

The Parish Magazine

BREDON WITH BREDON'S NORTON
BREDON'S HARDWICK - KINSHAM - WESTMANCOTE



March 2021
80p

OVERBURY

ENTERPRISES

On the surface Overbury encapsulates much of what might be the archetypal peaceful country village, including lambs playing in rolling parklands, Cotswold stone cottages and a beautiful Village Hall. So, it may come as a surprise to discover how much goes on here.

Yoga, concerts, art classes, a children's nursery and after school club, in addition to a huge variety of local small businesses from the world-famous Stud to IT, designers and artisans. The village is home to a vibrant junior school, church and sports clubs. Full fibre to the properties means residents and businesses are fully connected for work and play.

We encourage local groups and residents to get involved in the community, whether it's using the Old Village Shop for some co-working in the week, taking part in a wellbeing or fitness class or enjoying the miles of public footpaths around Bredon Hill; there is something for everyone.

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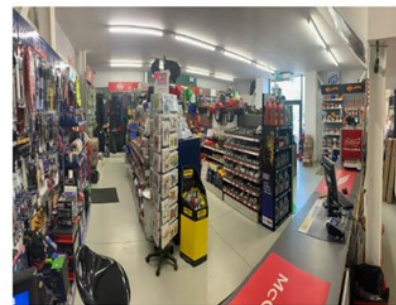
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Minister's Message

"The Loveliest Masterpiece of the Heart of God is the Heart of a Mother"

This beautiful quotation is from a French Carmelite nun, Therese of Lisieux, who lived between 1873 and 1897. It reflects one of the main festivals we are celebrating this month, which is, of course, Mothering Sunday, and which occurs on 14th March.



Mothering Sunday is the day on which we give thanks for all those ladies, who have nurtured and cared for us during our lives. It is based on a tradition where servants were allowed time off from their duties to visit their mother Church and take posies or Simnel cake to their mothers. Today we show our appreciation by giving our mothers a card and/or a gift, such as flowers, chocolates or something we have made personally.

Now it is often said there is nothing better or stronger than a mother's love. All of us have, of course, had a mother. However, perhaps not all of us have had a good experience of being 'mothered'. Therefore, to compare the heart of someone's experience of a mother, to that of a masterpiece created by God, as suggested by Therese of Lisieux, can sit a little uncomfortably for some people.

Yet, all of us have known some wonderful ladies in our lives. It is the best of their emotional and spiritual qualities which Therese is saying God shares, in the hearts of all mothers. Perhaps the greatest of these, is a propensity to love beyond all things, even when this love brings pain and suffering. But these qualities are not limited to women and, as any parent knows, with parenthood comes the responsibility to love and cherish their child, whatever this might involve.

Mothering Sunday, this year falls three weeks before Easter Sunday, which is of course when we remember the sacrifice God made in offering up His Son for the sake of humanity. In early April, we will journey through the agonies of Jesus' last week on earth, as he made his way from Jerusalem to the place of His Crucifixion. It was here Jesus' mother saw her Son killed in the most painful of deaths; but such was her love for her Son, even at this ultimate point of His suffering, that she could not bear to be absent, in spite of the pain it caused her.

Today, mothers all over the world (and fathers too) continue to love, care, protect, educate and nurture their children to the best of their ability. Perhaps the most recent examples of sacrifices have been seen during the lockdowns, as parents have done their utmost to home school their children, even when this has been particularly challenging. It is in such everyday situations, that we witness the love of our mothers (and fathers) and why we are so grateful for all they have done.

Therefore, as we remember our mothers, grandmothers, and all ladies whom we love, and give thanks for this March, let us remember that this same love is shown to us in the heart of God Himself, and modelled to us through the life of Jesus Christ. Happy Mothering Sunday!

Allison Davies



Cobalt - Bredon Support Group



Sales of the cards in the porch (25 Blenheim Drive) are steady. Thank you. For the benefit of people who are unable to get out and about, Cobalt in Cheltenham have now made it possible to purchase the recycled cards directly and securely online. Packs of 12 or 24 assorted cards (6 or 12 each) of birthday and blank are available at £12.80 and 22.80 including p&p, at www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/cobalt-greetings-cards-online. The fundraising department can be contacted on 01242 535922; email: fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk.

Stay safe everyone, keep well! Let's look forward to a time when we can return safely to what we once thought were our normal routines.

Aeona Aitken

Sunday Morning Prayer for Bredon Hill Group of Churches

During lockdown, losing the opportunity to meet in worship and fellowship is one of the most notable downsides for our congregations around the Hill. Yes, people might be able to livestream services from around the world but it's not quite the same as being able to share ministry and fellowship with your own church community.

That's why every Sunday morning at 10.30am the Reverend Allison Davies has been holding Morning Prayer via Zoom for the Bredon Hill Group and everyone is welcome to attend. It's an opportunity to take 45 minutes out of our day to quieten our hearts and commit ourselves to God for the coming week.

