

HODNET *Parish News*

March 2023



Photo courtesy of Mary Willicombe

If you wish to continue receiving this magazine please would you contribute towards the production costs? Each issue costs approximately 50p to produce but if you are able to contribute more this would help the church stay open.

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Views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Panel, which reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to amend, edit, abbreviate, précis or refuse to publish any submitted contribution. Contributions, including photographs, are submitted at the contributor's own risk and are not necessarily returnable.

ST LUKE'S CHURCHYARD

I'm sure many of us, certainly the younger generation, don't give much thought to where our earthly remains will rest for eternity. Take a walk through Hodnet Churchyard, where many long-term residents of the parish have ancestors buried. At first glance, it may be not what you think. The current area being used for interments, be it burials or burial of ashes, is part of the oldest area where our antecedents lie. Look to the south side, nearest to the Marchamley road, and you will see a wall created of old gravestones, which, along with those used to pave the War Memorial site, were removed from this area to allow for more burials. Many of these memorials date back to the 18th and 19th century. So this ground is being used for the second time that we know about, but in reality it will have been used many times over, bearing in mind the Church dates from the Norman period. The previous plot was the ground to the west, which was for many years known as the 'New Graveyard'. This piece of ground was donated by A H Heber Percy, on the condition that the Parish erect the wall against the Marchamley road. This was created from stone from the original redundant and dilapidated Boy's School, which was situated near the entrance to the Hearne Farm. The work was financed by subscription, and with volunteer labour, and was completed in 1921. It was suggested at the time that there would be space to last 70 or 80 years, but the first new burial to the East behind the Hundred House was in 1988.

So we may say 'Rest in Peace' but it won't necessarily be for ever!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son. May we recognise Him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen

SAINTS' AND SIGNIFICANT DAYS

5 th March	Eusebius of Cremona
12 th March	Maximilian
19 th March	Joseph
	Mothering Sunday
26 th March	Ludger

EDITORIAL

This month we have a bumper edition containing information on the upcoming Parish Coronation Celebrations and some additional adverts. We are grateful for the support of the many local trades and companies who help finance the production and distribution of the magazine.

Should you find that your edition does not land on your doorstep around the end of the month, please do let us know (numbers never quite tally with our list and we can never work out why!). Additional copies are available from Hodnet Village Stores or St Luke's Church and from this month a digital copy can be accessed via www.hodnet.org.

To contribute an article, please contact us at editorhodnetparish@gmail.com with any offerings! **Our cut off date for April's issue is Wednesday 15th March 2023.** Alternatively you can now text or ring us on our mobile - 07498 995505.

VOTING AND PHOTO ID

Voter ID requirement - from 4th May 2023, votes in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling station in some elections. This will apply to:

- Local elections
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections
- UK parliamentary by-elections
- Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

For more information visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th April - Hodnet Footpath Group Walk - to be confirmed

Saturday 15th April - Grand National Live Showing - Marchamley Community Club

Tuesday 18th April - A talk on Wildlife Gardening - Lyon Hall - 7.30pm

Saturday 6th May - Kings Coronation Live Showing - Marchamley Community Club

Saturday 6th May - Wollerton Village Room - Red, White & Blue Drinks Party - 6pm

Sunday 7th May - Vintage Cabaret and tea dance - Marchamley Community Club

Monday 8th May - Hodnet Parish Coronation Celebration- Recreation Ground

Tuesday 16th May - Evening visit to Hodnet Hall Gardens 6.45pm.

Thursday 18th May - Ascension Day Service - St Luke's Church

Saturday 27th - Monday 29th May - St Luke's Flower Festival

Tuesday 20th June - A talk on Gardening in Shady Areas - Lyon Hall - 7.30pm

Published as a free Church fellowship outreach and delivered each month to every household in the communities of Hodnet, Hopton, Kenstone, Little Bolas, Lostford, Marchamley, Peplow & Wollerton.

