

St John's and St Katharine's

WEEKLY EXTRA

Monday 3rd August 2020

Happy Birthday to Roger Bishton this week

Thought for the week: Our wider Christian family

When we were able to have a celebration of Holy Communion on Thursday mornings we generally found that there was a saint to be remembered from the C of E lectionary – the list of saints and readings for every day of the year – on that day or within the week. Before the Reformation the list of saints became rather congested, a tribute to the sanctity of Christian men and women and the heroism of martyrs. The Church of England thinned out the list when the *Book of Common Prayer* was published and included only those whose lives are recorded in the New Testament. In the Roman Catholic Church the list was also thinned out in the mid 20th century. The saints removed did not lose their status but were not honoured in public worship. The C of E has added names to its list in modern times. Some were what we might describe as 'reinstatements' from the past; others were those who lived and worked in England or within the Anglican Communion. If you are curious and peruse a Dictionary of Saints – in print or online – you can find names for every day of the year. You may want to know a saint whose day coincides with your birthday, or the day if you share a name with a saint.

In August we encounter a range of possible celebrations. The Transfiguration of our Lord (6th), The Blessed Virgin Mary (15th), and Bartholomew the Apostle (24th) are 'red-letter' days. The Beheading of John the Baptist (29th) is of significance to us here. Amongst the martyrs we find Lawrence, from the early days of the church, King Oswald, and Maximilian Kolbe from 1941. Wise pastors and guides include Jean-Baptiste Vianney (cure d'Ars), John Mason Neale, Dominic, Clare, John Henry Newman, Jeremy Taylor, Bernard, Augustine and his mother Monica, and Aidan. Social reformers include William and Catherine Booth, Florence Nightingale and Octavia Hill. In other Christian traditions there are, of course; many others. Individuals in the arts and sciences, of all faiths or none, may have been inspirational to us.

The anniversary of the birth or death of any human being can be a stimulus to remembrance. In these times when many of us are separated physically from our wider families, our circles of friends, and our church fellowships, we reflect on the invisible aspects of community and communion that are God's gift to us. That invisibility, whether engendered by history or geography, or by our own lack of vision or awareness, can be a call to new

Continues ⇨⇨⇨⇨

River Axe exits the Wookey Hole caverns



Cheddar cheese maturing in the caves



Underground cavern with lake

experience of the reality of the Divine Life. Being cut off from so many of the everyday experiences which we have taken for granted, we have also laid aside things which may have been distractions from deeper realities in our lives. It is a cliché to say that absence makes the heart grow fonder, but that phrase does express a truth.

As we look forward in hope to the reduction of the present difficulties we may pray that our spiritual perceptions, strengthened by the pain of the present, may be open to the calls that God will present to us in the months that lie ahead. The saints are with us in that hope. **Kevin Tingay**

Eds: Our thanks to Kevin, and also to John Leach for the Collect below.

Collect for The Transfiguration of Our Lord – 6th August

Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem, grant us strength so the hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may behold him as he is where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. Amen

*John suggests that an appropriate hymn would be
'Christ whose glory fills the skies' (Charles Wesley, 1707-1788).*



Woodlands Cream Teas 2015 to 2019

Eds: Following on from organiser Vivienne Kenney's memories in the August edition of Inspire, here we look at the articles in Inspire over the past five years, with thanks to St Katharine's magazine editor, Terry Williams.

Looking back at the magazine reports, it's striking to see how outside factors have affected the Cream Teas each year: the weather; the number of Sundays in August; outside events such as the 2012 Olympics; local events such as St Katharine's 300th anniversary celebrations in 2014 (more of which at the end of this month). But there are also constants – such as the stalwarts from church and village who appear each year to prepare the garden, put up gazebos, set out the furniture and crockery, bake cakes and

scones (and, of course, Joy's shortbread), the kitchen staff, the washers-up, the waiters and the laundry staff, all so necessary. Equally important are the people who came each year to support, including the TeaTime at St John's group and those dearly departed who are acutely missed and remembered with such warmth and affection at this time of year. Here are some extracts:

2015: August was a very busy month with five Sunday cream teas. The weather was kind to us on the whole: if it rained in the morning, it magically cleared up by the time we opened to the public. A magnificent sum of £1600 was raised and shared between the church and the hall.

2016: The Cream Teas were very well attended and enjoyed. The first two Sundays were warm and sunny, which meant many people enjoyed their teas in the garden. The second two weeks we were not so fortunate with the weather, but happily many people still turned out for their tea.

2017: The amazing sum of £1750 was raised. We think that this is the best-ever total for four Sundays. It was a fantastic team effort involving over 30 volunteers, so a huge thank you to everyone who helped, and also to the many wonderful people who came and supported us with their custom.

2018: The cream teas during August raised £1150, a fantastic result, and another lovely annual village tradition.

2019: The four Sundays of August were challenging: the first was a little 'slow', then a day of indifferent weather kept the numbers down a little. The next Sunday the weather was atrocious, with thunder, lightning and torrential rain, but that did not deter the stalwarts from bravely turning out. For the final week, we had glorious weather, so we were kept exceptionally busy, but with a quality team both in the kitchen and out, the afternoon went like clockwork.