You can join us either via video or by telephone and after each service there is time to chat and catch up on all the latest local news. The numbers attending each week are steadily growing and you can always expect a warm welcome however cold it might be outside.

If you would like to attend; please contact Alison Khan at acbhteam@gmail.com or on 07984 748059 to receive the weekly invite link. (Also, contact Alison Khan if you would like to receive a link for the World Day of Prayer service on Friday, 5th March.)

So why not join us?

**Join us for
Morning Prayer
on Sunday
at 10.30am**

via Zoom



Tewkesbury and Bredon Hill Probus Club

The Club for retired and semi-retired Professionals and Businessmen

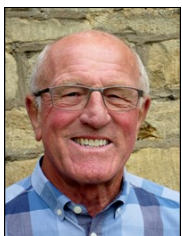


In my article in last month's Parish Magazine, I mentioned that I and several other members of our Probus Club had been invited to a Zoom presentation by the Curator of the Bank of England Museum which we hoped would give us a good idea as to whether we should use Zoom for online talks for our own Club membership.

The talk turned out to be on Microsoft Teams rather than Zoom although there is little difference between the two as far as the participants are concerned. It seemed this was the Bank of England's first foray into a large-audience online talk as they had several presentational issues at the start. I think they had one of their IT team in the background to help them along and, once they got into their stride, the talk turned out to be very interesting. There were different sections describing the history of the Bank, and how it has changed over the years. There were also some stunning photographs of the grand façade and the sumptuous interiors, including the Governor's 'office' - more like a stateroom - and the boardroom where the Monetary Policy committee meets every month to decide whether to change the base lending rate. Of particular interest is the basement where literally hundreds of millions of pounds worth of gold bars are kept.

Because of the pandemic, the Bank has suspended public visits but they hope to reintroduce them once we get back to relative normality. Anyone visiting London (hopefully in the not too distant future) will be heartily recommended to visit the Bank of England on one of their tours.

We wanted to use this online talk to help us make a decision on Zoom and fortunately our contemporaries in Longdon Probus have been using it regularly and their Zoom expert kindly offered to give our Committee a tutorial on using Zoom which we found very useful.



Since then our Committee have been busy practising hosting meetings and familiarising ourselves into the world of Zoom, after which we hope to organise and experience an online talk for ourselves.

Chris Brown

A Letter from Mary Doney

What a twenty three and a half years I have spent in Bredon. So many memories, so many battles, so much fun, and friendships forged for life.

Jon and I moved to Bredon Manor on 6th September 1996. Yes, the house needed a shed load of money spent on it - and gosh didn't it remind us that it required respect when the central heating tank sprang a leak within three weeks. Perhaps we should have done a runner then!



We agreed I would stay at home to sort the renovation of the Lodge (which was virtually derelict), do some basic decoration, and stop the rain pouring in through the roof in the Rumpus Rooms. Well, I never went back to work as the community embraced me. Within a month I was doing Meals on Wheels with Judith Meikle, Sally Deakin had persuaded me to join the Village Hall Committee, I joined Bredon Community Care Committee a year later. I really didn't have time to go to work!

And then, of course, eventually I got involved with the life of our wonderful Church - St. Giles. The day is marked very clearly in my mind. I had been over to Chipping Campden to have lunch with my Mum. I knew it was the weekend our new Rector and his family was moving in, and so as I passed I had a quick look at the Rectory to see if there was any activity. There on the doorstep was our new Rector, the Rev. Matthew Baynes, in the most unflattering striped T-shirt, beige shorts, and the inevitable trainers. And I must apologise to Bryony, but I couldn't stop laughing - but my reaction was "he will do very nicely!".

Jon and I met Matthew and Bryony socially - it was a time when I was still waging war on God for taking my father away when I was 26 - but that's the best way to meet a member of the clergy, socially and in a relaxed environment. Then came the bell project. There was a lot of misinformation about the state of the bells, how they would cause the tower to fall down - it would be Armageddon! Well, solid research and practical testing proved otherwise and so started a project that I would be involved with forever. We had an amazing fundraising evening with a concert in St. Giles, students from the Guildhall and Birmingham Conservatory playing for us. Derrick Grainger gave the organ every opportunity to show off. And, of course, poetry and readings. Afterwards we returned to Bredon Manor for Morris dancing, fire eating, a pig roast organised by Mick and Anne Meadows and, of course, the inevitable wine bar! The weather was perfection and Jon always remembered John Raper saying "all we need now is a Midsommer Murder". It was all so very British! So with several amazing donations from Dora Collins (Bronwen's Godmother), Christopher and Kay Bailey donating a new Tenor bell and paying to hang it, we achieved Matthew's and my goal.



Jon and I in happier times

New people are at the Manor, but what I will take away with me is that every time the bells ring out from the tower at St. Giles, I played a little part in this.

