

The Welwyn Magazine



June 2020

www.welwyn.org.uk

60p

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June 2020

PUBLISHERS:

St Mary's Churchwardens

COVER:

Ayot St Peter Church

Photo: Jane Carr

MAGAZINE articles:

Send by 1st of preceding month.

Include your contact details.

Email magazine@welwyn.org.uk

or place in the 'Magazine' pigeon hole in St Mary's church marking items 'Magazine'.

MAGAZINE hard copies:

All print and distributions have currently ceased until further notice due to the Coronavirus.

Normally: monthly deliveries are arranged by Jane Carr and copies are available in all:

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MAGAZINE printers:

Triographics Printers Limited
121 London Road, Knebworth
Herts SG3 6EX
t: 01438 811905
e: alantriog@aol.com

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Editors Note:

In these traumatic times we think that it is important to record in the magazine what is happening in the outside world and its impact on Welwyn. Hence the article on p19 by Jane Carr.

We normally publish reports on activities and meetings occurring in the village but these have inevitably been cancelled. And hence there is nothing to report! We would welcome any articles on local matters from our readers.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Articles by the 1st of the month preceding publication, see details above.

The Editors reserve the right to shorten or omit articles or refuse advertisements.

The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Clergy, Editors or Publishers.

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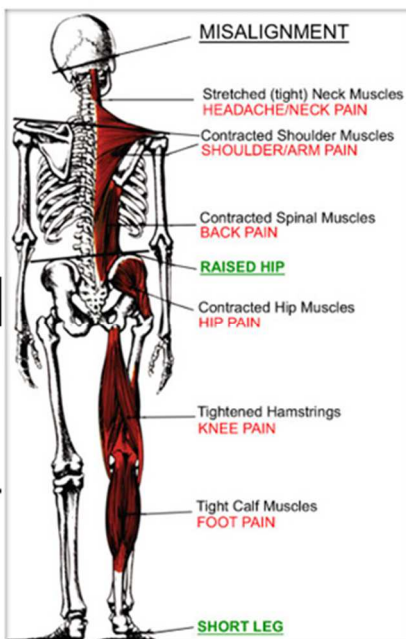
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The Rector's Letter



Dear Friends

Donald Rumsfeld may not be your first choice as a guide to philosophy. However I have to say that one of his most infamous statements (I think following the second Gulf war) made to me perfect sense at the time, and I think highlights an important logical distinction. ‘There are known unknowns’, said our modern day Socrates, ‘and unknown unknowns’ – or something to that effect.

To me that is a very helpful and straightforward distinction – there are somethings which I don’t know, but because I am aware of my ignorance, I can factor in the uncertainty, keeping options open and flexible. But equally there may be things which are uncertain but I’ve not realised it, and therefore I’m acting on false assumptions which may skew my judgements.

This is important when it comes to understanding the different models being used to predict what will happen to COVID19 in coming months. There are things which we know, and there are also things which we don’t know (most notably at the point of writing, how widespread the virus already is in the population) and there also may be things we assume are known but in fact aren’t. So recently I read a headline which said that a model had predicted around 60,000 COVID19 deaths in the UK. Only when you read further on did it say that actually the error range was from 20,000 to 250,000. That was because of the known unknowns in the model. And of course that’s a huge range – the maximum being over 12 times the minimum – in essence that statistic could be better summed up by the headline ‘we don’t know.’ It’s a known unknown.

My first subject was mathematics and so I have a healthy regard, and a correspondingly healthy disregard, for statistics – you really do need to put them through the Rumsfeld knowability filter. Human beings would understandably like to put a number on things. But sometimes you can’t. The wisest human being is the one who realises the depth of his or her ignorance, not the completeness of their knowledge. That is why the wisest human beings, if they are believers, pray – because they know that however much they know, it is only God who knows all and can make up for our deficiencies and ignorances.

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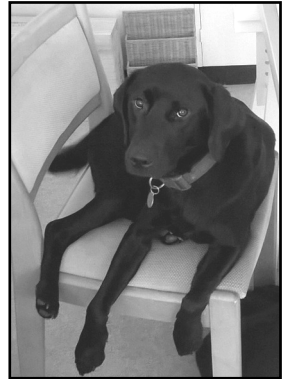
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JESSIE—The Rectory Dog

So last month I wrote about the fact that though the lockdown may be a sad and difficult thing in the human world, for us pets there are definitely upsides – lots of company, lots of walks, and general attention.



However a month later and I have to say that probably enough is enough. Firstly, whilst dogs are naturally very pleased to go out for a few hours a day, we also like to spend the rest of the time – i.e. about 20 hours snoozing quietly in the corner, and very importantly NOT BEING DISTURBED. We quite like knowing you are around the place, but frankly we don't need to be given an extra cuddle every 15 minutes. Secondly although we do like a walk, we are naturally sprinters – we wish you could keep up with us chasing a ball, but hours of walking every day are not really our thing. Finally all this extra exercise and being awake takes up calories, and strangely I don't see any accompanying increase in food – and let's be clear food is the one thing that Labradors really can never get enough of.

