

St John's and St Katharine's

WEEKLY EXTRA

Monday 6th July 2020

Stop press: Planning is under way for the return of church services. The first services are likely to be morning or evening prayer, and there will be a mid week service and one on Sunday in the first stage.

Happy Birthday to Janet Osborne and Emily Hudson this week



Postponed to 2nd - 11th July 2021



Thought for the week: The Fruits of Doubt

July 3rd is the feast-day of St. Thomas, Apostle and Martyr. In the West he comes down to us as a man who initially doubted the resurrection of Christ, and needed to touch Jesus's wounds before he believed. His response at that moment 'My Lord and my God' has spoken to Christians through the centuries. We know little about Thomas's life before he was called by Jesus. He was known as 'The Twin'. Was his sibling male or female, and how did their life span out?

What we do know is that Thomas was called to take the Gospel to the East. Accounts differ in regard to his journey. Was it by land, or across the Indian Ocean? From his encounter with the people of Southern India came the foundation of Christian communities in what is now Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In common with other parts of the world their history was marked with divisions. So we may now encounter 'St Thomas Christians' in Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant obediences. He is remembered in the landscape of the city of Chennai, formerly known as Madras. The main road leading out of the city to the south east is called Anna Salai, but all the taxi drivers still know it as Mount Road (its name under British administration), as it led to St. Thomas Mount, a hill not unlike Glastonbury Tor in size, which is the legendary site of his martyrdom. It is covered with trees and is surmounted with a church and pilgrimage centre. Nearer to the city centre is a garden compound called 'Little Mount'. In a cave there is an altar marking the first place the apostle celebrated the Eucharist.

I have had the privilege of visiting these sites, as well as the churches that have been erected by generations of European missionaries of all traditions. Many of them found it difficult to accept that Indian Christians had been worshipping the Lord in their own language and using ritual practices that long pre-date the patterns brought in from Europe. When

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250th ANNIVERSARY OF WORDSWORTH'S BIRTH: Wordsworth and the Quantocks



Wordsworth is mostly associated with the Lake District, but the links between his poetry and nature were set earlier, when he lived in Somerset for a short time. With Coleridge, in Nether Stowey, Wordsworth in Alfoxden Manor collaborated in setting English poetry on a new road.

Their presence caused consternation in the Quantocks: their odd dress, incomprehensible conversation, drug-taking and long walks through the hills were much at odds with conventional behaviour. The vicar reported them to the authorities and they were tailed as French spies. Thankfully, their behaviour was logged as *'quite harmless but mad'*.

That Quantocks year resulted in three of the most famous romantic poems in English: Wordsworth's *Tintern Abbey*; Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner* and *Kubla Khan*. These set the scene for English romantic poetry that dominated much of the 19th century. *Tintern Abbey*, in particular, described how in a 5-year gap between visits to the Wye Valley, Wordsworth, then living in cities, had kept sane by going through again his experiences of 'the sylvan Wye'.

Wordsworth then moved back to the Lake District where he had been born, obtained a lucrative sinecure from a kind patron and spent the next 50 years writing poetry defined by his stay in Somerset.

The Quantocks had given Wordsworth a feeling for what his poetry ought to be about – summed up as *'the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings ... emotion recollected in tranquillity'*. COVID has given us all some tranquillity to give time to sit back and recall the poems we learned as a child. Most of us recall his poem 'Daffodils', based upon some notes kept by Wordsworth's sister Dorothy during a lakeside walk. In his last verse he drives home his definition to us:

*As oft when on my couch I lie
in vacant or in pensive mood,
the flash upon that inward eye,
which is the bliss of solitude:
and then my heart with pleasure fills
and dances with the daffodils.*

Chris Lewis



we remember Thomas and his doubt, we must also be conscious of his later ministry, and the heritage that has borne much fruit until the present day. He has been an example of Christians who lived in comparative harmony with their Hindu neighbours for many centuries. It could be said that division was in part the product of a European mind-set.

From Thomas we may learn that it may be that in moments of doubt God is speaking to us. Those moments of doubt sometimes cause feelings of fear or guilt in the minds of Christians. They happen to all of us. We must not hide them away but seek to understand their root and God's purposes that may be hidden within them. We can aspire to be the hidden twin of Thomas.

Kevin Tingay

Eds: as you'll have gathered we are rather keen on celebrating anniversaries in Weekly Extra and we definitely couldn't miss this one!

40 years ago ...



On 29th June 1980 this fresh-faced young man was ordained at Chester Cathedral to serve as curate at St Saviour's Oxton ...



... 15 years ago

We thought it was appropriate to also remember the celebration we held in June 2005 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Colin becoming a deacon. Here he is wearing the special stole that St John's and St Katharine's presented him with.