I wish you all well. Please stay safe, and hopefully, I will be returning regularly to the village to support the many activities and organisation I hold dear.



If you want to keep in touch my contact details are:
Orchard House, Calf Lane, Chipping Campden GL55 6JQ
Telephone 01386 849046; Email mary.doney@btinternet.com

My love, and best wishes to everyone who made Jon and me so welcome and for the incredible support I have had in the last 11 months.

Mary xx

Parish Office

At the moment we have no Parish secretary. If you have an enquiry, please contact our churchwarden:

Peter Whitehead

Phone 01684 772642 or Mobile 07980 605857

Bredon and Bredon's Norton Parish Council

New Councillor - Ed Pyke



The council would like to welcome our new co-opted councillor, Ed Pyke. Ed lives in Kinsham, so it is great that every village in our parish now has a representative seated on the council. Please find below Ed's brief introduction:-

"I live in Kinsham, having moved here in 2016 having grown up on the south coast in Bournemouth. I'm passionate about giving back to the local community and volunteering my time

where I can and over the years, I've sat on the boards of three charities along with completing a four-year stint as a volunteer police officer while at University. Now, I'm a director of a medium-sized travel company and in my spare time I enjoy cooking, walking and brewing my own beer. I live with my wife and young son and am pleased to represent the interests of Kinsham on the council along with my responsibilities to the parish as a whole. We are settled now in Bredon Parish and I look forward to making a difference and continuing to ensure that my son can grow up in the best environment possible."

Playing Fields - Dog Mess

The playing fields have proved to be a sanctuary and vital green space, especially for children to play, during the lockdown. As the weather improves more and more people will use this important space.

Please don't ruin it for everyone by letting your dog onto the playing fields, and then leaving dog mess behind. We are lucky to live in the countryside where there are lots of alternative places to walk your dog.

Just one pile of dog mess can contain a million roundworm eggs! In humans this can lead to stomach upsets, throat infections, asthma and in some cases blindness. Over 100 cases of partial blindness in children are seen every year due to toxocara canis eggs in faeces.

Precept Frozen again

Bredon Parish Council agreed to freeze the parish precept again this year; this is now the 10th year in a row that we have listened to resident's concerns and financial worries.

Rewilding Group

Fed up with seeing our local roads flooded; would like to help with projects to slow the water off the hill down? Would you like to help plant trees and hedgerow around the parish?

If you would like to join this volunteer group you have a number of options: please either join the Facebook Group "Bredon Parish Rewilding Group"; email declan.shiels@bredonpc.org.uk or write to the Clerk, Bredon Village Hall, Main Road, Bredon, Glos GL20 7QN



Planning Applications

The Parish Council's role is only advisory. For more details, please refer to www.wychavon.gov.uk.

For consideration by Wychavon:

W/20/02675 - Pippins, Westmancote. Demolition of garage and replacement with two storey extension. **PC objects** see Wychavon website for full details.

W/20/02774 & 5 - Lower End Cottage, Lower Lane, Bredon's Norton.

(Consultation/Amendment) Demolition of existing outbuildings and carport. Erection of single storey extension, carport, enlarged opening to kitchen and removal of stud partition. **PC has no further comments.**

W/20/02786 - 12 Waterloo Way, Bredon. First floor extension over garage and utility. Two storey extension to front. **PC has no objections.**

W/20/02704 - The Gables, Tewkesbury Road, Bredon's Hardwick.

(Consultation/Amendment) Proposed Extension Altered to a First Floor Rear Extension and Ground Floor Rear and Front Extension to the Existing Garage Instead of the Originally Proposed First Floor Front Extension. **PC has no objections.**

Date of Next Meeting:

Monthly Parish Council

Monday 8th March
at 7:15pm

This meeting will take place virtually, please contact the Clerk for access to this meeting.

A Bird List for Bredon?

How many of us were excited, or at least interested, in the sight of the Peregrine Falcon on St Giles recently?

Like many, I look at the birds in my garden, and round about, regularly. You may have seen me at intervals walking around the village with my binoculars round my neck - they're rarely far from me. During Lockdown 3 I've found myself wondering if there is a Bird List for Bredon? Perhaps someone can enlighten me.

If not, or even if so, I wonder if we can coordinate such. I'd be happy to play my part in this. I have to confess to being more interested in pretty and exciting birds than "Little brown jobs" (or "LBJ's"), but it would be interesting to find out how many different species occur in and around Bredon, including LBJ's. So I propose:

We create a Bird List.

The boundaries are still to be decided: to include all the hill? Part of it? The ecclesiastical parish? My garden? Or what?

My garden list was extended the other day with the addition of Red Kite - often seen over the hill, but finally one came over my garden. I was excited the other day with the magnificent sight of a Great White Egret down by the river - which then flew off towards Tewkesbury. A truly magnificent bird! This time of year is a good time to start, as the spring migrants will start to arrive in March. (This is also a good time to learn bird songs - as the migrants tend to arrive more or less one by one ...)