Jess

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28th April	Brian Dyball (Fulling Mill Lane Cemetery))

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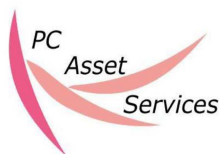
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WHAT DO WE DO?

We try to ensure, wherever possible, that change to existing or new development within Welwyn Parish and its immediate vicinity is in keeping with the surroundings, street-scene and ethos.

We help with heritage issues to maintain the beauty of our village and work to protect our environment. We also work closely with law enforcement to help protect our village from anti-social behaviour and other problems.

WPAG monitors local issues and initiates projects, aiming to assist in obtaining solutions and satisfactory outcomes wherever possible.

We take on and maintain individual local projects. At the request of WPC, we have taken on restoration and management of the Welwyn Heritage Trail, a currently ongoing project.

We work closely, though independently, with our MP, County, Borough and Parish Councillors to ensure that the provision of amenities to the area is adequate and maintained. WPAG provides two representatives to the Welwyn Parish Council Planning & Licencing Committee.

WPAG updates and advises local residents on issues that may affect them and the environment and ensures that they receive adequate relevant information.

Continued on p 11



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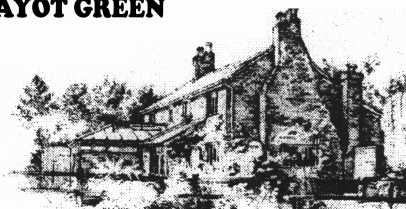






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WELWYN PLANNING & AMENITY GROUP

Continued from p 9

We liaise with, and support, local groups and associations offering a platform via the WPAG website to advertise their meetings and activities.

This time last year, WPAG took the initiative in bringing stakeholders together to get an ATM installed at Tesco, following the closure of Barclays Bank. We are currently lobbying on the AIM, housing and road development plans and looking at how we could get greater protection for Singlers Marsh. WPAG committee members are also assisting the WPC Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.

If you would like to be kept up to date with these and other planning issues that affect our Parish, sign up for our free, occasional newsletter here: <https://www.wpag.org.uk/free-newsletter/>

For more detail on any of these issues, or to contact us, visit our website www.wpag.org.uk. You can also follow us on our Facebook page.

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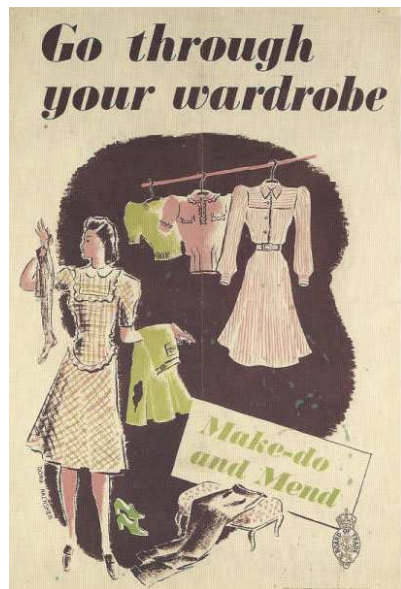
WAR TIME MEMORIES

Beryl Hammond, a remarkable Welwyn resident, recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She lives in a delightful bungalow with a beautiful garden full of spring colour and wildlife at this time of the year.

Beryl was 19 years old when the Second World War began in 1939 and almost 26 when it ended six years later in 1945.

Although she does not herself have exact memories of the celebrations on 8th May when Victory in Europe was declared, she like many others was able to read in the newspaper, listen on the radio and eventually see on the screen at the local cinema, the hundreds of thousands in the Mall and outside Buckingham Palace, where the King and Queen accompanied by Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret and Winston Churchill appeared many times on the balcony.

Beryl had married Jack in St. Mary's Welwyn in 1944 and so her early married life took place amid the many restrictions and shortages of the post war era. Food was scarce but they had chickens and therefore eggs and also wild rabbits for stews and hotpots. As there was only a very small ration of butter, Beryl made cakes using liquid paraffin instead! Quite good apparently! Clothing was rationed by coupons and sheets were repaired by tearing in half and sewing sides to middle. A delicacy in the kitchen was "wind pie" which consisted of beans, carrots and any available vegetables in OXO gravy topped by cheese pastry.



Continued on p15

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WAR TIME MEMORIES (Continued)

Continued from p 13

Beryl had a brother, Godfrey, who was a member of the Volunteer Defence Corps. He was training in Hong Kong, because it was thought the Japanese were going to invade Hong Kong, which in fact was what happened. Tragically all members of the Defence Corps both men and women, including Godfrey, were murdered or raped. Twelve months later the news was brought to Beryl's family by the Red Cross.



When the bombing of London began Beryl remembers seeing flames burning in the East End.

Her grandmother lived in Walthamstow at the time and her family brought her to Welwyn for safety. They lived in a tiny bungalow and Beryl had to sleep in a shed outside. One could hear doodlebugs dropped over Hertfordshire – there would be a loud whine then the engine cut out and there was complete silence until the devastating explosion. One was dropped near where Beryl and her family were living in Welwyn and it made a huge crater in a field quite close to their bungalow.

