

May 2020



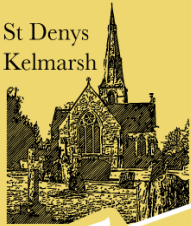
All Saints, Naseby



All Saints, Clipston



St Michael's Haselbeck



St Denys  
Kelmarsh

Online Edition

# The Magazine



Welford  
Congregational Chapel



St Helen's Sibbertoft



St Mary The Virgin, Welford



St Nicholas' Marston Trussell

News & Views

Haselbeck, Kelmarsh  
Marston Trussell, Naseby,  
Welford, Sibbertoft & Clipston

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## *Dear Friends,*

What an extraordinary time we are experiencing. Yes, mostly the same people will be reading this as last month, but so much is different. So much has changed across the world, and we are living in ways that were unimaginable just a few weeks ago.

Yet, on 12<sup>th</sup> April, despite our world being turned upside down, we were able to celebrate Easter, that greatest of Christian festivals. Through virtual worship and private prayer, via social media and handwritten cards, in Zoom meetings and socially-distanced community singing, the events of the resurrection were remembered with rejoicing and delight.

But the remembering took place alongside anxiety and sorrow for all too many people. They may be ill or have lost loved ones, be fearful or isolated, struggling with new work patterns or shattered dreams. Old certainties swept away, new insecurities piling up.

How difficult it is in our fear and grief to perceive Christ.

Let us reflect, though, on the path that we are travelling together, the path of faith, hope and love ó the same path that Christ walks.

During the season of **Lent** we heard the story of God's unfailing faithfulness and infinite love towards us. We learnt once again that by walking with Christ we can be shaped and transformed into the best possible version of ourselves ó the person he created us to be.

Then Holy Week reminded us that God himself travelled through the deepest of darkness and most profound of despair - for our sakes. Hanging on the cross, he cried out, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*", before death released him from his agony. In the tomb, locked away from the world, he was remade and resurrected. The same but different.

Day by day, we too are being remade—each step we take towards God a little resurrection, a new reality of who we are, a new revelation of who we can be.

Easter affirms that faith, hope and love are not what God expects, but what he gives, freely and without question - even before we acknowledge his existence.

He knows the reality of suffering, he knows how difficult it can be to hold on to faith, but he also knows this: that beyond grief is joy, beyond despair is hope, beyond death is life.

With my love and prayers,

*Miranda*



# OAK APPLE DAY



Since time immemorial, the oak tree has towered in our national consciousness as a symbol of what it means to be British

But there is one major event in this tree's ancient history that bestowed upon the oak its status as the tree of kings. It was in the boughs of an oak tree, a short distance away from Boscombe House in Shropshire, that a young Charles II hid from his Roundhead pursuers after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Nine years later, the restored Charles II rode triumphantly into London on his birthday, May 29, to take his place on the throne.

Four or five generations ago, every British man, woman and child would have known the story of this turning point in our history. From 1660, the Restoration was celebrated as a national holiday, until the Victorians abolished it in 1859.

The oak became the symbol of Royalist sympathisers and, each year on May 29, known as Oak Apple Day or Royal Oak Day, it became customary for subjects to show support for their king by wearing a sprig of oak leaves or an oak apple.

The day was full of celebrations, with villages and communities maintaining their own individual traditions. Maypole dancing, Morris dancing and feasting were commonplace. Tradition also dictated that those who didn't wear sprigs of oak on Oak Apple Day should be thrashed with stinging nettles.

The Royal Oak is the third most popular pub name and multiple Royal Navy warships have been called Royal Oak. In many places commemorations continue with gusto including, a member of the Royal Family visiting the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London and In the centre of Northampton, the statue of Charles II at All Saints Church is garlanded with oak leaves at noon.

# SIBBERTOFT NEWS



## Where to begin?

I have always considered myself and my husband Derek to have been truly blessed to have found the beautiful village of Sibbertoft back in 1978. We were a young couple with very limited funds seeking our own version of living out The Good life (The title of a popular TV program at the time check it out on UK Gold or similar). We had searched for a suitable property for almost 2 years been 'gazumped' outbid at auction and had mortgage applications rejected due to poor survey results. Eventually a small advert in the Leicester Mercury News Paper Agricultural section caught our eye and 5 months later we took possession of Roserie Cottage.

We had found our little piece of Heaven on Earth and I can honestly say that we have never tired of living here. Over many years we reshaped the land, modernised and extended the house, expanded our family to include cats, dogs, rabbits, chickens, ducks and in between our two beautiful daughters Laura and Bobbi arrived. They are now grown up pursuing careers near and far and we have the joy of 3 grandchildren.