What I would anticipate is that people can email me to say what birds they always see, and any uncommon ones, I would construct an initial list and publish it in, say, the summer. Thereafter I would endeavour to write about new additions to the list approximately once per year.

Please do contact me at catherine.lack50@gmail.com or if you see an exciting-looking bird and want me to come and have a look, you can always try me on the phone: 772838. (No guarantees - I may be out looking somewhere else!)

Catherine Lack



*Peregrine Falcon
on St. Giles
(photo by Tim Cam)*



*On my birdwatching holiday
in the Azores*

Photography competition

If you love watching birds, and if you love taking photos, would you be interested in taking photos of birds and sending them to our photography competition?

The competition is open to everyone. Simply take photos of the birds you see around the Bredon Hill area, send them to Anne Choi Fordham at yannchoi@yahoo.com before 10th May 2021. A maximum of 3 entries per person.

Our panel of judges includes Catherine Lack and Christopher Frith. The winning photo will be used on the front cover of the Parish Magazine, June issue; whereas 3 outstanding photos will be featured in the magazine as well.

We look forward to receiving your photos!

Anne Choi Fordham



Computer Wisdom by Jim Verrechia, Bredon 'Computer Doctor'

Backing up your data ...

I get a lot of questions regarding backing up data. There are so many options available for backing up data and individual circumstances will influence the best solution for you. So, it is difficult to prescribe a 'one-fit' solution. However, here are some of my suggested options and recommendations.



If you have a desktop PC adding an extra hard drive and using 'Windows 7 Backup' (especially on Windows 10) is a great solution, as your PC will backup in the background at a scheduled frequency (daily, weekly, monthly etc.). It will take a system image in the first instance and incremental backups will follow the initial backup. It is then a case of cloning the system image and data back onto your new drive so you can pick up just before the point where your system crashed without having to re-install Windows and your programs. This has saved my bacon when a hard drive failed in my PC so I would consider this. If you have a laptop or no space in your Desktop to fit an internal hard drive, then an external drive is the next best solution, and you can backup as a background task if you leave it plugged in.

Backing up to the cloud. This is a very secure way to back up your data. However, it is often expensive and if your Internet connection is not the fastest it can take weeks until you have uploaded all your data to the cloud. Microsoft 365 users will have 1TB of free storage, and if you use this wisely (i.e. selectively), it would be a good solution for most people. Bear in mind that once you stop subscribing to a cloud solution – you will lose your data! Also note that other Cloud storage providers will charge a higher fee for data egress (download).

Remember that no backup solution will save you from a motherboard failure, but you can still restore your data file using 'Windows 7 Backup' to another PC. Unfortunately, you will have to reinstall all your programs and remember your passwords (we covered that last time) but your data is at least safe. There are tools that get round this, but they are complicated and out of scope of this month's rant.

Please do not back up to a memory stick! They are usually unencrypted and if you lose it, imagine how much data you are exposing to criminals. I rarely use these unless absolutely necessary – and now I only use encrypted memory sticks.

Make a note of your Windows 10 license key ...

If your hard drive fails and you need to reinstall Windows on a new drive, the install process will likely ask you for your Windows 10 Product Key. This is a 25-character key that allows you full access to Windows features once your key is activated. Often this is not provided on your device and in some circumstances, it is not embedded on your motherboard's memory, so you should use a tool to extract this key and keep it somewhere safe, then you will not have to purchase Windows 10 software again. There are free tools like (www.magicaljellybean.com) 'Keyfinder' (Google this or use the link) which you can quickly download, and it will find your Windows 10 key. I would remove this once you have used the tool for security peace of mind.

TeamViewer ...

I am still getting requests for help from people who do not have this tool installed (it allows people like me to remotely assist you if you still have Internet access.) With this tool you can get remote help without someone having to make an unnecessary on-site visit. If you have not done this yet, it would be worth considering downloading this free software at www.teamviewer.com.



Update - I have had a good response regarding laptops and tablets donated for underprivileged children (10+ and counting), and just to let you know that I am still taking in your used laptops and tablets and wiping them so they can be safely given to new homes for children to use. Thank you for supporting this!

Jim Verrechia
773632

A Huge and Heartfelt Thank You from Tim Meadows

I'd like to thank all the people from the Bredon Parish who responded to my fundraising for the MyName5Doddie Foundation on my JustGiving page in such a generous and positive way.

As you may or may not know, on 17th July 2020 I was diagnosed at the age of 45 with Motor Neurone Disease (MND). It is a terminal diagnosis and from that moment my life and that of my young family has changed for ever. From July I was in a state of shock and literally felt that the diagnosis had knocked the stuffing out of me. My thoughts and emotions were all over the place (still are!), constantly worrying about what the future may hold particularly for my wife Georgina and my children Molly 14, Fred 10 and Bertie 7.