CHURCH SERVICES

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, HODNET

March

Sunday 5 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 12 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
		- Mothering Sunday
Sunday 26 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer

April

Sunday 2 nd	11.00am	Morning Prayer
		- Palm Sunday



CHAPEL OF THE EPIPHANY, PELOW

March

Sunday 12 th	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 26 th	11.00am	Holy Communion

April

Friday 7 th	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
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CHURCH CONTACTS

Hodnet Churchwardens

Janice Parker

01630 685531

Tim Preston

01630 685315

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN ST LUKE'S



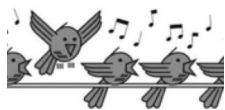
Coffee and CRAFTS

GOOD FRIENDS, GREAT CRAFTS AND LOTS OF COFFEE

An opportunity to bring your craft project to church and enjoy the company, conversation and refreshments.

Choir Practice

Join us on
Wednesday 1st,
15th & 29th March
7.00pm - 8.00pm.
at St Luke's



JOIN THE CHOIR



Bellringing Practice

Weekly Fridays
7.00pm - 8.00pm.

If you are interested contact Bell Tower Captain John Powell on 01630 685325.

Chat and Coffee Stop
Will resume on Saturday 11th March
from 10am until noon.

All welcome - including men!



ST LUKE'S ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE

All of the flue pipework is back in situ and the organ is now playable. It needs to be played as often as possible.

As I wrote last time, the reeds are currently away. When they're repaired and can be returned, we will tune the organ.

The pipes that are missing from the cases are missing for very good reasons. The two pipes facing into the church need repairing and the two big brutes missing from the great side (left side) would have to be removed again so that we can put the clarinet back in. These cases are extremely heavy and the metal which they are made of is very soft and, therefore, very easily damaged. Much time has been spent in 'rounding out' all of the 64 pipes that you can see. The largest measure 10'6" in length and to describe them as awkward would be a massive understatement.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING



PARISH OF HODNET

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will be held in St Luke's Church, Hodnet on Monday 17th day of April 2022 at 7.30pm.

Churchwarden:

J.M. Parker

or the election of Parochial representatives of the laity as follows:

- To the Parochial Church Council 10 representatives.
- To the Deanery Synod three representatives. For the appointment of Sidesmen and the Independent Examiner or Auditor. For the consideration of:
 - a) A Report on changes in the roll since the annual parochial church meeting;
 - b) An Annual Report of the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;
 - c) The Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending on the 31st December immediately preceding the meeting audited or independently examined;
 - d) A Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches of the parish;
 - e) A Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod and other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

NOTES

1. All persons whose names are entered upon the Church Electoral Roll of the parish (and such persons only) are entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.
2. Subject to the provisions of rule 14(3)(c) a person is qualified to be elected a parochial representative of the laity if their name is entered on the church electoral roll of the parish and, unless they are under the age of eighteen years at the date of the election, has been so entered for at least the preceding period of six months;
- a) the person is an actual communicant which means that they have received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England at least three times during the twelve months preceding the date of the election and;
- b) the person is sixteen years or upwards and d) the person is not disqualified as referred to in paragraph 3 of these notes.
3. a) A person shall be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected from serving as a churchwarden, a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or any synod under these rules if he is disqualified from being a charity trustee under section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 and the disqualification is not for the time being subject to a general waiver by the Charity Com missioners under subsection (4) of that section or to a waiver by them under that subsection in respect of all ecclesiastical charities established for purposes relating to the parish concerned.
 - (aa) A person shall be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or member of a parochial church council, a district church council or any synod under these rules if the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).
 - (ab) A person shall be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or member of a parochial church council, a district church council or any synod under these rules if the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.
 - (ac) A person's disqualification under paragraph (ab) may be waived by the bishop of the diocese in question giving the person notice in writing.
 - b) A person shall also be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected from serving as a churchwarden or member of a parochial church council if they have been so disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefice) Measure 1977.
4. Any person whose name is on the electoral roll may be appointed as a sidesman.
5. A resolution is in operation in this parish which provides that any person entitled to vote in the elections of parochial representatives of the laity to the parochial church council or to the deanery synod or to both that council and that synod may make application on the appropriate form to the undersigned for a postal vote. The completed form must be received before the commencement of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

NOTE — In this notice "parish" means an ecclesiastical parish.

