourage more people to use it so that this situation does not arise again.



This is a photograph which accompanied an email to me from the Union Jack Services Club in London of which I am a member and I found it quite amusing. It was informing me of future events. As a British ex-serviceman, I am a member of the Union Jack Club in Waterloo and have been for many years. It is situated opposite Waterloo Station and is very comfortable, has a very pleasant bar and restaurant and Mrs. Nicholls and I have stayed there on quite a few occasions. It is, of course, particularly for London, reasonably priced for members. My son, Edward, having just left the Royal Navy is also a member and stays there on many occasions, particularly when his rugby team, which he started whilst serving in the Navy, plays in London (most of the team invariably stay there as well).

An indoor activity idea

Audrey Pickup's daughter, Margaret

In these times of social isolation I thought I would share the following:

For a few months now I have been keeping my mum's mind active with an activity adapted from a board game. We have called it **'Name 10 things—'**.

I have a printed pro-forma with 12 lists to a page; each list has space for a heading and 10 rows. I then write in a category for each one.

Mum completes them on her own, with me, or up until our isolation, with visitors. At first I kept to straightforward headings such as 'girls' names beginning with A', 'European countries' and 'root vegetables'; but as time has gone on I have become more creative. For example 'things that can get blocked', 'fruit cake ingredients' and 'punctuation marks'. (I have a very long list if anyone is interested!) I have also played this with my 12- and 11 -year-old grandchildren who really enjoy it. Rather than write the answers down we all have chance to devise a category and then take a turn to answer.

Another game to keep you occupied!

How many words can you make from **ISOLATING?**

Simple rules – words have to be 3 letters or more and no plurals. Only use the letters in the word! If you are playing with family members, score 2 if nobody else has the word, 1 if you are not the only clever one and someone else has the same word! Put a time limit on this game or you could be playing for ever.

We managed 43 words between us in the Editorial Office – any advance on that?

Laughs with Lynda

Lynda Gwyther

Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was outstanding in his field.

I can never remember the Roman numerals
for 1, 1000, 51, 6 and 500 and I M LIVID.

I've created a new dating website especially for chickens,
but I'm struggling to make hens meet.

I had a Chicken Tarka for supper last night.
It's like Chicken Tikka, but otter.

Editor's disclaimer: The staff of Outlook take no responsibility for any of these jokes.



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Dear Editor,

I wonder if Maggie Williams would be interested to know that we have a pair of Mandarin ducks nesting in our "owl" box at 119 Longhurst Lane - very close to her. My husband built the owl box after lots of research into what exactly barn owls require. However, no owl has ever shown interest. So it's nice that something is finally able to make use of it.

We usually see the male on a branch outside the box keeping watch morning and evening. He often flies off into Slack Wood. We very rarely see the female flying in and out.

Best wishes.

Liz Hannaford

Fred Curtis

Tim Lowe

Further to last month's item about Fred Curtis, as mentioned, uncle of myself and Mrs. Editor, the article also revealed that Fred was one of the few survivors of the infamous and notoriously brutal *Changi jail* in which he was incarcerated for two years. Anthea said how could she possibly complain about our present isolation when thinking of all that Uncle Fred had to endure. As with so many of his generation, he seldom mentioned his wartime experiences so some recollections I have may well only be hearsay. One story was that he had his teeth smashed out by a Japanese guard and a fellow inmate linked broken teeth with wire to make a false set which is now in a dental museum somewhere. Another story known to be more accurate is that Fred was a Mason and in Changi inmates made a set of the working tools from bits of bone and held Lodge meetings. Fred went on to be a member of the Grand Lodge.

'here is only one way in which one can endure man's inhumanity to man and that is to try, in one's own life, to exemplify man's humanity to man.' Alan Paton.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Having married into Fred's family and having known him for a few years before he died, I recall him saying to me how many of the Chinese residents of Singapore risked their lives pushing food under the fences for the those incarcerated in Changi Jail by the Japanese.

