

# St John's and St Katharine's

## WEEKLY EXTRA

### Monday 11th May 2020

Happy Birthday to Diana Carrington and Ferenc (Frank) Szilagyι this week

#### Thought for the week

#### VE Day – a personal reflection

*Thank you to Colin for providing our thought for the week in this edition. You can see him reading it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVrVe69kxI>*

News of Victory in Europe brought joy to many: it was not the end of all fighting as the war in the far east continued, but it was a real moment of hope.

My paternal grandfather didn't serve in the Army during WW2 – he had served in WW1 and been taken prisoner of war at Cambrai in 1917: during WW2 he kept the payroll going for Rolls Royce workers in Derby as they contributed to the war effort. Grandma went to work in the 'Special Vehicles Section' of the Midland Railway helping organise the marshalling of trains. Dad was still at school and then Technical College during the war years.

On Mum's side of the family things were a bit different: she had been adopted by a Will Strickland and his wife. Will was a Chief Steward serving in the Merchant Navy and in WW1 he had served in the Army in Europe and East Africa. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1940 the ship SS Aeneas on which Will was serving was attacked by Junkers 87 dive bombers and sunk in the English Channel. After this Will signed up to serve under Royal Navy command and was assigned to HMS Ranchi an armed merchantman doing convoy escort and patrol work in the Indian Ocean.

In March 1943 Will returned home and was assigned to shore base, partly due to the fact that his wife was dying of cancer, partly because of his own health issues. For a while my Mum was evacuated to Pantymwyn in North Wales, but she returned to Merseyside where her adoptive mother died in August 1945.

One of Mum's starkest memories of the war years was to be walking to school one day and not meet up with the friend that she used to walk with – when she went to look the house her friend lived in had been obliterated in the previous night's air raid.

Will married again in 1946 to Lydia Sutcliffe Patton, nee Kelly, who I always called Nana. Nana had served from March 1942 as a nurse on the hospital ship ABA in the Mediterranean through the North Africa



Bluebell wood and bluebells in East Woodlands. Photos Christine Holland

campaign, the invasions of Sicily and Italy. Nana recalled that on Christmas Day 1942 she saw her younger brother Sid in passing on the streets of Alexandria – the only time they saw each other during WW2. Sadly Will was lost at Sea in May 1948 en route to Australia on SS Antenor. For him WW2 would not have felt over until VJ day came – he had escorted convoys on their way into Singapore just before it fell. As I reflect on the contributions of my various grandparents I'm conscious of the logistical role, managing pay, marshalling trains, ensuring shipping; the protective role of Will on HMS Ranchi, and the caring role – Nana there in the midst of conflict to care for the sick and wounded, to give dignity to the dying and hope to the living.

In our present COVID19 situation we are grateful for those who ensure our daily needs are provided for, those who ensure our safety, and those who are there to care for the sick and suffering. Then and now there are so many for whose contribution we need to be grateful and in whose honour we should strive for peace in ourselves, our relationships, our communities and within and between nations.

**Colin Alsbury**

**Virtual well dressing – May 2020**

We would usually be preparing for our annual well dressing right now, but of course we can't do it in its usual form this year. However, Colin has worked out a way we can do a 'virtual well dressing' based on the 'tap dressing' that took place at Endon in Staffordshire where the communal tap from which people got clean water was decorated – very appropriate at this time when having clean water with which to wash our hands is something to be grateful for.



So we would like as many people as possible to put some flowers, or a picture of flowers, by their taps at home and send us a picture. It will then be included in a digital collage.

The well dressing would have taken place on 23rd May so please send them in as soon as possible – and by 22nd May, at the very latest – to [administrator@sifrome.co.uk](mailto:administrator@sifrome.co.uk)

**ANIMALS IN LOCKDOWN**

Our thanks to Pam & Joe Fenton and Peter Bartholomew for sharing their family (and other animals) photos.



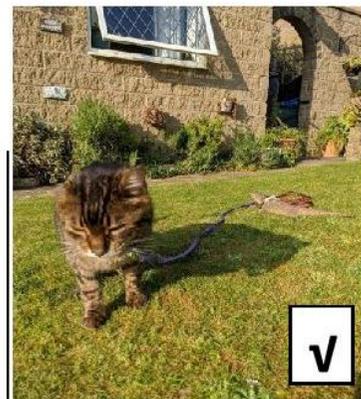
**You can go outside as a family, but only for exercise ...**



**... or for essential supplies**



**You may feel the need to spread your wings, but think of others and limit your outings to what is strictly necessary**



**Exercise in your family group, not with outsiders**



## VE Day memories



Eileen writes: I was in the Land Army during World War 2, working in the gardens at Chirk Castle in North Wales and living with my parents in Chirk Village where I had been born and brought up.

On VE Day one of my brothers, Eric, came home on leave from the RAF. In the evening he and I went to a celebration dance in the village hall. It was a very joyful event with a wonderful party atmosphere. We were all relieved that the war in Europe was over.

Peter D. writes: We lived close to Heston Airport in West London from where Chamberlain took his trips to meet Hitler. We had an Anderson Air Raid shelter in our garden and dug up our lawn to grow veg. We slept many nights in the shelter and if there had been an air raid we searched for shrapnel in the garden. If there was an air raid warning when we were at school, we went into the school shelters. As children we rejoiced on VE Day May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945 and we left school early that day. A VE celebration committee was formed and organised a children's fancy dress parade – see photograph taken outside St Leonard's Church (I am 3rd from the right in a large cardboard box with a label on my head, a parcel!) – followed by tea for everybody. We went to bed late that night!