Every morning I wake up and look out of the east facing window over the 16 acre field towards the church. Very soon the Pink blossom on the trees in the manor grounds will bloom just like they have for the last 41 years and nature will repair the world. We are all sharing the issues of Covid 19 at the moment our lives are restricted and changed in many ways for ever but Sibbertoft and the beautiful countryside around us remains the same. Out of the chaos of our enforced lock down we are making connections with people in our community we have never had the time to get to know before. On line chats, Quiz's, craft activities and united benefice church services. We are witnessing acts of kindness and dare I say it becoming a true community lets pledge in our hearts to make it last when we finally return to our New Normal. To that end most people in the village and beyond are aware that I have launched a personal challenge to raise money for our treasured community buildings, Saint Helens Church and the Reading Room. Both are in need of our time, love and money to work on fabric based projects. We have a duty as our lives pass through to keep them in a condition fit for the community to enjoy for now and years to come (may be a huge celebration in 2021 when we can freely socialise again?) Nan on the run was an idea that I had pre corona virus.

I plan to run 25 marathons through out the year (average 13 miles a week) spanning April to April. For the moment Sunday Teas opening is delayed (putting an even greater pressure on our limited funds) so I may extend the time and add more marathons into 2021 in order to gain support from our loyal Teas visitors. Please invest in your village there has never been a more relevant time to show you care. It will also give me encouragement to succeed in achieving the goal of raising a minimum of £5000 to be split equally between each project.

Go to [give.net](https://www.give.net) search **nan on the run 20/21**. I welcome all donations, per marathon, one off or add hock through out the year. Post a comment I truly need all the encouragement I can get. Thank you.

# QUIZ FOR



1. In May 1707 the Act of Union joined which 2 kingdoms together?
2. On 1st May 1851, Queen Victoria opened what in London?
3. In May 1994 which 3 times World Formula 1 champion was killed in the San Marino Grand Prix?
4. In 1969 this iconic British ocean liner set off on its maiden voyage to New York. What was it called?
5. In May 1960 the Anne Frank House museum opened in which European city?
6. Workers of the United Kingdom went on general strike in May of which year?
7. In May 1821, who died in exile on the island of St Helena?
8. In May 1961, who was the first American to travel into outer space?
9. In May 1981 thousands saw which religious leader shot?
10. In May 1989 a British war hero was seized in Beirut at the age of 74 who was he?
11. In May 1995 Alison Hargreaves became the first woman to do what?
12. Why was the England cricket captain sacked in May 1977?
13. In May 1996 what killed over 600 people in northern Bangladesh?
14. In May 1940, who said 'I have nothing to give but blood, sweat and tears'?
15. In May 1950 Steveland Judkins Morris a singer was born. How is he better known?

Pam Ayres

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.  
You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.  
They'll never know the things we  
did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.  
We seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60's  
If you only knew the truth !  
There was sex and drugs and  
rock'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.  
Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become ?  
We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull !  
So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door !  
It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour



Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.  
At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal !  
So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.  
We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates !

# MAY CELEBRATIONS

## *In Other Religions*



### **Pagan**

#### **Beltaine - The Fire Festival**

The Celtic Festival of Beltaine, on May 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of summer. In the ancient Celtic calendar it is a Cross Quarter Day, half way between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice The festival was marked with the lighting of bonfires symbolic of purification and the movement of animals to summer pastures. Other festivities included Maypole dances and cutting of green boughs and flowers.



### **Judaism**

#### **Lag BaOmer,**

A festive day on the Jewish calendar, this year on May12th. It is celebrated with outings (on which children traditionally play bows and arrows), bonfires, parades and other joyous events. Many visit the resting place Meron (northern Israel) of the great sage and mystic, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the anniversary of whose passing is on this day.



## Islam

**The Night of Power** . also referred to as Laylat-al-Qadr . is considered to be the Holiest night in the Islamic calendar. This was the night when the first verses of the Holy Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by Angel Jibrail. This night falls within the last 10 days of Ramadan, and although the exact date is unknown, it is widely believed to be the 27th day of the Holy month. It is celebrated by Shia on 15th May and by Sunni on 19th May.



## Buddism

### Wesak

This most important Buddhist festival is known as either Vesak, Wesak or Buddha Day, and is celebrated annually on the full moon of the ancient lunar month of Vesakha, which usually falls this year on May 7th

At Vesak Buddhists commemorate the birth of the Buddha-to-be, Siddhattha Gotama, his Enlightenment at the age of 35 when he became the Buddha and his final 'passing' into Nirvana at the age of 80, no more to be reborn.



## Hinduism

### SriNarasimhaJayanti

6<sup>th</sup> May marks the appearance day of Lord Narasimha, the half-lion half-man incarnation of Supreme Lord Krishna, who appeared to protect Prahlada from his demoniac father Hiranyakashipu. Thus the Lord appeared in half-man half-lion form and killed him with His nails at twilight.