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The Little Princess Trust

Ed

Outlook readers will no doubt by now be familiar with **The Little Princess Trust** as we have mentioned the charity in the magazine on various occasions previously. One of the main reasons for this is that a founding member of the trust, Tim Lowe, lives in our community and has sent *Outlook* an email setting out the present position concerning the charity. You can find the story of **The Little Princess Trust** on their website. I have set out below the content of Tim's email to *Outlook*: **The Little Princess Trust** provides real hair wigs for children who lose their hair through cancer treatment. It helps children nationally and internationally and is also the third largest investor of research into the causes of childhood cancers and the effects of the chemotherapy on children. Much of the fundraising for the charity comes from sponsored hair-cuts and the ladies (and gentlemen) involved donating the hair. The charity normally receives thousands of hair donations every month from such sponsored events but needless to say, it is currently experiencing donation problems. Whilst the LPT has a good stock of wigs, income presently has somewhat dried up. In these strange times, isolation is creating the need for much adjusted behaviour including **home haircuts** - bringing, no doubt, some dramatic results !!! So why not show your appreciation for your **home-stylist** by taking the time to go on-line and donate your hair-cutting fee to The Little Princess Trust? Some pictures of this activity appear below (and they are not a pretty sight). The gentleman in the white top is Quentin Letts, Parliamentary Correspondent and Tim Lowe's hair looks a vast improvement being trimmed and tidied up by wife, Karen although we gather he now has only one ear.



Difficult times— *We've had them before*

Anthea Nicholls

I was checking through my various recipe books looking for inspiration when I came across a little book on the shelf entitled Health for All Ration-Time Recipes. It was originally printed in 1942 as War-Time recipes but my edition was revised in 1948, so quite a modern version.

There are sections on protein dishes, vegetables, salads, fruit and starch dishes, soups and sauces. Most of the recipes refer to dried eggs and dried milk. Fortunately we can still get the fresh varieties, There is a section on bread making – suggesting that only 100% wholemeal bread should be eaten as it states 'natural' bread in Britain is adulterated with powder chalk!! Not the case now thankfully!

Food supplies have eased somewhat so perhaps no need to resort to the following:-

Cheese, onion and beetroot savoury, 1lb onions, 1 large cooked beetroot, 4 oz grated cheese, 1 teaspoon Marmite (think the author has 'shares' in Marmite as they seem to be included in most of the recipes!) ½ cup of milk Chop onions and beetroot together and put into greased pie dish cover with grated cheese, bake in a hot oven from 10 to 15 minutes.

Dandelion salad – 10-12 young dandelion leaves (that's if you have any left in your garden, after all this spare time gardening) 4 tablespoons grated carrots, 1 lettuce, ½ cucumber, 4 tomatoes, Mayonnaise, 1 teaspoon minced sorrel. Wash dandelion leaves (very wise), chop finely. Mix with mayonnaise, halve tomatoes, pile on the dandelion leaves. Arrange on a bed of lettuce leaves, put a ring of grated raw carrots round the outside with slices of cucumber, scatter sorrel over the top. All done!

And my favourite **Lettuce sandwiches** – chop the lettuce, even use the outer leaves, butter two slices of brown bread and a little Yeastrel (another favourite of the author's) and cut into four.

And if by Christmas we still can't get some food items we could always try **Wartime Marzipan paste**.

2 tablespoons mashed potato, 1 tablespoon soya flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, a few drops of almond essence. Mix all ingredients well together. Spread top of cake while still hot with honey, press marzipan out to size of cake, put on top and press into shape – that's all there is to it.

To remind you what a typical ration for one adult per week was in the Second World War

Butter 2oz, bacon and ham 4oz, margarine 4oz, sugar 8oz, meat to the value of 1s 2d, milk 3 pints occasionally, cheese 2oz, eggs 1 fresh egg a week, tea 2 oz, jam 1lb every two months, dried eggs 1 packet every four weeks, sweets 12oz every four weeks.

The Great Debate

Peter Worrell

About a century or two ago, the Pope decided that all the Jews living in Rome had to leave. Naturally, there was a big uproar from the Jewish Community, so the Pope made them a deal. He would have a religious debate with a member of the Jewish community and if the Jew won the debate, all the Jews could stay and if the Pope won, the Jews would have to leave. The Jews chose Moishe, a simple, middle-aged man in their community, to represent them. However, Moishe asked for one condition to the debate. To make it simple and more interesting neither side would be allowed to talk. The Pope agreed and the day of the great debate came. Moishe and the Pope sat opposite each other for a full minute before the Pope made the first move.