§ "Ecclesiastical charity" has the same meaning as that assigned to that expression in the Local Government Act 1894.

‡ This paragraph should be deleted if no resolution for postal voting is in operation in the parish.

* Or "Vice-Chairman of the Parochial Church Council" as the case may be (see rule 7(3)).

PARISH CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

The Parish Coronation Celebration is planned for Monday 8th May starting at 12 noon on Hodnet Recreation Ground. Activities, displays and competitions are planned by the numerous voluntary organisations in the parish - there will be a double page spread in May's magazine with all the details.

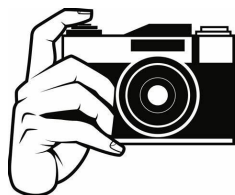


Ahead of the celebration we are planning two Parish wide competitions to take place in the week leading up to the event. We are holding competitions for the Best Dressed House and the Best Scarecrow (with a royal theme). Everyone who is interested in taking part should register their name and address via the Parish Clerk (clerk@hodnet.org.uk). Judging will take place on 6th May with winners announced on 8th May.

The next planning meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 7th March in The Lyon Hall. Everyone welcome.

PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

WANTED!



As part of the Parish Coronation Celebrations we are looking for your photograph entries. The physical photograph entry needs to be submitted to Glenys Comerford, 12 Drayton Road, Hodnet before 5th May. There will be two categories—children (under the age of 16) and adults. The subject of your photograph must be an object, building or scene located in the parish of Hodnet. Photograph entries must include your name, age and a contact phone number. There is a £2 entry fee – please drop this off with your entry. All entries will be displayed at the Coronation Celebration on the Recreation Ground on Monday 8th May and will be judged by Anna Turner, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire. The winning entries will be featured on the front cover of the parish magazine in the months to follow.

COMMEMORATIVE CORONATION MUGS



Commemorative coronation mugs are being purchased for all children in the parish aged 16 or under on 6th May 2023 - *Proof may be required of eligibility* These will be presented on the day of the Coronation Celebration Event. To register your child for their mug please email their name to parishcoronationmug@gmail.com on or before 21st April 2023.

CHURCH HUMOUR



"The new vicar is really cool, Dad.
Did you know that God emailed the Ten
Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"

HODNET SOCIAL CLUB

Prize Bingo - now moved to 8pm on first Wednesday of the month. See their Facebook page or contact Angela Heath on 07815 126101.

Opening times: Monday - Thursday 7.00pm - 11.00pm
Friday 6.00pm - midnight
Saturday 5.00pm - 11.00pm
Sunday 2.00pm - 7.00pm

HODNET FIRE STATION - WARM SPACE

SHROPSHIRE



Shropshire Council and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service have come together to provide a warm welcome provision. These sessions will be held every Monday between 11am and 4pm at Hodnet Fire Station. Come and have a cuppa and a chat with a member of the community wellbeing outreach team, as well as the opportunity to have a blood pressure and Atrial Fibrillation Check. Gwilym Butler of Shropshire Council said, "The offer is open to people of all ages, and we hope that it will be popular with families and young people as well as retired people living alone."

HODNET FOOTBALL CLUB

Fixtures: See dates for your diary - page 27. Keep an eye on the club's Facebook page for more information.

Results:

28th January - Hodnet 5 - 4 Madeley Sports

4th February - Hodnet 1 - 2 Ludlow Town

11th February - Dawley Town 2 - 0 Hodnet



HODNET FOOTPATH GROUP

Our next "First Tuesday" walk will take place on Tuesday 7th March when will be walking our route 7 around Fauls.

