

St John's and St Katharine's MID-MONTH EXTRA Monday 17th May 2021



Welcome to our May edition of the Mid-month Extra. Our plan at the moment is to have one more edition in June and then pause to allow time to prepare for the Frome Festival events in July - and to see how the roadmap out of lockdown is progressing. St John's will present the customary flower displays which, this year, will be on the theme of 'Reconnections', and there will also be a talk by our vicar and two musical events – see below for more details.

Looking at our Wonders of the UK series, we have two thoughts for June – waterfalls or unusual buildings. We already have a couple of places in mind, but for each of those categories we'd like one more nomination – so if you can come up with some suggestions, please let us know.

Elaine and Mandy elainegilburt@live.co.uk amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk

*Eggs-quisite eggs –
celebrating Fabergé to
the modern day ...*



*'A box without
hinges, key, or lid, yet
golden (or in this case
silver) treasure inside
is hid'*



NEWS from our churches and congregations

- Happy Birthday to Johnny D, Maureen H, Derek L and Susannah E, whose birthdays all fall within the next month.
- Bishop Peter's retirement service will be online on Sat. 22 May at 3pm and can be accessed via the Diocese of Bath and Wells Facebook page.
- Advance notice that there will be a special Eucharist on Sunday 27th June at 11.15am to mark 40 years since Colin was ordained priest at Chester Cathedral.

Frome Festival events at St John's 2021 – Save the dates!

- ◆ Friday 2nd to Sunday 11th July, 10am–4pm daily (Sun 12noon–4pm). Floral displays by Frome Floral Art Society and St John's Flower Team on the theme of re-connecting with life after lockdown.
- ◆ Saturday 3rd July 7.30pm – 9pm Frome Consort Concertos by Bach
- ◆ Friday 9th July 1pm – 1.50pm Marie Elliott Lunchtime Recital
- ◆ Saturday 10th July 2pm – 4.30pm Biodiversity in Churchyards Trail – a trail covering burial grounds at Holy Trinity, Dissenters Cemetery, Christ Church and finishing at St John's
- ◆ Sunday 11th July 4pm–5pm 'Stories from the missing globes' a talk by Revd C Alsbury

An 'Extra' thought ... Excursions and Returns

Eds. Our thanks to Kevin for another thought provoking 'thought'.

Sixty years ago, in my teens, I read a book entitled *The Golden String*. It was an autobiographical work on the formative years of Dom Bede Griffiths, a Benedictine monk. He had studied at Oxford, under C.S. Lewis, amongst others, and on graduation he and a friend explored various options of a spiritually based communal life. Eventually he was received into the Roman Catholic Church and became a monk at Prinknash Abbey in Gloucestershire.

Years later, I spent a few days at Prinknash with vague thoughts about a monastic calling. I discovered two things: firstly that I did not have a vocation to the religious life, and secondly that Fr. Bede had moved to India where he now led a Benedictine community based on a Hindu pattern – an ashram as it is called. Some years later I came across his later books in which he described his experiences in India and his encounter with its religious traditions. He expressed and explored the implications of the decree of the 2nd Vatican Council, *Nostra Aetate*, which affirmed that God was encountered by sincere people of all faiths, and calling Catholics to dialogue with other faiths. This attitude has been affirmed by declarations by the Church of England and many other denominations. Many years later I had the opportunity to visit Father Bede in his ashram, Shantivanam – Forest of Peace – to worship with the community and to receive wisdom from him.

He died in 1993. It is a mark of his significance as a Christian teacher in the context of the 20th century that many of his books remain in print. You can find his titles online. I commend *The Golden String*, *The Marriage of East and West*, *Return to the Centre*, or a collection – *Bede Griffiths – Essential Writings*.

As some of you know I was the Interfaith Adviser in our Diocese before my retirement. In that context I led some trips to India which included people from the parishes in which I served. On one of those journeys we visited Shantivanam, where we met Fr. Bede's successor Br. John Martin Sahajananda. He continues the tradition and has published books of his own. On our return to Somerset some of my

parishioners organised an evening in the village hall to talk about their experiences in India. I was greatly encouraged when one of them spoke on how profoundly moved he and his wife had been in their encounter with Hindu and other places of worship, and that their Christian faith had been deepened and developed on what turned out to be a pilgrimage for all of us. Fr. Bede would have been delighted.