# ASCENSION DAY



*Jesus appeared first to Mary of Magdalene. She went and carried the news to his mourning and sorrowful followers, but when she told them that he was alive they did not believe her.*

*Later he appeared to two of the disciples as they were walking into the countryside. They also went and took the news to the others, but again they did not believe that the Lord was alive.*

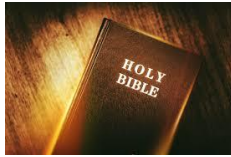
*Then, when the eleven disciples were at the table. He appeared to them and reproached them because they had not believed those who had seen him after he was raised from the dead.*

*Then he said to them: 'Go forth to every part of the world, and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. Those who believe it and receive baptism will find salvation; those who do not believe will be condemned. Faith will bring with it these miracles: believers will cast out devils in my name and speak in strange tongues; if they handle snakes or drink any deadly poison, they will come to no harm; and the sick on whom they lay their hands will recover.'*

*So after talking with them the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven, and he took his seat at the right hand of God.*

**Mark 16, verses 9 to 20**

## ‘At Home’ with the Bible



The short New Testament book of Philippians makes for an interesting read. It's simply a letter to the early Church in the city of Philippi (modern Filippi in Greece). Written by St Paul while he was isolated (in prison!) and addressed to people living through challenging circumstances it has some topical resonances with our situation during the Coronavirus crisis. Though times are tough Paul's outlook is positive and hopeful: he sees opportunity in restriction and he's laying plans for the future. It takes just 20 minutes to read through whole letter but for a quick dip here's a few memorable quotes ...

*“... in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” (2:3-4)*

*“... this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal.” (3:13-14)*

*“The Lord is near. ... in everything by prayer ... let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (4:5-7)*

*“... whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable ... think about these things.” (4:8)*

*“... for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty ... I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (4:12-13)*

‘At Home’ is a get together on Zoom each Thursday at 7pm. Philippians is the focus for our chat with everyone contributing their thoughts. With just 40 minutes together we are sticking to the passages that seem most relevant to us. If you would be interested to join in then please contact me.

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## Sibbertoft Pop up Shop



Due to current events Sibbertoft Sunday teas opening is delayed we may not be able to open for business at all this year! A great disappointment to many as we know how much our loyal customers look forward to visiting us week by week through out the season. We have also lost a huge part of our income stream (£8000 pa). Many people have no idea that the basic cost of running our church is £20,000 a year! So we have come up with a new ideas to raise funds and keep connected with the community. The weekend Pop up Shop is born. At the time of writing we have been open for 2 weekends and are overwhelmed by the support and generosity people are showing.

We have raised £400!

Thank you to all who have supported thus far.

Lesley and Cynthia's greenhouses are filling up nicely and our allotments bursting into spring growth. Our Pop up shops are situated outside Roserie Cottage Westhorpe and Beam House Welland Rise. Weather and stock permitting we will set up on Saturdays and or Sundays offering a selection of seasonal ornamental herbaceous/perennials and annual plants and flowers. Vegetable and salad plants to grow in your own gardens, greenhouses or patios. Plus cut flowers fresh fruit and vegetables as they come available. Together with home made Jams, marmalade etc. We are happy to receive donations of suitable items to sell from other residents contact Lesley via Sibbertoft social whats app group.

Contactless, hand washing facilities. Honesty box and IOU system. Recycling containers, no transport miles and introducing peat free compost. All good environmental practises and free gardening tips and advice should you need it.

Funds raised will go to the [nan on the run](#) project supporting St Helens Church and the Reading Room refurbishment project.

give.net - search [nan on the run 20/21](#)



## CHAPEL COMMENT

An extract from Pastor Barrie & Rev Tony's Easter message during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Someone once wrote: Totally without hope one cannot live. To live without hope is to cease to live and there is a great deal of truth in those words. In the difficult and often confusing world in which we live today, hope, for many people is something that seems to be in short supply with the many problems and hardships of life particularly in this present crisis. But hope is one of the key Christian attributes and one of the most important gifts we can give the world today brought back to life by the Easter message, a reminder that there is life beyond this one, true life, eternal life, glorious life.

New hope!

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Pictures of rainbows can be seen in our own villages and across social media showing support for the NHS, giving hope & encouragement for the future.  
After rain there's a rainbow,  
After a storm there's calm,  
After the night there's a morning  
And after an ending there's a new beginning.

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Spring drew on the fields and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which freshening daily, suggested the thought that hope traversed them at night and left each morning brighter traces of her steps.

Charlotte Bronte

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