This walk is approximately 5 miles long, mainly across fields with quite a few stiles and gates, is dog friendly and takes about 2 hours.

Meet at Fauls Church at 10am prompt (roadside parking). We'll walk to Marchamley Wood via Fauls Farm and then head to Mickley via one of two possible routes. The route then takes us to Hoarstone Lake where we head back towards Fauls.

Everyone is welcome, good footwear is essential and dogs are welcome.

There are some good views of the surrounding area and there is a short version of the walk if you just want to walk part of it (about 1½ miles).

We hope to see you there. Walk leaflets are available at the usual outlets or can be downloaded from our webpage www.hodnet.org/fpg. Any queries contact Steve Alden on 07774 969 339.

ST LUKE'S CHURCHYARD

Polite request - would anyone who has placed Christmas wreaths or similar on gravestones please ensure they are removed straight away as it makes mowing the grass very difficult if they are left in place.

HODNET & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Just a quick update on what will be happening this year. It's not a complete programme yet but it will give you the plan for the first few meetings.

21st March - Social. A chance to catch up.

18th April - A talk on Wildlife Gardening.

16th May - Evening visit to Hodnet Hall Gardens. Minimum of 20 needed if we wish to use the Garden Restaurant for tea/coffee and cake at £6.50 per head.

Please let David Smither know if a) if you will be attending the event and b) do you want to stay for refreshments?

20th June - A talk on Gardening in Shady Areas.

Take care everyone - I'm off to finish pruning my wisteria and to look at my snowdrops! Dave

HODNET & PELOW CRICKET CLUB



Hodnet and Peplow Cricket Club is looking to recruit new members to the club ahead of the club's 2023 Division 4 Shropshire County Cricket League campaign.

We are open to all ages, abilities and genders. We hold weekly practice nets throughout the season (from mid-April through to mid-September) at our cricket ground which is accessed through the stone wall opposite the driveway to Hodnet Social Club/football pitch. We are not just looking for playing members, we are also looking for anyone with an interest in the game of cricket who may be able to assist us with umpiring or scoring or other off-field activities such as fund-raising and sponsorship.

If you think you may be the next Ben Stokes or Heather Knight, or can help in any other way, please get in touch. For further information please contact Dave Tunks on 01952 242355 / 07753 208370 or Matt Watkins on 01270 610851 / 07817 012650.

LYON HALL, HODNET - EVENTS

Yoga Class - temporarily suspended while a new instructor is sought. If you know of anyone who would like to hold this class please contact Francis below.

Qigong - 10am - 11am on Tuesdays. Contact Sue on sue@suepics.co.uk.

Ring craft dog training - 1pm - 3pm on Thursdays. Contact Anne Mann on 01630 653570 for more information.

Women's Institute - 7.30pm on second Thursday of the month. Contact Vicki Cadwell on 01630 656507 or 07947 121006 for more information.

To book the Lyon Hall contact Francis Bennett on 01630 685213.

MARCHAMLEY BOOK CLUB

Marchamley Book Club will meet on Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm in Marchamley Community Club. Our book choice for discussion is:

The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak

It is 1974 on the island of Cyprus. Two teenagers, from opposite sides of the divided land, meet at a tavern in the city they both call home. Decades later in north London 16 year old Ada Kazantzakis has never visited the island where her parents were born. Desperate for answers, she seeks to untangle years of secrets, separation and silence.

This book is described as a rich, magical tale of belonging and identity, love and trauma, nature, and, finally, renewal.

Please come along and join us for the book discussion or just a general chat and a drink. We look forward to seeing you!

MARCHAMLEY COMMUNITY CLUB

March events open to both non-members and members:

Saturday 4th - Live music night - 8pm - £5 per ticket payable on the door. Local folk duo Retro will be playing and singing a mixture of folk, ballads and country music. A delicious buffet supper will be served in the interval. You will miss a good evening out if you don't come along!

Saturday 11th - Prize Bingo - Doors open 7pm for eyes down at 7.30pm.

