

St John's and St Katharine's

WEEKLY EXTRA

Monday 20th April 2020



LOW SUNDAY ...



... and the cattle are lowing!

A few of the cattle encountered by Peter, Pam and Joe on their daily exercise route. Photos: Joe and Pam Fenton

Welcome!

A reminder that it's nearly the end of April so the May magazine will be published next week – we'll be back with *Weekly Extra* on the 4th May. Please keep sending in your stories, photos, puzzles etc.

Our thanks to Ross for her 'Thought for the week' below – Janet's turn in the next edition.

Elaine Gilbert (elainegilbert@live.co.uk)

Mandy Crook (amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk)

Happy Birthday to Peter Davies and Jen Arnall-Culliford this week, and to Celia McCormick and Derek Angwin next week.

Thought for the Week: Hope in Troubled Times

In the last few weeks I have found it important to live in hope. Indeed the hymn 'All my Hope on God is founded' has kept going through my head. It was translated from the German in 1899 by Robert Bridges. Hope is the theological virtue defined as the desire and search for a future good, difficult but not impossible to attain with God's help.

Jesus looks with compassion on all who are in need. He responded to all brought to him whatever was wrong with them. God created the world to be 'very good'. He does not will suffering and illness, though he can bring good out of them. When healing does not occur, people should not be made to feel that it is their sin and lack of faith that have brought this about. We can help God's healing work by taking care of ourselves, by asking for prayer from other Christians, and by thanking God and cooperating with him in our own healing and that of others.

We are never guaranteed a cure. Taking care of ourselves is bound to improve our quality of life, praying together is bound to bring us closer to each other and cooperating thankfully with God is bound to change our attitude to our lives. We can't lose.

We must live in hope always but perhaps most importantly when there is trouble. The last weeks have reinforced the need for hope in God to bring us through troubled times.

Ross Frooms



Singing for everyone!

You are all invited to join The SJ & SK Virtual Choir, which will start this Friday (24th April). This will be run on-line using the Zoom app, which is very quick, easy and free to download if you don't already have it!

This week's session will be from 6.30pm to 7.00pm, and we will be singing hymns. If you would like to join us, please let us know if you have a favourite hymn that you would like to sing.

To access the session you will need a passcode which will be sent out at 2.00pm on Friday, so to take part please can you e-mail rosemarymccormick@hotmail.com by Thursday.

Future sessions will be:

Friday 1st May, 8.30pm-9.00pm – Compline

Friday 8th May 6.00pm-6.30pm – a selection of easy anthems

Words and music will be sent out in advance of each session.

Rosemary McCormick

Bella's tree, planted and lovingly cared for by Maurice, is looking glorious in St John's forecourt at the moment. Rather than print a poem this week, we have included a verse from one of the hymns sung at Maurice's funeral service.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)



Morning Prayer online

Colin writes: As well as the service of Ante-Communion available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6e3kgVa4uqM> there is now a service of Morning Prayer that can be followed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=marZmGuZFgU> This service includes some hymns, and there are points where you could pause to take time to read and reflect on a psalm, a Bible reading and for prayers. Having a Bible or the weekly sheet to hand would be useful! The images during the first hymn are a selection of views from the top of St John's spire taken a few years ago when Dawson's Steeplejacks were doing maintenance work and kindly took my camera up there to take some pictures – I haven't included the one looking straight down the spire in the sequence. 😊

In anticipation of Shakespeare's anniversary – a reflection on plague in his time and pandemic in ours:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGtUSGBHchQ>

Hymn for Sunday 26th April: Rosemary suggests 'Lord of the Dance'. She says: I hope this version, sung by a children's choir will be uplifting. Words and music by Sydney Carter (1915–2004) The tune is based on a traditional Shaker melody.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YV15StV6TKQ>

A Farmer's "Diary"

For some, life has to go on as normally as possible despite Covid19 – our thanks to Mary Heritage for this insight into a farmer's life

Well, here we are, April 2020! After the early, wet Autumn of 2019 and the numerous destructive storms through the long wet winter, Spring at last! Most welcome.

Everything is bursting into life. With the warmth comes forth plump buds, spring flowers and the birth of calves and lambs, and the birds are so busy feeding their young. Wonderful! The only cloud over the nation and the world is this awful Covid-19.

I am a farmer, breeding, rearing and looking after cattle and sheep, and it can be quite complex at times; as well as being outside most of the day, there is paperwork to see to. This includes keeping the herd medicine book up together, keeping a farm diary of when certain jobs need doing and keeping the Herd Health Plan updated. All of these have to be thoroughly checked by a 'Farm Assured' Inspector in order to qualify for the 'Red Tractor' Status.

The mild, very wet autumn meant cattle could not stay out on the waterlogged fields, so they had to be housed weeks earlier than other years. The mild weather also meant the increased risk of pneumonia going through the 150 young stock. Vaccination was the only answer, leading to much extra work and increased expense, but it really did the job. NO cases of pneumonia at all! Although sheds needed cleaning out more often, and more straw was used for bedding than in other years.

November 2019 hailed the approach of the dreaded TB Test, a worrying job with extra help being needed. It all went smoothly, and the herd passed CLEAR! A massive sigh of relief!

We went through Christmas and New Year hoping for a spell of cold, frosty weather so some of the manure could be taken out and spread on the fields, but no such luck – just wind and the constant rain.

January was the time to wean all the calves from their mothers - a very noisy few days as you might imagine, but they soon settled

down. During January plans were also being made regarding which fields were going to be ploughed for maize and then the seed was ordered. The machinery was checked and repaired as necessary.

Not until the second week of March did the weather start to change, days beginning to lengthen and not quite as much rain. The cows started to calve, and with that comes the hard work of making sure each calf is born safely and suckling well.