Kevin T

WOODLANDS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Eds: Our thanks to Pam C for sending in these amazing pictures of St Katharine's taken by Simon C Joseph and reproduced here by his kind permission

It's always a joy to look at photos of our churches and these have been taken in infrared showing the porch, the church, and the bench that commemorates Frank and Peggy Rendall and their daughter, Joy Chant.

For camera buffs amongst us, Simon used an Olympus camera that has been converted to capture infrared rather than the violet spectrum. Water



and blue skies come out dark, as they reflect little IR. Foliage has high reflectivity and comes out light. Strong sunlight makes it even more effective. Editing with Photoshop.

Seasonal traditions: maypole dancing



Looking at seasonal traditions, I came upon maypole dancing and it reminded me of two things: first, of trying to organise an attraction for our May Day Fair in 2011 in a St Katharine's parishioner's garden at West Woodlands (sadly we never managed to get hold of a maypole), and second, back to my childhood in Ilford near Gants Hill in north-east London, where our local church, St Margaret's, held a May Day celebration each year, part of which was a procession around the local streets complete with maypole, musicians and dancers – and what felt like hundreds of people – some in fancy dress. The procession ended up back at the church – followed by dancing around the maypole.

Maypole dancers from St Margaret's Church, Balfour Road, Ilford. Credit: Archant



For two years I was one of the younger ones whose job it was to hold the base down, before I was promoted to dancing. The boys wore red and green ribbon sashes, and the girls wore yellow and blue ribbons around their waists and had flowers in their hair. Each dancer held a corresponding ribbon to the top of the maypole. The aim was to plait those to halfway down the pole – with

dancers sometimes interweaving separately and sometimes in pairs. The second part of the dance was to then reverse our steps and undo the plait – but it would only take one person (or couple) to go wrong in the first part, to end up with total chaos in the second.

As though we didn't have enough to concentrate on, we had to sing old English folk songs before and during the dance. So we started with:

Come lasses and lads, get leave of your dads, And away to the maypole high.

For every fair has a sweetheart there, And the fiddler's standing by ...

It was obvious from a later verse that tangled ribbons were an age-old problem:

"You're out!" says Dick. "Not I!" says Nick. 'Twas the fiddler played it wrong."

"Tis true," says Hugh, and so says Sue, And so says everyone.

Another song, *Amo, amass, I love a lass, as a cedar tall and slender'* was partly in Latin; the chorus was a particular mouthful for us 5-8 year olds:

Rorum, Corum, sunt divorum, Harum, Scarum divo;

Tag-rag, merry-derry, periwig and hat-band, Hic hoc horum genitivo.

I recently entered this into Google translate, but I am none the wiser!

The origins of maypole dancing are unknown although it is thought that the maypole may have had some importance in the Germanic Iron Age and early medieval cultures. Today, the tradition has seen a revival as a May Day celebration and sometimes at Pentecost or Midsummer.

I was delighted to find that the tradition had been revived in Ilford some years ago and also that the maypole hasn't changed! Closer to home,

maypole dancing has taken place as part of the Frome Independent Market Garden

Day, and it was for many years one of Norton St Philip's best-loved customs. Pat

Lawless recalls: 'On the 1st of May every year our village would crown the May King

and Queen and there would be a procession from The George Inn to the

school playing fields where school children (having been coached by the staff) would

dance around the maypole. It was particularly fitting that the local church is St

Philip and St James whose Feast Day is 1st May. It became a wonderful tradition.'

To bow out with our first song:

"Goodnight!" says Sue to her sweetheart, Hugh.

"Goodnight!" says everyone.

Some walked and some did run, some loitered on the way

And bound themselves, by kisses twelve, to meet the next holiday.

And bound themselves, by kisses twelve, to meet the next holiday.