Sunday 12th - Afternoon Tea - to celebrate International Women's Day, the club will open 3pm - 5pm with film entertainment. The bar is well stocked and scrumptious refreshments will be available to buy. Everyone welcome!

Saturday 18th - Ministry of Marchamley presents the 70's - from 8pm to late, our DJ Simon will present a memorable selection of 70's music (70's dress optional). £7.50 payable on the door.

Friday 24th - Film Night - Doors open at 7pm for prompt 7.30pm start. For the film title see our Facebook page **What's on At Marchamley Community Club**.

Marchamley Club is open to members every Friday from 7pm-11pm.

Membership is £3 per year. Why not drop in and see what we offer any Friday evening.

WOLLERTON TENNIS CLUB



Club night is Tuesday from 6.30pm. All abilities welcome to come and join us for a friendly game of tennis. New members are always welcome and can join at any time. Courts can be used for private games. Please telephone Gill on 07814 409268 or Linda on 01630 685432.

WOLLERTON VILLAGE ROOM NEWS

Book
Club



Reading between the vines

Our regular **Book Club** meetings are on the **second Tuesday** of the month starting at 7pm in the Village Room. We look forward to discussing *The Last Runaway* by Tracey Chevalier on Tuesday 14th March.

Weather permitting, our next **Wollerton Wander** will take place on Wednesday 1st March at **10.30am** followed by a cuppa and a chat in the Village Room. Please come along and support the group - no booking required. £1 per person.



Back To Music Ensemble. Seeks more players. Aged 16+. Any instruments welcome. If you can play a scale, come along! First Saturday of the month - 10am - 11.15am. For further information give Paul a call on 01630 638793.

Community Café - Saturday 4th March. 12 noon - 2pm. A warm space event where people can just turn up for a bowl of homemade soup with a roll for a small donation. We will also be accepting items for Market Drayton foodbank.



Craft & Sewing Evenings - Monday 13th and 27th March 6.30 - 8.30pm – bring your own project. Only £1 per session.

Craft Workshop - Monday 27th March - 6.30 - 8.30pm - Continue to Learn to Crochet Workshop - £5 to include all materials - no need to book.

To join our mailing list or book any event pop an email to: wollertonvr@gmail.com

Follow us on:

Facebook



Instagram



Wollerton Village Room for Hire

Hire Price

Regular weekly/monthly social events £15 per session.

Private bookings £25 per daytime/evening session.

Facilities

Chairs and tables to accommodate 40. Kitchen with fridge, water boiler, cups and saucers, plates and glasses. Toilet with access for wheelchair users.

Bookings

To take a look around the Village Room or to make a booking please wollertonvr@gmail.com or contact Claire on 01630 685544 or 07765 947951.

Registered Charity managed by volunteers.





HODNET HALL GARDENS

Hodnet Hall Gardens

Open Sundays, Wednesdays
and Bank Holiday Mondays
11am-5pm from Sunday 12th
March 2023.

E-tickets available from
website. Card and
contactless at gate. Season
tickets available.

www.hodnethallgardens.org

Hodnet 2000 is a charity which helps with the education or development of local young people.

We can help with:-

- Books
- Fees
- Equipment for apprenticeships
- Music equipment
- Extra curricular needs



If you are under the age of 25 years, and you or your parents live within the parish of Hodnet, Weston-under-Redcastle and Peplow your applications will be considered.

The application form can be downloaded from www.hodnet.org.uk.



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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Make a colourful Mothering Sunday card:

Colour in the picture below, cut it out and stick it to a bright piece of card.

Write a loving message inside and don't forget to sign it. X



KIDS' CORNER

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Jn 1:29-34, Mt 3:13-17, Lk 3:21-4:13, Mk 1:9-12

People came to John to be baptised - washed
in the river Jordan - to say sorry for what
they had done wrong. Then Jesus came...

Please baptise me.



No, it should be the other way round.