Outdoor eating is now especially smiled upon – so let's hope we will see huge support when we are able to resume this delicious tradition!



A land without music – a summer without Sidmouth Folk Week

Eds: Our thanks to Kathy Yeaman for her memories and photos of Sidmouth



Sidmouth Folk Festival takes place in the first week of August each year – a week-long celebration of music, dance and song in the streets and on the beach of this small seaside town (its population is less than half the size of Frome's). The Festival started in 1955 and has grown year on year. It attracts tens of thousands of visitors to over 700 diverse events.

Performances range from major concerts – over the years, bands such as Steeleye Span and Fairport Convention have played, and individual performers such as Ralph McTell and John Tams (remember him singing 'Over the hills and far away' in the Sharpe series on TV?) – to much smaller pub-based sessions. Morris dancing and other equally colourful dance displays feature, and every morning sees a range of dance workshops including Cotswold, Border, Appalachian, North West, Rapper, Longsword and Clog. The public can join in ceilidhs and lively roots parties.

There are over 200 workshops including choirs, fiddles, guitars, ukuleles, violas, pipes and tabors, melodeons and percussion.

In 2015 the Sidmouth Horse (and Beast) Trials were introduced. This fancy dress competition was inspired by the Beasts of Disguise which traditionally accompany Morris dancers; originally hobby horses, but



nowadays mythical creatures such as unicorns and dragons are also seen. Last year 26 horses and beasts competed, including a zebra and a huge orange giraffe with an extending neck – the trophy went to an eyelash-fluttering filly called Malarky.



Kathy says, 'We first discovered Sidmouth Folk Festival 40 years ago when our eldest daughter was a babe in a pram. In those days it was a much grander affair with international teams of dancers and musicians visiting from other countries as far away as China and Russia.'

We attended the festival every year for about ten years with our three girls joining in with music and dancing sessions. The festivals I remember best are the very wet ones dashing from venue to venue usually with at least one child in a pushchair, then shedding macs and wellies and steaming dry in an excellent music session.

We returned to the festival several years ago and now stay each year in our motorhome on the cricket pitch overlooking the sea. The pubs are full of live music and the esplanade is alive with music and dance especially when the weather is good. My friends and I are part of the children's craft team and we spend a lot of the week teaching children to knit, crochet and weave. My husband Norrie and friends play in music sessions in the cricket club pavilion and Bedford Hotel. Our daughters often visit too and play in the sessions. We go to several folk festivals every year but there's none quite like Sidmouth with its beautiful seaside setting and vibrant music scene.'

Sadly but not unexpectedly, Sidmouth Folk Week has been cancelled this year, but it plans to be back in 2021 from 30th July to 6th August.



PLACES WE LOVE TO VISIT

San Francisco

Ed's. Our thanks to Judith Davies for taking us back to carefree days!

Many years ago, in the mid-1960s, when I was footloose and fancy free I went to work in Canada – pay was so much better there. During our stay, four friends and I decided to do a road trip as everyone does in North America, and as we were just starting to hear about Flower Power in California we decided to drive to San Francisco to see it for ourselves – only 4000 miles!

In a fairly ancient and overloaded Pontiac we headed West, around the Great Lakes, across the wheat growing Prairies of central Canada then through the spectacular Rockies to Vancouver and our first sight of the



Pacific Ocean. We then turned South where the road followed the coast all the way, passing through the giant redwood forest park then hundreds of miles through small settlements and towns until after 3 weeks driving, we saw the first sign of our goal – the amazing Golden Gate Bridge with San Francisco on the other side. Although not golden it is a wonderful orange red colour suspension bridge with a very tall tower at each end and soars over the Golden Gate strait where the Pacific Ocean meets San Francisco Bay – a massive natural harbour with

Alcatraz prison in the middle. We had reached our goal.

In 2009 our daughter-in-law decided to do a master's degree at Berkley in San Francisco (who wouldn't choose such a place?), the family lived there for 5 years and our grandson was born there. As you can imagine we have been there many times and have visited the Golden Gate bridge on every occasion, driving across by car and coach, sailing under it, flying over it and walking part of it. Every time I see it, I remember how I felt the first time I saw it over 40 years earlier – and how we never found the Flower people even after such a long drive!

Judith Davies

Days out near Frome WOOKEY HOLE CAVES

Wookey Hole – an old favourite of mine, especially for a rainy day – is a family attraction centred around a series of limestone caverns, 20 miles from Frome. The 25 caverns so far discovered were formed by water action – rainwater permeating through fissures in the limestone blocks to form an underground river, lakes and caverns with stalagmites and stalactites. Constant temperatures and humidity allow for Cheddar cheese to be matured in these caverns. For 45,000 years, the caves provided homes to Neolithic man, the Celts and Romans, and prehistoric animals (the remains of bears, hyenas, woolly rhinos and mammoths have been discovered here). But perhaps the most famous previous resident is the legendary Witch – said to have lived in the caves in the 8th century until turned to stone by a monk from nearby Glastonbury Abbey.