I did not see the diagnosis coming even though I have since realised I have been living with the symptoms for a few years - putting my loss of strength down to overwork. Having closely followed Doddie Weir's story from the beginning and also being a fellow rugby-playing sheep farmer, I find it ironic to be now in the same boat as him. I have taken great strength from Doddie, his charity and others I know with the condition, inspiring me before Christmas to dust myself off and go again!

So that's where the fundraising kicked in. Whilst fit and well, I want to help in the raising of money to assist with MND research. I can't sit still during this pandemic and do nothing while I feel physically able. For me, my best day physically is always going to be yesterday; my opportunity is now. So I planned for January, before lambing, to raise money by planting 1,500 trees on my farm, to be a living memorial wood to me. I paid for the trees myself but the plan was for friends and family to sponsor me and come along to the farm and help in a socially distanced way to plant trees. I wanted to do something that would help combat climate change, be purposeful and that friends and family will draw strength from; watching the wood grow over time, with the memories it will hold.

I planted every single tree with the help of my wife and children in early January. Unfortunately, Lockdown 3 put paid to any offers of help but luckily tree-planting is still more appealing than home schooling!

Everyone responded brilliantly with nearly £17,000 being raised so far for MyName5Doddie on my Just Giving page. It would be amazing to double our original target and hit the £20k mark this year if we can! Rest assured that every donated penny is leaving no stone unturned on its way to offering hope to so many with this cruel condition. The trees are now looking healthy and well-watered! Nothing stands still in farming, we are now in the throws of lambing.



With my three children

I've received so much support from the Bredon and Bredon's Norton Parish I grew up in: from old school friends, folks I played rugby and cricket with from Bredon, people who know my lovely Mum and Dad (Mick and Anne Meadows from Home Farm Bredon's Norton), friends of my siblings Sally (Cooper), James and Ed. We even received donations from people I've never met. It is so humbling that we smashed our original target in a matter of days and for that we are so, so grateful to you all. Thank you!

If you wish to donate, search: Tim meadows JustGiving page (Tims Living Memorial Wood)
www.justgiving.com/Georgina-Meadows?utm_id=23

Tim Meadows



Geography Quiz (check your answers on the back cover)

1. In which country is the Inca site of Macchu Picchu in?
2. In which country is Easter Island located?
3. What is the capital of Czech Republic?
4. In which city/country is Angkor Wat temple?
5. In which European city are the Spanish Steps located?
6. Which is the largest country by population in Africa?
7. Which is the smallest country by population in the world?
8. What two countries is Mount Everest located in?

Literature in Lockdown

What are you reading at present? Those burdened with the demands of home schooling may not be the only ones to recognise that, under lockdown, we are likely to read more books than before. When confined to our homes for lengthy periods, denied opportunities for social interaction, and bored with endless repeats on television, we can at least rediscover the joys of reading. Newspapers, magazines, and popular fiction are the likely preferences, but some of us may be tempted towards great works from the literary tradition. After all, we always promised ourselves that we would read the classics when we had the chance. Lockdown is, then, an opportunity to catch up on reading.

In the past, however, lockdowns also had the surprising effect of **creating** great literature. When the Black Death struck Europe in the middle of the Fourteenth Century, Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron* recorded how ten young Florentines escaped from their plague-racked city to a country retreat, passing 'lockdown' by exchanging entertaining stories. (Unfortunately, current government rules - and the foul weather - will not allow us to spend such a delightful time with friends in a garden.)



The Decameron
10 days, 100 stories

Boccaccio's fiction was an important influence on major figures in English Literature, particularly Geoffrey Chaucer (who experienced the horrors of the Black Death during his childhood in England) and William Shakespeare.

Shakespeare lived his entire life under the shadow of epidemics. The plague not only struck Stratford-upon-Avon in the year of his birth, but also profoundly affected his professional career in London. The 'upstart crow' was rapidly establishing his reputation as a playwright, staging successful comedies and history-plays, when particularly virulent disease led to the closure of the theatres for more than a year between 1593 and 1594. And there was no furloughing in Good Queen Bess's days! Fortunately, Shakespeare was able to turn his hand to writing his two long narrative poems, *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*, as a way of maintaining solvency during plague-lockdown.

Additionally, these theatre-closures gave him the opportunity to work on his great sonnet-sequence. Had it not been for the plague, the variety of Shakespeare's literary achievement might have been considerably reduced.