Elaine G

May Day at Norton St Philip



Pat's daughter Susan is the girl on the horse, and the boy with the banner is Pat's son Richard

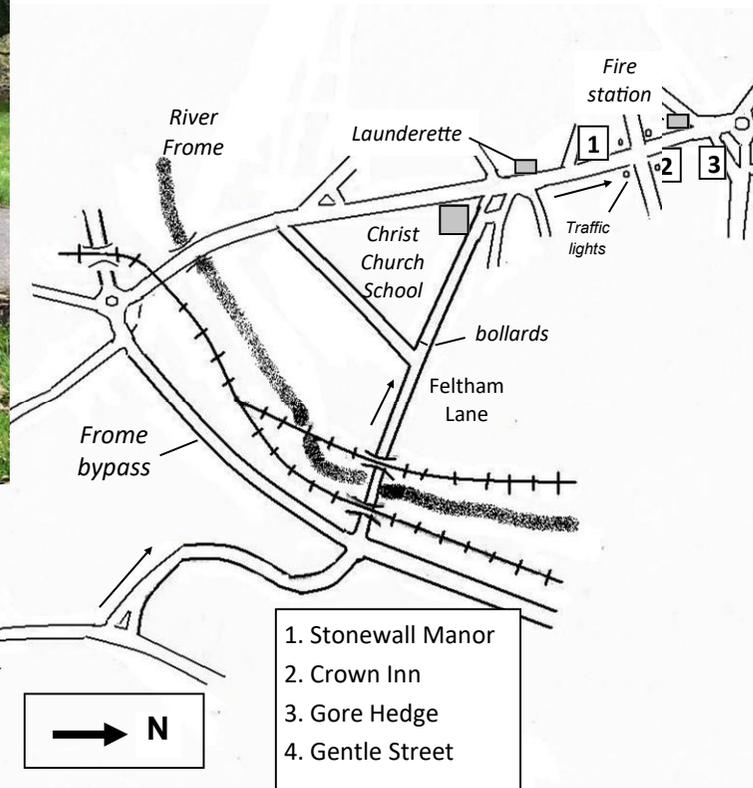


Walks around Frome (and an anniversary at the same time!)

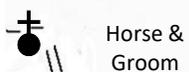
St Katharine's to St John's

Eds: Ten years ago – in 2011 – a group of 50 plus from our congregations and the diocese took part in a pilgrimage from Longleat House to St John's via St Katharine's to commemorate the journey in 1711 to take Bishop Ken's body for burial at St John's. The pilgrimage route from St Katharine's is reproduced here, and we plan to offer an alternative route back next month.

Photo: Michael Joyce



St Katharine's Church



From St Katharine's Church take the lane to the crossroads, turn left and pass the Horse & Groom pub – also known as The Jockey and now, sadly, closed. Immediately after take the right fork. Continue along this quiet lane; bear left when you reach a junction. When you reach the bypass **take great care** in crossing over to a lane (Feltham Lane), which is a continuation of the road just travelled along. In quick succession, walk under a railway line, over the River Frome and under a second railway line; then continue to walk uphill on

Feltham Lane, and through bollards. Pass Christ Church School on your left, then bear right and left in quick succession, then right again to rejoin the busy main road into Frome opposite the Culverhill launderette. Continue down the hill and straight on uphill again. On the left, you'll pass Stonewall Manor. It has a date stone of 1683. Its earlier name was Austin House, which led people to believe that it was on the site of a religious house of the Austin Friars, but actually it was owned for some time by a Madam Austin.

Go over the traffic lights at Keyford and pass The Crown Inn, a seventeenth-century inn serving what was then a separate village of Keyford. Pass the fire station on your left at Gore Hedge – the name refers to the edge of the gore or triangular piece of land. This shape is still recognisable, although alterations to the road patterns have meant the disappearance of the old cottages and shops that used to line the lanes.

You can now see the spire of St John's Church – it is all downhill from here! Cross over two one-way roads to reach the cobbled Gentle Street, so called because it traverses land that used to be in part owned by William Gentle.

At the bottom is St John's Church. Bishop Ken's tomb is outside in the churchyard at the east end of the church.