Days out near Frome

THE GARDENS OF LYLES CARY MANOR

Eds: Our thanks to Susannah for these photos of her recent day out.



The National Trust re-opened its parks, gardens and outside spaces (but not its buildings) to the public on 8th June.

In Somerset that included the park and gardens of Lyles Cary Manor, a Grade 1 medieval manor house 25 miles SW of Frome and originally the family home of Henry Lyte. The associated chapel was built first, in 1343, followed by the Great Hall in the 15th century. Further building took place in the 16th and 17th centuries, before it fell into disrepair. In 1907 Sir Walter Jenner bought the house and restored it painstakingly in a period style. The 17th century gardens had disappeared by this time, so the Jenners laid the gardens out in an Arts and Crafts style with topiary and herbaceous borders – a series of 'rooms', with ponds and walks in and between each of the 'rooms'. On Jenner's death in 1948 he left the house to the National Trust.

Susannah told us, 'This is an afternoon's visit rather than a full day. There are several marked walking routes around the area; none is very strenuous. The woodland children's play area is currently roped off. As you can see, the weather was not promising when we went – I would guess on a sunny day it would have been busier. However, the car park is small, so I doubt it will get crowded.'

Opening times are 10am–5pm daily, but an entry time must be booked before arrival.

FROME FESTIVAL EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S AND ST KATHARINE'S 2015 – 2019

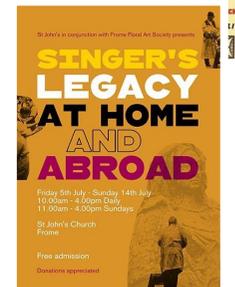
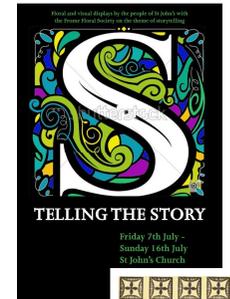
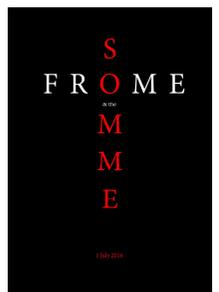
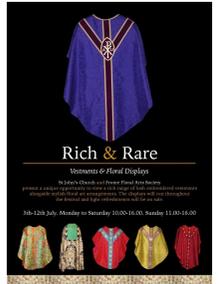


Since Frome Festival started 20 years ago, our churches have held a multitude of events, mainly music-related in the early days, branching out as the years went on.

In recent years, St Katharine's have hosted a broad mix of their own choir (and combined with St John's choir for Festival Evensongs), and classical groups, including: Duo Dorado with Hazel Brooks on violin and David Pollock on harpsichord; Australian mezzo-soprano Lotte Betts-Dean and Australian-Russian guitarist Andrey Lebedev; Europe Mon Amour – with Inigo Mikeleiz Berrade from Navarra on accordion, and

Michael Iskas from Thessaloniki on viola.

St John's held its first Festival flower display in 2015, and it has become an annual event with Frome Floral Art Society. Through all this Maurice made a huge array of props – his harp and the Giants Causeway were in last year's display on Northern Ireland (see front cover). This year, the flower displays were to focus on the environment – **Trading Lightly on Planet Earth** – with a churchyard biodiversity trail and a bug hotel workshop. Then we had Festival Evensong, Church Tours and one of Colin's wonderful talks. These last three have been staples for the past five years. Added extras have been musical recitals, orchestral works, talks, workshops and trails – the list goes on ... and hopefully so will our events next year! Frome Festival are launching an appeal to help with next year's programme. For details, Google 'Frome Festival', choose 'News' and scroll down to the item uploaded on 30 June.



PLACES WE LOVE TO VISIT

Imire Rhino and Wildlife Conservation, Zimbabwe

The life work of Norman Travers, farmer and conservationist – Part 2

Eds: Our thanks again to Jane Bruges as we continue the story of her sister and brother-in-law's wildlife sanctuary (<https://www.imire.co.zw/>).

Most experts derided Norman Travers on his plans to set up a breeding programme for black rhinos, insisting that a species from the dry heat of the Zambezi valley could not possibly survive in the freezing winters of Wedza. Norman's answer was to cite the 700-year-old cave paintings of the San people (Bushmen) near his farm and the many rhino depicted in them. If they were abounding there then, they could survive there now.



He got approval for his project, and in 20 years, Imire's three female rhinos produced 14 calves to restock reserves – much faster than other rhino breeding programmes – and ground-breaking, considering the lengthy gestation period.