Ten years later, at about the time of the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, the plague returned with a vengeance. It probably started in Southwark, London's playground, and home to its most prominent theatres, including Shakespeare's *Globe*. At that time, diseases like bubonic plague and the 'sweating-sickness' were thought to originate from fogs and mists, all-too-frequently encountered on the banks of the Thames. Therefore, to contain the spread of disease, James I (the new King) ordered not simply the closure of what we would call 'pubs and restaurants', but also the demolition of many suburban buildings where people congregated, especially south of the river. In the absence of vaccination, herbs and poultices were recommended as potential remedies. There was even an attempt to provide PPE: handkerchiefs dipped in vinegar and worn over the mouth were employed as protection against infection. Quarantine was enforced, but much more brutally than in the UK today. There was no pleasant excursion from an airport to a comfortable hotel; rather, the house in which a resident had fallen ill would be nailed up, with all occupants confined inside. Fatalities were mostly among the poorer classes, as the great and the good retreated from the city (but it is not recorded whether any travelled as far as Durham or Barnard Castle).



The Great London Plague 1665-6

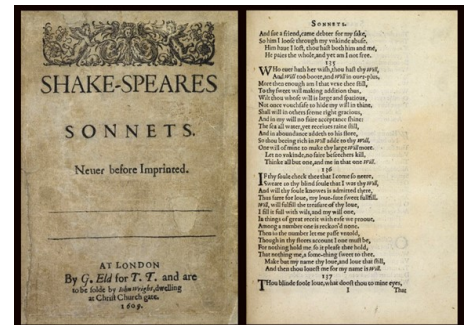


One of Shakespeare's plays from this period represents well the preoccupations in London at the start of King James's reign. In *Measure for Measure*, a 'tapster' (that is, a barman) reports that all 'houses of resort' in the suburbs are to be 'pluck'd down' (demolished) because of a government proclamation regulating human contact. His employer complains that sweating-sickness and the economic downturn have cost her so many of her clients; and one of her customers refuses to share a drink with a friend for fear that cups transmit infection.

Literature in Lockdown

Although the theatres were closed intermittently during the first seven years of James's reign (1603-1610), this was the period of Shakespeare's most impressive dramatic achievements. He moved beyond his middle-period 'happy comedies' to create some of his greatest tragedies, their plots conveying his awareness of the fragility of life that haunts us all during a pandemic. These plays inevitably include references to the plague. For example, King Lear rages against 'a disease that's in my flesh . . . / A plague-sore . . . / In my corrupted blood'; while Macbeth presents Scotland as if it were an infected country: the King's murderous tyranny transforms his motherland into a mass 'grave', a desolation echoing with 'sighs, and groans, and shrieks', where men 'expire before the flowers in their caps' and no-one bothers to ask for whom the bell tolls.

Outbreaks of the plague were particularly frequent between 1590 and 1610, the twenty years of Shakespeare's greatest literary achievements, but at least the theatres (and taverns) managed to open intermittently. It is a paradox that deadly diseases could be creative of great literature - but then, suffering is so often an essential component of the classics. Recognising that disasters have afflicted others can divert us from personal grief, helping us to maintain a healthier perspective on our own troubles.



Perhaps some benefit, in the form of great writing, will ultimately derive from our current pandemic. If the years 2020-21 were to produce any works of the quality of Shakespeare's lockdown literature, then this present ordeal might seem less bleak when viewed from a happier future.

Paul Miller

Bredon Playgroup

As we have been looking at transport, the children decided that they would like to see the boats at Bredon Marina and then make their own and see if they would float on water. We busily made our boats (all of which floated) and raced them on our homemade lake - the children all cheered. "This has been the best thing ever", some of the children said.

We then learnt the Green Cross Code and learnt a song to go with it (to the tune of 10 green bottles):

*Stop, look and listen before you cross the road,
Stop, look and listen before you cross the road,
Use your eyes, use your ears, before you use your toes,
Stop, look and listen before you cross the road.*

Traffic lights are a big part of being on the road, so we've been looking at the light sequence of traffic lights and what we need to do when each colour is shining. With this in mind, we made some traffic light paintings, mixing colours to make our own orange and green. The children loved this and couldn't wait for their turn.

The learning didn't stop when we went outside. We used our traffic lights and zebra crossing and drew a road on the playground, taking it in turns to be driving or people crossing. We also talked about the importance of car seats, seat belts and reflective clothing.

We've had lots of fun in the sunshine and the snow. The snowdrops are in full bloom and there are buds appearing on the trees. The children love talking about what plants need to grow and we will be looking at changes over time as we check the changes to the buds each week.



Our Chinese New Year Celebrations were amazing. We discovered lots about China, tasted some Chinese food (with chopsticks, of course) and created our very own dragon dance - plus lots more too.

Tracey Ford



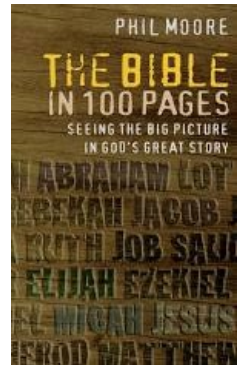
Book for March

The Bible in 100 Pages by Phil Moore

Too busy to discover the message of the Bible? Then this distilled rendering of the scriptures, that writer Phil Moore has prepared, is for you. He is convinced that most people would like to get to grips with the contents of the book, were the task not so daunting. So, he offers us a start through this glimpse of the Bible's big picture of this 'start to finish story' in just 100 pages.