He raised his hand and showed three fingers. Moishe looked back at him and raised one finger.

The Pope waved his finger in a circle around his head. Moishe pointed to the ground where he sat.

The Pope then pulled out a wafer and a glass of wine. Moishe pulled out an apple.

The Pope stood up and said, 'I give up. This man is too good. The Jews can stay.'

An hour later, the cardinals were all around the Pope asking him what had happened. The Pope said: 'First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up one finger to remind me that there was only one God common to both our religions. Then I waved my finger around me to show him that God was all around us. He pointed to the ground to show that God was also right here with us. I pulled out the wine and the wafer to remind him that God absolves us from our sins. He pulled out an apple to remind me of the cause of original sin. He had an answer for everything. What could I do?'

Meanwhile, the Jewish community had crowded around Moishe.

'What happened?' they asked.

'Well,' said Moishe, 'First he said to me that the Jews had three days to get out of here. I told him that not one of us was leaving. Then he told me that this whole city would be cleared of Jews. I let him know that we were staying right here.'

'And then?' asked a woman.

''' don't know,' said Moishe. 'He took out his lunch and I took out mine.'

See Florence Nightingale pass by

What a comfort it was to see Florence Nightingale pass by! She would speak to one and nod to another; she could not do it to all, you know, for we were lying there by hundreds but we could kiss her shadow as it fell and lay our heads on the pillow again content. **A soldier's letter from the Crimea**

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Prayer for the Month

Lord you are a present help in trouble.
Come revive, redeem, restore;
in our darkness come as light,
in our sadness come as joy,
In our troubles come as peace,
in our weakness come as strength.

Come Lord to our aid.
Come revive, redeem, restore;
open our eyes to your presence,
open our minds to your grace,
open our lips to your praises,
open our hearts to your love,
open our lives to your healing,
and be found among us.

David Adam

Thought for the Month

In a world where consumption is celebrated with increasing fervour, it becomes braver to make the case for beauty or wilderness; for spirit, soul and for species other than ourselves. I can adapt to a horizon cluttered by wind farms and, as conservationists' concept of 'shifting baselines' acknowledges, my children, who have never known any different, will comfortably accept them as an eternal part of our landscape. We don't *need* an unbroken horizon and this is the weakness of any appeal to an aesthetic value in today's society: we don't *need* any of it. And yet we lose some richness of our lives, to say nothing of the richness of the planet, each time we destroy an unbroken horizon, add crude structures to landscapes where once there were none or lighten the sky at night so we cannot see the stars. Every such development subtly degrades our lives and deepens our estrangement from the natural world.

Patrick Barkham: *Coastlines - the Story of our Shore*

From the Registers

Burial at Church

C Caroline Bowers – Tuesday 31st March.

Parishioners' Funerals taken at Stockport Crematorium

Gary Wood – Thursday 26th March

Shirley Aspinall

Audrey Whittaker

Sadly Shirley passed away on 4th April 4 in a local nursing home. Many of you will remember her as Cook at Mellor School, until her retirement in 2001 – Shirley's speciality being home-made chocolate pudding and chocolate sauce! Shirley never let health issues hold her back and was determined to live life to the full, enjoying time with her family and friends, quizzes, cinema, sport and the Arts. Her unique personality was an inspiration to all - and she will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. The family will hold a 'Life Celebration' for those who wish to attend, when the current crisis is over.



Church Rotas

Stewards Rota

To be filled in
once the Church is
OPEN again!

Flower Rota

3 May	Karen Greenough	7 June	Julia Mann
10 May	Joan Combey	14 June	Lorraine Forbes
17 May	Pam Holt	21 June	Anne Brooke
24 May	Wedding flowers	28 June	Fête Flower Group
31 May	Joyce Moss		

If you wish to change a date, need a key or have any query, please contact Jill Baker (07881902533 or jillbaker427@hotmail.com). The church key is also available from the Parish Office (484 5079) weekday mornings only.

Holy Dusters

Brass Cleaning

To be filled in once the Church is **OPEN again!**

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