... and on VE Day 75 in 2020, we decorated our houses and had afternoon tea in the garden

Thank you to the Hudson family for the wonderful window displays and to the Gilberts for a delicious-looking tea party



**Light A Lamp:** We are urged to shine a light from our homes at **8.30pm on Tuesday 12th May**, the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth and International Nurses Day, in recognition of the role of nurses in the coronavirus fight.

*Eds: more on 'The Lady with the Lamp' next week.*



**christian aid**

### Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Christian Aid is offering activities you can join in online each day:

- **11am:** Live daily reflections from our staff and partners overseas.
- **7.30pm:** Fun quizzes for the whole family
- **Available any time:** Quiztarian Aid! – a pre-recorded quiz.

For all these activities and to donate – or send an e-envelope to invite a friend to donate – Google 'Christian Aid Week'. You can also donate by calling **020 7523 2269**

## Life on the *Queen Mary 2*

### Chapter 6: Whitsunday Islands to Sydney

Our next stop was the port of Airlie Beach, the heart of the Great Barrier Reef and the gateway to Queensland's pristine Whitsunday Islands, so named by Captain Cook in 1770 on the day he passed through – even now each year on Pentecost Sunday The Blessing of the Fleet is celebrated. Terry and I toured the town by Segway, a battery-operated machine – see photo (the police use them in the cities). It was great fun, and movement was governed by leaning forward, backwards and to the left and right accordingly. We each had a bell, which proved very useful as we went right through the market and shopping centre on the pavements, and also along the boardwalk. I initially found it easier to go downhill rather than up, but we soon got the hang of it and covered a very large area. We visited beautiful picturesque sights – the colours of the sea were so pronounced and clear – and we saw far more than we would have if we had walked as it was an extremely hot day. Australia has very high rates of skin cancer, and we were advised to use SPF 50 see photo of a very large container of this.

One more day at sea and then we reached Brisbane, the capital of Queensland and named after a Scotsman. We visited Mount Coot-tha, which has great views across Brisbane, then went on to a koala sanctuary and saw lots of koalas, some rescued from the recent fires. Many were asleep – they sleep for up to 22 hours a day as their diet of

eucalyptus leaves takes a lot of energy to digest. You could join the long queue to hold one and have your picture taken, but as it was so hot, we declined! We also saw kangaroos, which I did stroke (but no joeys), dingoes, wombats, emus, kookaburra and lots of local species.

One more day at sea, and we reached Sydney, the oldest and largest city of Australia and capital of New South Wales, with a population of 4.28 million. We took a coach trip the first day; it was so much colder we had to wear long trousers for the first time, and as it poured with rain all day, we got soaked while visiting lots of special sights. The famous Bondi Beach was deserted (see below) – because of the rain, not coronavirus. The next day was glorious sunshine, though, so we walked round the city – there is so much to see and do, such a vibrant welcoming place, with the bus and train stations all converging around the finest natural harbour in the world. We walked around the Opera House: construction started in 1959, and it was opened in 1973; the 'shells' of its roof are based on the segments of a mandarin, and they are very impressive indeed. The Sydney Harbour Bridge (below) was designed by a British firm in Middlesbrough, and it was completed in 1932. You can climb it and go up the tower, but we declined!

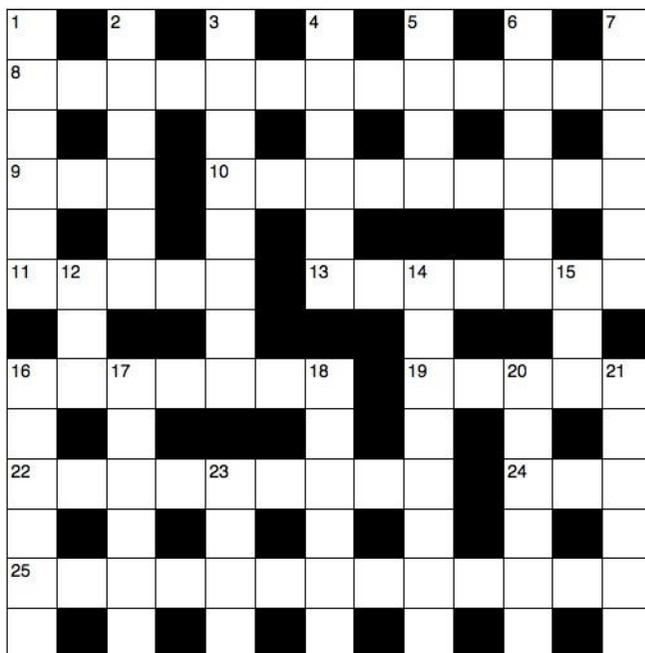


**Lois Bushell**

## CROSSWORD

### Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
- 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
- 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
- 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)



### Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)

- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
- 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

### Bible numbers quiz – Answers

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 21               | 15. 5000 men plus |
| 2. 12               | women and         |
| 3. 7                | children          |
| 4. 7                | 16. 150           |
| 5. 70 times 7       | 17. 14            |
| 6. 175              | 18. 300 cubits    |
| 7. 2                | (150 feet)        |
| 8. 8                | 19. 29            |
| 9. 153              | 20. 30 pieces of  |
| 10. 120             | silver            |
| 11. 'six cubits and | 21. 39            |
| a span': nine       | 22. Not specified |
| foot six inches in  | but 3 gifts were  |
| modern              | given and         |
| translations.)      | tradition names   |
| 12. 12              | 3 wise men        |
| 13. 9, including    | 23. 12            |
| 'Blessed are ye'    | 24. 6 days        |
| 14. 666             |                   |

### This week's SUDOKU

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

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