Phil has divided the Bible into 15 parts. He shows us the main narrative in each with a commentary as to just why things turn out as they do. Part one quickly brings us to the fall of Man and some of the consequences, and how our nature is affected asserting our independence, and needing frequent reminders that God is God, and we are not.

Part eleven deals with what Phil calls the 'Crossroads of History' - the most defining moment of history when God the Son was hung on a cross to die. In his musical, 'Jesus Christ Superstar' Andrew Lloyd Webber has Judas Iscariot singing to Jesus "Did you mean to die like that? Was that a mistake or did you know your messy death would be a record breaker? Don't get me wrong - I only wanna know." Part eleven answers this question.



Phil Moore

Extract -

"The final chapters of the four gospels tell us that Jesus' death and resurrection provide us with forgiveness for our sins. His death was not a mistake. Far from it. It was the very reason why God came to earth in order to live as a man. On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus taught his disciples about "my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins," and he told them not to resist his arrest because "how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?!" We are not very good at admitting that we need forgiveness. We are one of the most self-justifying generations in human history. But the Bible's message certainly resonates when it talks about guilty consciences and fear of punishment and the sense that God seems very far away. Jesus died and rose again to take away our guilt and to bring us back to God."

¹ The verses quoted in this chapter can be found in Matthew 26:28, 54; 27:46; Luke 23:34,39-43; John 16:11; 19:11, 30

ISBN 9780857215512 COPYRIGHT © 2014 PHIL MOORE Published by Lion Hudson Ltd

QUOTE . . . UNQUOTE from Gloria Cain

From his prison cell, awaiting his execution for plotting against Hitler, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was able to call the death of a Christian "the supreme festival on the road to freedom". Likewise, fifty years earlier an American minister wrote his own epitaph: "Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. At that moment I will be more alive than I am now." This is no fist of defiance, shaken at the unending darkness. This is hearing Christ say, as did the thief on the cross when all seemed lost, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). There is a joy that sorrow can only enrich and deepen until it completely gives way to it. This is hope indeed.

Timothy Keller



Book introduced by Derek Cain

What I love about ... being a Parish Councillor

In 2013 I was asked by the chairman to join Bredon Parish Council. Having previously served as a parent governor at Bredon Hancock's School, which I thoroughly enjoyed, I accepted the invitation and stepped into the unknown world of the Parish Council.

One of the first things I noticed was everyone was more experienced than me; their understanding of how things ran daunted me. I had a long, uphill climb ahead of me. The training courses helped, but my knowledge of the local area was limited, having only moved to Bredon in the year 2000. As with any move into a new organisation or team, getting to know the rest of team, their personalities, their views and opinions, was a priority. Over time the rules, regulations, acronyms and road names all became familiar and this led to me being able to contribute more to the council.

Coming from an IT background, one of the most striking things I noticed was the lack of electronic communications the council had with its parishioners. The only form of communication, for the council to deliver news, events and any successful achievements, was a monthly article in the parish magazine.



Bredon Parish Council website

The Technology and Media working group, of which I'm a member with other tech savvy councillors, was set up to bring the council's communication methods up to date. It has had some great deliverables over the last few years; these included a new Parish Council website (www.bredonpc.org.uk); profiles set up on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and currently in development (delayed due to COVID) a new Bredon Village Hall website with an online booking facility; engagement with our parishioners has never been higher.

I also had to learn how to work alongside other organisations within our parish, helping and supporting them whenever possible.

This can lead to some conflict because people are passionate about the group they represent. Resolving these conflicts and working together delivers much more fruitful results, examples include working with the local sports clubs to help them deliver better facilities; supporting BCPR (Bredon Community Play and Recreation) with the playing fields; helping other local community and business organisations including the school, playgroup, church, and regular users of the village hall.

Other successes, during my time on the council, include installing solar panels on the village hall roof; receiving grant funding towards rewilding and increasing biodiversity projects; updating the village hall with new front doors and helping make the village hall COVID secure during recent restrictions.

At times it can be frustrating, things don't progress as quickly as you would like, and there can be many hurdles in the way. The parish council has very limited powers, mainly making recommendations to higher authorities, which can get ignored.



Our remit is always to serve our parishioners to the best of our ability. What I love about being a parish councillor is serving and helping the community; we are all volunteers sacrificing our time to help keep our community safe and a place we all love to call home.

Declan Shiels



Handing the New Homes Bonus cheque to Guides

Next Bredon Food Bank Donation Day

Wednesday, 17th March, 8:30am - 5:30pm
St. Giles Church, Bredon (North Porch)



BREDON OUTWARD BOUND ASSOCIATION



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Courses available:

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13-15 years	Serious Adventure	1 week
15-19 years	Serious Adventure	1 week
15-19 years	Serious Adventure (Rock)	1 week
15-19 years	Skills for Life Award	3 weeks
15-19 years	Ultimate Adventure	3 weeks (must have previous experience)



The Association subsidises the cost of courses, so you only pay £150 for a 1-week course or £350 for a 3-week course.