The ewes have chosen the best time to start lambing. In this last ten days of beautiful weather watching the lambs playing in their groups is a joy to behold: thus making it all worthwhile once again!

Mary Heritage.



Some of Mary's herd photographed by Janet Caudwell last September.

Janet says: 'The bullock in close up was trying to eat, or at least lick, my phone!'

Life on the *Queen Mary 2*

Chapter 4: Dry land at last!

Whilst on our way to Fremantle and Perth we had an interesting talk from Captain Aseem Hashmi about how he came to be captain of the *QM2*. His lifelong ambition had been to become an airline pilot, but his flying career was short lived because of cutbacks by British Airways in the early 1990s. In 1995 he decided to do a 180-degree turn, and he joined Cunard Line as a Deck Officer Cadet aboard the *QE2*, starting right at the bottom of the ladder, which meant he had experience of every job his present crew were doing. He was promoted to Captain in 2013. He also covered lots of other things about life at sea and even wore one red and one green sock to differentiate between port and starboard! He received a standing ovation at the end of his talk – the Entertainments Director told us that even the rock stars that they had had on board had not received the same applause!

The food on board was excellent, and I was able to try many different dishes – including haggis (piped in on Burns Night), octopus, frogs' legs – which were so nice I had them twice – and kangaroo steak, which I also enjoyed! It was surprising that neither of us put on weight, but it was very hot and humid at times, and we did do our daily laps of the deck – two laps for 1.1 km and three laps for 1.1 miles – as well as walking along the corridors and up and down the stairs instead of taking the lifts.



The city of Perth and the Swan River seen from King's Park

Australia has strict entry rules, and everyone had to have a visa – a challenge for passengers who had originally been due to leave the ship earlier in the voyage, but Cunard sorted it. Passengers also had to complete a form stating what medications they were taking and various personal details – we were warned by a video shown all round the ship that fines would be issued if you did not state the truth. A special slip was inserted in our passports to show that we were in transit and also a separate yellow card to show that we would be embarking again after our trips on shore. This was a major task for Cunard with a passenger count of over 2000! There are also strict laws about what can be taken in to Australia and we were not to take any food whatsoever off the ship.

Back on dry land at last! We received a very warm welcome – everyone was so friendly and, of course, spoke English! On a coach trip to Perth we saw road signs saying 1762 kilometres to a 'nearby' town, showing how vast Australia is. Fuel tankers and artic lorries travel with three or four containers joined together and at least two drivers to share the journey; their cabs house fridges and cookers etc as the distance covered takes days. In Perth we visited King's Park – which has great views across the city and is the location of the tree planted by the Queen when she visited in 1954 – and took a boat trip down the Swan River – see photos. It was a lovely way to see such a variety of places in a comparatively short time.

Lois Bushell



The tree when the Queen planted it in 1954 (photo on a board in the park).



The tree as it looks today 66 years later

TALES FROM GLOBAL LOCKDOWN

Here are two for starters – more in the next Weekly Extra

South Africa – Satsumas for Sainsbury's:

Jane Bruges reports: My granddaughter, Joy, is married to a citrus farmer, Richard, in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. The family have been on the farm since the 19th century, and they exported their first oranges in 1903. They grow and export clementines, satsumas, oranges and other mandarins to Aldi, Waitrose and Sainsbury's here and also to The Netherlands, China, Hong Kong and Russia.



It is harvest time now, and their pickers come in from the neighbouring village, which is a few miles away. Richard sends a well ventilated 8-ton lorry to collect them every day, and he has marked a space for each of them to stand one metre apart during the journey. It means many more trips each day! To comply with all the regulations, his mother made 150 face masks on her sewing machine almost overnight! There is much hand washing, of course, but in a country where there is very little rain, they rely on their dams and irrigation channels. The fruit is picked by hand into crates, and delivered to the local distributors, who sort, clean and pack into boxes for export or home consumption, depending on the quality. It is transported in containers around the world, so one hopes the docks keep working, and the supermarkets keep buying for us all to enjoy.

USA (Texas) : Judith and Peter Davies report:

Texas is in lockdown and both son David (ex-boat boy and server at SJ) and grandson Pete needed haircuts. David did Pete's first, then the tables were turned. Luckily daughter-in-law Hannah was able to finish the cut tidily, but it is a bit severe. Thank goodness hair grows!



Puzzle: Hidden books of the Bible

Thank you to Chris Lewis for providing another puzzle for us!

To give you something to bite on, there are 27 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. If you are a Welshman you can even stop thinking about the kiwis' domination of world rugby. First I said an ice always helps. Then you need to start at Advent and look at day and night in every lectionary but have a good go at it. Some books are jolly obscure, even looking at the AV but the idea comes from a remark made about books not read in church. I found my instincts could always help. One friend kept people looking so hard for facts: to another it was a revelation: finally one curate I knew took to watching opera and numbers from Lulu kept being sung in church. Some were in a jam, especially since people forgot about the Apocrypha. But the truth finally struck home, although to some it was a hard job. I hope it is a most fascinating little moment. Yes, there are some really easy but others require judges to find them. I admit it usually takes a vicar to find some books and there can be loud lamentations. One lady says she brews a cup of tea to concentrate. See if you can compete. Remember to keep looking safely. Whether you wear trilby or fez, rack your brains, shine your genes, isolate yourselves and please smile at last. My spirits have risen putting this together.

The hidden message in last week's Wordsearch was:
EVEN IN THE DARK DAYS OF THIS EASTER WE CAN FEED ON HOPE



Self-isolating in the garden! Photo: Chris Gilbert

... and this week's SUDOKU:

			8					
			2				5	1
			4	1				3
6	1					9	4	
		5						
	2	9				1		7
3			9	7				
4	5				3			
				1				