No, this is the right way now to complete God's plan



So John baptised Jesus in the river Jordan.

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus and God spoke...

This is my precious son.



Jesus then went into the desert for 40 days.



He didn't eat or drink, and at the end was very hungry



The Devil came to test him.

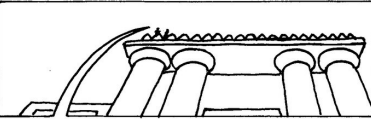
Show me you are God's Son by turning this stone into bread.



The Bible says 'You need more than bread to keep you alive.'



The Devil took him to the highest roof of the temple in Jerusalem.



Why don't you jump? God would make sure His angels would catch you

The Bible says 'Don't try to manipulate God.'



The Devil took Jesus to where he could see the whole world.



I have power over all this, and I could give it to you.

Just worship me

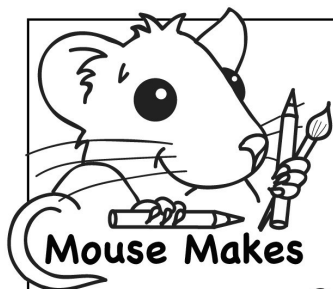


Go away! Only God is to be worshipped!

Then angels came to care for Jesus



MOUSE MAKES



WHO IS MY MOTHER?

CAIN	ELIZABETH
ISAAC	HANNAH
JESUS	RACHEL
JACOB	REBEKAH
TIMOTHY	EVE
JOSEPH	MARY
SAMUEL	SARAH
JOHN	EUNICE

Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search



REBEKAH
ELIZABETH
EUNICE
RUTH
MARY
RACHEL
LEAH
ZIPLAH
MOTHER
MUM

BIBLE MOTHERS

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

Ruth 1:1-5

Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 6:20

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.



M _____ Matt 1:16

O _____ 2 Tim 1:5

T _____ 1Kings 1:11

H _____ 1 Sam 1:20

E _____ Gen 34:1

R _____ Gen 30:22



How many other words can you make from:
MOTHERING SUNDAY



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



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*Hazles Farm Childcare, Hazles Rd,
Stanton Upon Hine Heath, Nr Shrewsbury SY4 4HE*



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Mrs Sarah Myers BA Hons

Tel - 07815 298190

Email - sarahmyersmusiclessons@hotmail.com



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PUZZLE PAGE

Leeks for St David's day, daffodils for the rest of the month: March brings us Spring. St Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland, is remembered with parades. Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day are celebrated with more daffodils and Sunday lunch 'out'. March brings us the Annunciation, when the angel first appeared to Mary to tell her of her coming pregnancy. March is the month of Lent, of prayer and preparation for Easter.

Leeks	Daffodils	Spring	Patrick
Day	Mum	Mother	Angel
Ireland	Wales	Sunday	Lunch
Pregnancy	Preparation	Prayer	Parades
Mary	Magnificat	Fasting	Lent

M P R A Y E R P A G S O
 A D S F C Y T S R Y A I
 G U L G N I T S A F S A
 N O I T A R A P E R P P
 I A D R N P I A M A R Y
 F T O Y G R U T Y N I A
 I L F S E D A R A P N M
 C E F L R N E I D D G T
 A G A A P H H C N U L P
 T N D M T E E K U L E R
 D A U O L E E K S D N M
 Y M M W A L E S N I T P

SMILE LINES

Children's version of biblical stories and events have a charm all their own. The following efforts have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. bad spelling has been left in).

~ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

~ Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.

~ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

~ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.

~ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

GO!

A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought that God had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

Present

For their elderly vicar's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. The vicar was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

Musings on daily life

'Ecclesiastic' is material used to fasten a clergyman's robes.

I am in shape. Round is a shape.

I plan on living forever. So far, so good.

I am having an out of money experience.

What's the leading cause of dry skin? Towels.

What?!

I get most of my exercise these days from shaking my head in disbelief.