Norman also pioneered the introduction of wild buffalo onto farmland in 1980. Until then, buffalo were natural carriers of foot-and-mouth disease and had been restricted to corridors on the country's extremities, outside a foot-and-mouth barrier. Scientists at a research station near Harare had developed the nucleus of a herd bred free of

the pathogen and needed to test their hypothesis that buffalo could live on ordinary cattle-ranching land. Norman took them, and Imire soon became a breeding centre for foot-and-mouth-free buffalo too.

Imire Rhino and Wildlife Conservancy adheres strongly to the belief that rural communities and conservation programmes can successfully thrive side by side, working together to ensure the protection of Zimbabwe's natural heritage and enhancing the relationships between tourism, conservation programmes and community areas. From the outset, Imire has worked closely with the local community in employment, supporting education and participating in grassroots development projects.

Norman died of a heart attack in March 2010. Shortly before he was buried on his farm, Imire, two bull elephants arrived unbidden, wandered through the crowd of 250 mourners, lumbered up to the coffin and sniffed it, long



and intently. When the last spadeful of earth had been cast on the grave, they stood together on the heap of ground he lay beneath. Three times they returned and stood by the grave. The family was convinced that they were mourning, for elephants are known to have a fascination with death. They did the same for Gill when she died a few months later. Only the elephants could have given such moving tributes.

Imire remains family run to this day and has grown and expanded, as was Norman's dream. All operations on Imire are overseen by John and Judy Travers and the wider family are involved too : Reilly runs the breeding programme and everything to do with animals and anti-poaching, while other members of the family run Imire Lodge and self-catering accommodation (for day visitors, guests, local students and volunteers), also community projects; and arable farming.

COVID-19 has had its impact here, too, as, with no planes going in or out of Harare, the income stream from tourism virtually stopped, and projects and courses were put on hold – but the animals still needed to be fed and looked after. Imire has just been able to open up again, but other problems continue to face them: because Imire is now the only game park in Zimbabwe, the gene pool is under increasing threat, and the continuing threat from poaching (and the poverty which fuels it) further endangers the critically endangered species that call Imire home. On a positive note, a white rhino calf has just been born.



Jane's sister with the first black rhinos in the late 1980s



QUIZ: BIBLE PLANTS, TREES AND FRUITS

Eds: Once again we are indebted to Chris Lewis for providing our quiz.

1. What tree did Zaccheus climb to get a better view of Jesus?
2. Of which flowers was it said 'They toil not neither do they spin'?
3. Of what tree was Adam forbidden to eat?
4. To whom did Paul write that 'the fruits of the spirit are love, joy, hope, patience, kindness... and self-control'?
5. The branch of what tree did the dove bring back to Noah?
6. In Psalm 148, which two types of tree were chosen as examples to praise the Lord?
7. What type of wood was Noah's Ark made from?
8. What plant did Isaiah compare all flesh to?
9. What types of food sprouted from Aaron's rod?
10. What trees were about when Jesus told Peter he would deny him three times?
11. In the Song of Songs what flowers did the Bride compare herself to?
12. And what tree did she compare her bridegroom to?
13. In Exodus, what type of wood was the Tabernacle of the Lord made from?
14. Who pitched his tents by the terebinth trees of Mamre at Hebron?
15. Under what tree was Deborah buried in Bethel?
16. What were the main woods supplied to Solomon by his friend Hiram for the construction of his new Temple?
17. Amos was criticised for his prophecies but claimed that 'I am not a prophet ... but a herdsman and a grower of ...' What fruits?
18. What sort of man is described by the psalmist as 'like a tree planted by streams of water'?
19. What animal was God talking about when he told Job that '... he lies under the thorny lotus-flower, hidden in the reeds and the marsh'?
20. What prophet quoted God as saying 'What use is it to me if frankincense is brought from Sheba and fragrant spices from distant lands?'

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL PREACHERS

Glastonbury Festival had to have an unexpected fallow year in 2020. We mark its absence by looking back at some of the preachers who have visited in the past.

Aware that the Archdeacon of Wells had preached at the Sunday afternoon religious slot many years ago, a quick search for 'Preachers at Glastonbury Festival' elicited only the Manic Street Preachers (1994, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2014 and due to perform again this year).

But there have been others 'preachers' – most notably for this diocese, two Bishops of Bath & Wells - Peter Price in 2004 and Peter Hancock in 2016. With 100,000 festival goers at the Pyramid Stage, it makes for a rather better than average Sunday attendance!

The Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, visited in 2015 and spoke



on happiness, climate change, 'religious killings', materialism and world peace. His Holiness also took part in an environment debate where he endorsed the Pope's May 2015 Encyclical 'Laudato si' on stemming climate change.

A video extract of the Dalai Lama at Glastonbury is still available to view on:

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

Answers to the word puzzle: 'Guests who came to dinner'

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This week's SUDOKU

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