Photos on this page: Gerry Russell

From St John's School Newsletter: A Child's Voice

Eds: Year 4 have been exploring the different images relating to the Holy Spirit and creating their own pictures – thank you for sharing them.



"I've drawn God's finger sending his dove to bring the Holy Spirit to everyone on Earth. We must be nice to him and we pray so he hears us."

"The rainbow represents all the different languages of the world."



"The dove of peace is sent by Jesus to spread the word of God. In my picture the fire represents all the languages of the world. The dove fans the flames with its wings and blows the fire into the disciples' heads."

My Garden? By Nigel Beeton

Eds: Nigel Beeton writes: "Do you ever go into your own garden and feel that you are trespassing?" Thanks to Pam and Chris for the photos



I thought I owned a garden
A lovely place to be.
A bird said, "Beg your pardon,
This land belongs to me!"
A squirrel dropped a nut on me
Which wasn't what I'd planned.
"Get lost!", said he, "for can't you see
You trespass on my land?"

A pheasant flapped and squawked so loud
I scarce could hear me think!
"Get off my ground, for two's a crowd!"
He kicked up such a stink!



The wild life around me
So loudly do protest!
They growl and screech till I can see
That I am just a guest!



Anniversaries in 2021

175th anniversary of the birth of Carl Peter Fabergé

Eds: Our thanks to Chris L once again.

Carl Fabergé, the Russian goldsmith and jeweller, was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on 30th May 1846. After apprenticeships in Germany, France and England he went back to Russia and joined his father's jewellery business, becoming its Master Goldsmith in 1882.



From then until 1918 the firm achieved international fame. He first made a replica of a 4th century gold bangle that was so authentic that no-one could tell the original from the replica: the Tsar insisted that both the original and the replica should be placed in the Hermitage Museum and awarded Fabergé the title of Goldsmith by special appointment to the Imperial Crown. From now on Fabergé never looked back: his most famous creation was a sequence of jewelled Easter eggs, made for the Russian Tsars, Alexander III and Nicholas II, as presents for their wives and mothers. This started in 1885 with the Hen Egg whose shell is enamelled on gold to represent a normal hen's egg: this pulls apart to reveal a gold yolk, which opens to produce a gold chicken which opens to reveal a replica of the Imperial Crown from which a tiny ruby egg is suspended. Over 30 years until the Bolshevik Revolution Faberge produced around 80 Imperial eggs for the Tsars. Faberge also made popular creations including miniature carvings of people, animals and flowers carved from semi-precious stones and embellished with precious



metals and stones: for example, elephants and pigs but also customized miniatures of pets for the British Royal family. After 1918 the family escaped Russia: some eggs were lost but most remain in museums and collectors' hands. The Fabergé Firm still exists and still produces jewelled eggs for five and six figure prices: two recent topical creations are based upon the Games of Thrones TV series and on the 'Spirit of Ecstasy' Rolls Royce bonnet sculpture.

Chris Lewis

Wonders of the UK Our volcanic past

There are no active volcanoes in the UK today, but the UK's volcanic past tells a story spanning hundreds of millions of years. The geological history shows a rich variety of landscapes – often spectacular 'wonders' – across all countries of the UK from the Archaean eon (4,000 to 2,500 mya [million years ago]) onwards. The last active volcanoes erupted about 60 mya, by which time the UK was moving away from the tectonic boundaries.

Active regions of volcanism are evident across the Lake District, Snowdonia, Northern Ireland, Southern Scotland, Western Scotland and parts of Dartmoor. Further geological phenomena are located in parts of central England and along the sills of

Northumberland – some of which provided the Great Whin Sill ridge foundations for Hadrian's Wall and the coastal outcrops on which stand the magnificent march of castles – Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh and Lindisfarne – and east to the Farne Islands. Mandy and I, together with our husbands, have walked many volcanic paths – not only Hadrian's Wall mentioned in our last edition but also the West Highland Way (taking in Glencoe and Ben Nevis) and St Cuthbert's Way (from Melrose to Lindisfarne). We arrived at Lindisfarne just too late to take the pilgrim's route across the sand linking the island and mainland as the sea was starting to rush in – we have unfinished business with that causeway!