Love letter

An advert appeared in the student newspaper of the university:

Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with university student – seeks six-footer with brown eyes answering to initials J.A.D.

Signed,

His mother

COOKERY CORNER - EASY CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

Even though it is the season of Lent, Refreshment Sunday which falls on Mothering Sunday, allows for the eating of Chocolate Fudge Cake!

Ingredients:

150ml sunflower oil, plus extra for the tin
175g self-raising flour
2 tbsp cocoa powder
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
150g caster sugar
2 tbsp golden syrup
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
150 ml semi-skimmed milk

For the icing:

100g unsalted butter
225g icing sugar
40g cocoa powder
2½ tbsp milk.



Method:

- Step 1** Heat the oven to 180°C/160° fan/Gas 4. Oil and line the base of two 18cm sandwich tins. Sieve the flour, cocoa powder and bicarbonate of soda into a bowl. Add the caster sugar and beat well with an electric whisk until smooth.
- Step 2** Make a well in the centre and add the golden syrup, eggs, sunflower oil and milk. Beat well with an electric whisk until smooth.
- Step 3** Pour the mixture into the two tins and bake for 25-30 minutes until risen and firm to touch. Remove from oven, leave to cool for 10 minutes before turning out onto a cooling rack.
- Step 4** To make the icing, beat the unsalted butter in a bowl until soft. Gradually sieve and beat in the icing sugar and cocoa powder, and enough of the milk to make the icing fluffy and spreadable.
- Step 5** Sandwich the two cakes together with the butter icing and cover the sides and the top of the cake with the remainder of the icing.

WATCHING THE WILDLIFE -

Spring is just around the corner, but even when the skies are unremittingly grey and you feel nothing much is moving, there are birds to watch. They may be sparrows pecking at seeds on the ground, a blackbird chasing off a rival male to reinforce the boundaries of his territory, or a crow calling to its fellows as they fly overhead. You have probably heard the birds singing more as they 'tune up' for their dawn chorus. Described by the RSPB as 'the voices of spring', it is a welcome sound, denoting brighter skies and warmer weather on the way. Whilst we know it's entirely possible to have disruptive snow in March, the knowledge that winter, however mild, has nearly passed is a cheering thought.



Although it doesn't seem long since the redwings arrived in October/November, flying overnight and calling to each other as they flew, they are now getting ready to leave again at the end of this month or next as they head back to Iceland, Scandinavia and the Faroes. Related to, but smaller than our resident thrushes, they

come to the UK to escape the colder winters of their more northern territories. Whilst you may have seen them enjoying the various fruits and berries in our trees, hedgerows and gardens, now that our winter is giving way to spring, and the winter fruits have mostly been eaten, you are more likely to see them in open fields searching for worms. Mixed in with any flock of redwings will probably be a flock of fieldfares. They often fly in mixed groups but with practice are easily told apart. Redwings are a rich warm brown with reddish underwings with a bold white line across the eyebrow. Fieldfares have more white/grey colour to their bodies and are slightly larger, being similar in size to a blackbird. A large flock of them has recently been swirling over fields in Marchamley and landing to feed on a daily basis - quite spectacular, with the fieldfares' grey and redwings' red plumage obvious!

Something else spectacular is the large flock of lapwings seen recently close to Tern Hill. These birds are in serious decline so to see a large flock of them is not only encouraging but a treasured sight for this area. Whilst northern European lapwings only spend their winter with us, many lapwings are UK resident all year round and all will soon be heading to their favoured breeding grounds. As ground nesting birds, they'll seek open fields of spring sown crops as well as meadows and fallow ground to lay their eggs and rear their young.



Improving weather will of course see hibernating creatures awake and begin their year, so there is much to look out for. Perhaps you'll see the first butterfly of the season in the next week or two. As bumble bees and solitary bees hibernate, whereas honey bees do not, they will all be emerging to enjoy the warm sun and seek the nectar of early flowering plants such as heather and primroses.