The unsubmerged caverns are open 10am–4pm daily (but subject to pre-booking). Because of the pandemic, group tours have given way to self-guided walks but five guides are on hand to answer questions. The caves include:

Chamber 1 - Witch's Kitchen with stalagmites supposedly of the witch and her dog;

Chamber 2 – the Great Hall (24.4m (L), 22.8m (H));

Chamber 3 –Witch's Parlour (below) with lake;

Chambers 7, 8 and 9, and the latest to be opened ...

Chamber 20 (the Cathedral Cave), discovered in 1970, and at 60m long, the largest dry chamber at Wookey. I had hoped to see this, but sadly it's out of bounds due to COVID-19 (access leaves insufficient space for social distancing).

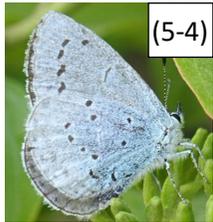
Other attractions on offer have also been limited, but there's still plenty for children (Fairy Garden, Dinosaur Park, Crazy Golf) plus the Cave Diving and Paper Making Museums, a gift shop and refreshments.

Elaine Gilbert

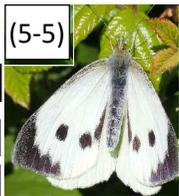


PUZZLE: ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

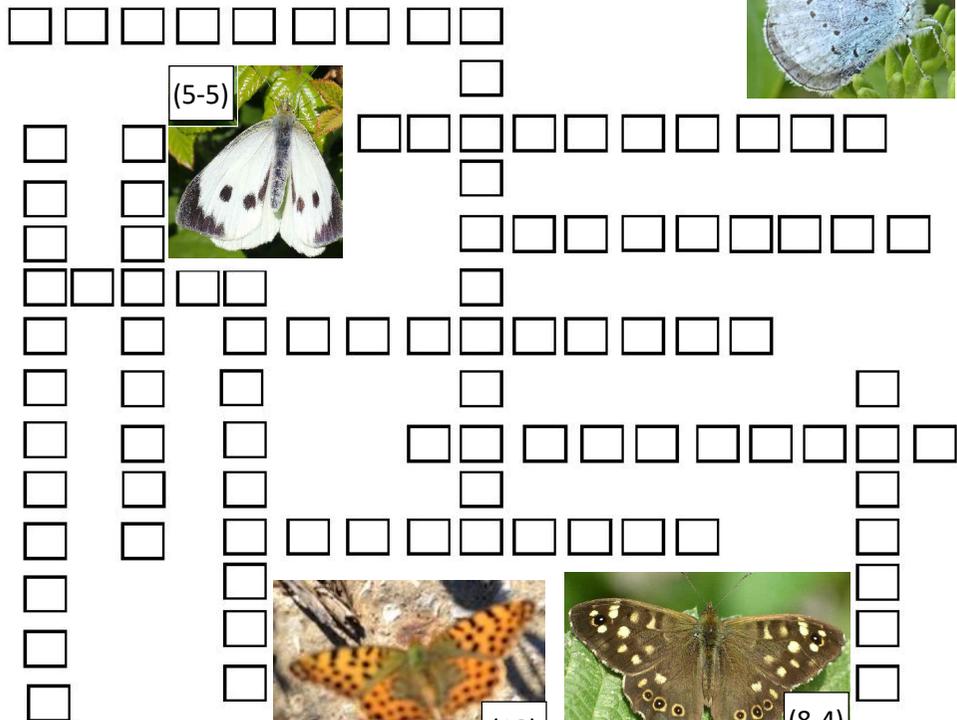
– with thanks to our wildlife photographers especially Betty and Jane. Fill in the tiles using the photos as clues.



(5-4)



(5-5)



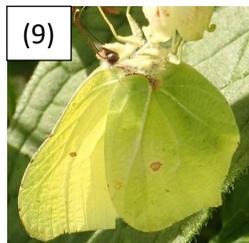
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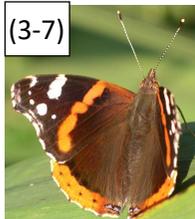
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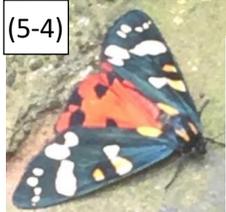
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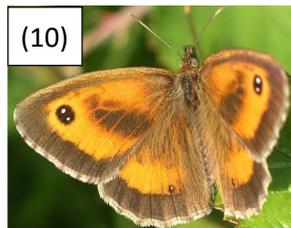
(7-4)



(3-7)



(5-4)



(10)



(5)



(6-3)



Photo: Judith Davies

And whilst we're in the garden, checking up on the butterflies, the plants continue to grow (in this case to 7ft 2in), and the birds keep eating the food off our tables ...



Photo: Jane Bruges

WORD PUZZLE: WILD FLOWERS

ANSWERS

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

This week's SUDOKU

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