And that neatly links into the UK's most spectacular volcanic site: the Giant's Causeway, a World Heritage Site in County Antrim, Northern



Ireland. Volcanic activity here led to the creation of 40,000 basalt columns stretching into the sea, some 12m (40ft) high, formed by lava pushing up through fissures in the ground. Locals will tell you they are the creation of the giant Finn McCool, who built the causeway for his love. The huge lava flow extended to East Greenland and Western Scotland and includes the basalt columns in Fingal's Cave, Isle of Staffa and on the Isle of Ulva.



Moving to the other side of Scotland is another volcanic 'wonder'. In the centre of Edinburgh sits the city's highest peak: Arthur's Seat is the largest of the three parts of the Arthur's Seat Volcano – a site of special scientific interest – the other parts being Calton Hill and Castle Rock, the latter shown here in the distance from Arthur's Seat).



Castle Rock is a volcanic plug upon which Edinburgh Castle sits. The summit of the castle rock has rocky cliffs to the south, west and north, rearing up to 80m (260ft) from the surrounding landscape. This means that the only readily accessible route to the castle lies to the east, where the ridge slopes more gently. The defensive advantage is clear, but providing water to the Upper Ward of the castle was problematic, and despite the sinking of a 28m (92ft) deep well, the water supply often ran out during drought or siege. The castle has a fascinating history, having served as a prison many times over, including for both world wars. It still retains many military traditions, including the One O'Clock Gun fired every day.

Elaine G



QUIZ: WHAT'S IN A NAME

Our thanks to Frome 3A for permission to use the quiz on this page.

The family name of the first is the forename of the second

1. (Songwriter) Bob _____ Thomas (poet and playwright)
2. (Artist) Gwen _____ Williams (composer)
3. (Cook) Elizabeth _____ Olusoga (historian/broadcaster)
4. (Actor) John _____ Sleep (dancer)
5. (Author) Philip K _____ Francis (author)
6. (Singer) Ray _____ Dance (actor)
7. (Ornithologist) Peter _____ Walker (pop singer)
8. (Authoress) Harper _____ Childs (author)
9. (Murderess) Ruth _____ Peters (author)
10. (Politician) David _____ Hargreaves (footballer)
11. (Film director) Richard _____ Strange (US golfer)
12. (Comedian) Lenny _____ Kissinger (statesman)
13. (Yachtswoman) Clare _____ Bacon (artist)
14. (Pop singer) George _____ Faraday (scientist)
15. (Comedian) Clive _____ Stuart (monarch)
16. (Librettist) William Schwenk _____ Scott (architect)
17. (Diarist) Ann _____ Woolworth (retail entrepreneur)
18. (Author) Charles _____ Amis (author)
19. (Authoress) Rose _____ Culkin (actor)
20. (Artist) Evelyn De _____ Freeman (actor)

The joys of parenthood



Grace and Gabriel at the Bishop's Palace in Wells hatched their first eggs on 2nd May – there were five eggs in all and parents and cygnets seem to be doing well on the moat.

Back in Frome, the blue tits are back in the nest box in Lois and Terry's garden! The thought is that their nest this year was disturbed as, in a flurry of activity, they built a nest in last year's nest box and laid their eggs the following day.



And our thanks to Pam C for sending in this enchanting photo of another young family!

Quiz answers from April edition: Missing Words in Poetry

- 1 & 2 Hell ... Regions (Blake)
- 3 & 4 Poem ... Tree (Kilmer)
- 5 & 6 Exits ... Entrances (Shakespeare)
- 7 & 8 Friendly ... Slough (Betjeman)
- 9 & 10 Dulce ... Decorum (Owen)
- 11 & 12 One-eyed ... North (Hayes)
- 13 & 14 Fluttering ... Dancing (Wordsworth)
- 15 & 16 Triumph ... Disaster (Kipling)
- 17 & 18 God's ... Heart (Gurney)
- 19 & 20 Lonely ... Shore (Byron)

This week's SUDOKU

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