Whilst we're enjoying the spectacle of our various wild life, a note of caution from Shropshire Council: Bird flu has been confirmed in a wild owl on the north Staffordshire and Shropshire border. Everyone is urged not to touch sick or dead birds, but to report it to DEFRA who will organise the collection and testing of bodies.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-defra> and/or <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

'Wildlife Watcher'

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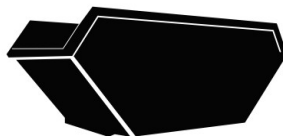
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Hodnet Women's Institute

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1	Craft Group - 10am - 12 noon - St Luke's Church. Wollerton Wander - 10.30am - Wollerton Village Room Mobile Library - 45 Wood Lane 11.10 - 11.40am Bus Stop; Marchamley Bus Stop 11.50 - 12.05pm. Choir Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church. Bingo 8pm - Hodnet Social Club
2	Mobile Library - Castle Hill Layby 10.30 - 10.45am.
3	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church.
4	Back to Music Ensemble - 10am - 11.15am and Community Café - Noon - 2pm - Wollerton Village Room Hodnet FC v Wem Town FC (Home) 3pm - Hodnet Social Club Retro Folk Band - 8pm - Marchamley Community Club
5	Morning Prayer - 11.00am - St Luke's Church
6	
7	Hodnet Footpath Group - 10am - Fauls Circular Walk - Route 7 Parish Coronation Celebration Planning Meeting - 7pm - Lyon Hall
8	Craft Group 10am - 12 noon - St Luke's Church
9	Hodnet Women's Institute 7.30pm - Lyon Hall Marchamley Book Club 7.30pm - Marchamley Club
10	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church
11	Chat At Church - 10am - noon - St Luke's Church Hodnet FC v Morda United (Home) 3pm - Hodnet Social Club Prize Bingo - 7pm for 7.30pm - Marchamley Community Club
12	Holy Communion - 11.00am - St Luke's Church, Hodnet Evensong - 6.30pm - The Chapel of the Epiphany Afternoon Tea to celebrate International Women's Day - 3pm - 5pm - Marchamley Community Club
13	Craft and Sewing Evening - 6.30 - 8.30pm - Wollerton Village Room
14	Wollerton Village Room Book Club - 7pm
15	Craft Group 10am - 12noon - St Luke's Church Choir Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church Mobile Library - 45 Wood Lane 11.10 - 11.40am Bus Stop; Marchamley Bus Stop 11.50 - 12.05pm
16	Mobile Library - Castle Hill Layby 10.30 - 10.45am
17	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church.
18	Chat At Church - 10am - noon - St Luke's Church Hodnet FC v Ludlow FC (Away) 3pm - The Ludlow Stadium Ministry of Marchamley presents the 70's - 8pm to late - Marchamley Community Club
19	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion - 11.00am - St Luke's Church, Hodnet
20	
21	Hodnet & District Garden Club Social - Lyon Hall - 7.30pm
22	Craft Group 10am - 12noon - St Luke's Church
23	
24	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church Film Night - 7pm for prompt 7.30pm start - Marchamley Community Club
25	Chat At Church - 10am - noon - St Luke's Church Hodnet FC v Prees United (Away) - 3pm - Prees Cricket & Recreation Club Concert - Achoired Taste - 7.00pm - St Luke's Church
26	Clocks Forward 1 hour. Morning Prayer - 11.00am - St Luke's Church. Holy Communion - 11.00am - Chapel of the Epiphany
27	Craft and Sewing Evening - 6.30 - 8.30pm - Wollerton Village Room
28	
29	Craft Group 10am - 12noon - St Luke's Church Choir Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church Mobile Library - 45 Wood Lane 11.10 - 11.40am Bus Stop; Marchamley Bus Stop 11.50 - 12.05pm Hodnet Scout & Guide HQ Annual General Meeting - 7.30pm - Scout & Guide Hut
30	Mobile Library - Castle Hill Layby 10.30 - 10.45am Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm - Lyon Hall
31	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church

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