If you want to know more about this incredible opportunity without any obligation contact Ray Lane: thelanes27@yahoo.co.uk or look at www.outwardbound.org.uk/summer-adventures.

Bredon Outward Bound Association is a charity founded in 1976 and has sponsored over 250 courses for children in this parish. We raise the sponsorship finance through a 200 club. Subscriptions are £13 per year. We have some places in our 200 club so if you would like to help young people in this parish, contact Richard Cowley by email richardandcarol@oakgardens.co.uk, or Ray Lane thelanes27@yahoo.co.uk.

Bredon Community Play & Recreation



Well, who would have thought we would still be in lockdown during February 2021. It is at times like these that our outdoor spaces become so important and our playing fields are no exception. It has been fantastic to see how well used they have been and we are sure this will continue. At the moment we are unable to commit to holding Bredon's Big Day Out this summer, but rest assured we are keen to organise community events again as soon as the opportunity presents itself.

Santa Sleigh - We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported Santa when he visited our village in December. We at BCPR were unable to join Santa on his journey around the village this year due to COVID restrictions but the Pershore & District Round Table team pulled out all the stops to make sure Santa could still visit us. A fantastic team effort by them all and we really appreciate their hard work and dedication in helping local causes. We have experienced first-hand their generosity as Pershore & District Round Table have contributed £650 towards the cost of our new swings, so again another massive thank you.

New Equipment Update - Most excitingly we are almost there with the long promised new swings. We have been thrown a few curved balls along the way around infrastructure, however, at the time of writing we are expecting to hear we are over the final hurdle. We hope to see work starting on the new swings, which include an inclusive swing seat, plus the renewal of the orange bowl swing, by the end of February. We are aware there is currently other maintenance work that needs to be undertaken, mainly around the toddler play area, and our aim is to get this completed before Easter. This is in hand but unfortunately we have experienced delays as materials are currently in short supply.

200 Club - It is only £15 a year and your membership really does make a difference. Please contact Andrea by email andrea.fleck@fivecounties.com for more details.

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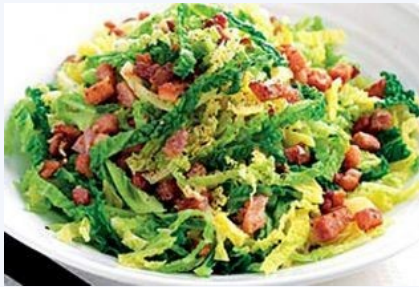
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Sylvia Harrington's Recipe for March

Fried Cabbage with Bacon - Serves 2-3

This is good enough for a meal on its own and excellent with sausages and jacket potatoes.



Ingredients:

- 1 lb (450g) cabbage, any variety, prepared and shredded
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 oz (50g) bacon de-rinded, cut into lardons
or streaky bacon chopped up small
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- salt and pepper

Method:

- Take a large frying pan and fry off the onion and bacon in the oil for about 5 minutes.
- Then add the crushed garlic and cook for a further 2-3 minutes.
- Stir in the shredded cabbage, as the heat gets into it, it will start to collapse and keep stirring so it cooks evenly.
- Season with freshly milled black pepper, but taste before adding salt because of the bacon.
- The cabbage should cook in about 10 minutes and still retain its crispness, but if you prefer it softer put the lid on the frying pan which will give it some steam.

Just a few words

I have had a terrific time working on the magazine for five months. However, the time has come for me to hand it back to Christopher Frith. I still can't believe when I was asked to do this job last September, and even harder to believe I actually said "yes" to the challenge. Thank you for all the people who have supported me and the magazine, and one person in particular - my husband Michael, who is my personal proofreader.



Anne Choi Fordham

The next PARISH MAGAZINE will be for April 2021

Deadline: Friday, 12th March for material to be included

All items to be included should go to the editor, Christopher Frith, by that date please bredonparishmaged@hotmail.co.uk or Cover Point, Back Lane, Bredon 01684 773164

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QUIZ ANSWERS

First see the questions on page 12

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 1) Peru | 2) Chile | 3) Prague |
| 4) Siem Reap, Cambodia | 5) Rome | 6) Nigeria |
| 7) Vatican City | 8) Nepal and China (Tibet) | |

THE COVER PHOTO - DAFFODILS: THE ICING ON SPRINGTIME'S CAKE,

which cheer up our Lychgate and churchyard considerably, taken by Christopher Frith.

Christopher, incidentally, will be resuming the task of editing the parish magazine from the April issue. He wants it to be known that he is very grateful to Anne Choi Fordham for standing in so very capably as Acting Editor while he has been incapacitated since September and he feels sure that many people feel the same.