Beryl cannot read this on line as she doesn't have a computer or iPad. She now regrets this, but as she said she didn't expect to live for so long!

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PUZZLE PAGE

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- 614 One digit is right but in the wrong place
- 206 Two digits are right but in the wrong place
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LOCKDOWN PART 2

The term **lockdown** is now something we are all familiar with. We have also got to grips with the **R** rate, which refers to the rate of infection; the lower the R the slower the spread of the disease. **PPE**, another term we hear about all the time, is the Personal Protective Equipment that those looking after Covid-19 patients must wear to stay safe from becoming infected themselves.

Writing this in the middle of May we have had seven weeks of staying at home, except for essential reasons to go out. The peak of the Coronavirus pandemic in the UK was reached during Easter weekend and it has been heart-rending to read about the ravages this destructive virus has brought to our nation. We hope this will be the only peak. On 15th May it was reported that 34,000 people have now died from Covid-19 in the UK. The great British public has responded in an extraordinary way with 80% observing the lockdown rules, leading to a steady lowering of the curve.

This is a global pandemic and the world's scientists are working towards finding a safe and effective vaccine to combat the disease, but this is likely to take 18 months or more. They are also researching medications intended for other conditions, to see if these may help to improve the outcome for seriously ill patients.

There have been many challenges for the Government, not least of all the global shortage of PPE and the fact the UK was not set-up in the way some countries were to test people to see if they have the virus, although this is now improving. Coronavirus has become virulent in care homes throughout the country with no visiting permitted in hospitals or care homes.

There is light at the end of the tunnel though. On 13th May garden centres were permitted to re-open and construction companies asked to get sites working again with social distancing measures in place. It is hoped this will help to kick-start the economy, although a significant recession is expected. We are now allowed to meet up with one other person from another household, in the open air, at least two metres apart. In Welwyn, many of the restaurants and pubs are operating takeaway food services. Clergy are now allowed into their churches to livestream services rather than from their homes. But when services do resume with congregations, possibly at the beginning of July, it will be very different with social distancing measures in place, and almost certainly no singing allowed.

Social distancing is now the new normal, and we are getting quite used to it. We continue to stand on our doorsteps at 8 pm on Thursday evenings to 'Clap for Carers'. We remain grateful to our frontline and key workers and to our community and neighbours for the help and care they are giving us and each other.

Jane Carr

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Lockdown holiday?

When the coronavirus lockdown began, we thought that criminals might be similarly restricted. Certainly, there are fewer opportunities for shoplifting. At the time of writing at the end of April, it's too soon to have local crime figures available, but we expect that reports of burglaries and anti-social behaviour will have reduced.

Unfortunately, the number of scams seems to have increased during lockdown, with many people in Welwyn receiving fake TV licence renewal emails and some falling victim to a courier scam involving deliveries from the online technology retailer AO.

Lockdown has not meant a break from OWL messages; we seem to have been receiving more than ever. April 2019 saw just one message, whereas April 2020 (not yet over) already has 23! Because nearly half of households in Welwyn receive OWL messages, this has proved an excellent way to keep people in touch with sources of local support and advice, as well as the usual anti-crime messages. We have received some lovely messages from our members, for which we are very grateful.

A recent OWL message highlighted the new email address to which you can

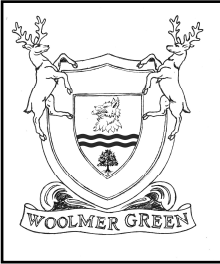
forward scam emails (or ones you're unsure about) which is the National Crime Agency phishing address report@phishing.org.uk. Do please forward your suspect emails to them as they will conduct automated checks, and all your emails will help to build up the national picture of these crimes and the criminals behind them.

It's now six months since Anne Devine replaced Rob Taylor as our local PCSO. Change can be unsettling but we're pleased to find that Anne has been very active in the community, and responsive to requests from ourselves and residents. It's good to know that Sgt Ian Smith is still in place at Roseanne House directing the Safer Neighbourhood Team to which Anne belongs. Whilst we weren't looking for change at the next rung up, the newly appointed Safer Neighbourhood Inspector, Kash Hussain, has declared that reducing anti-social behaviour is a top priority which will suit us very well in Welwyn. Year after year this is one of the most frequently reported crimes.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards
www.owl.co.uk/herts

*Volunteer Neighbourhood Watch
Ward Coordinator for Welwyn East*

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



At the time of writing (first weekend in May) we are still in lockdown. As noted last month, the Parish Council had a number of kind offers from volunteers willing to help those in need during the Covid-19 lockdown. If anyone still needs to be put in touch with a volunteer for help please call the Parish Clerk on 03707 776132. Updates are available on the Woolmer Green Parish Council Facebook page as the situation changes.

The Parish Council had its first meeting by video conference on 28th April, the date that should have been the Annual Parish Meeting. New powers had to be passed by Government to allow Councils to meet remotely during these exceptional times. We had some technical problems, which everyone who uses video conference technology will be familiar with, but we managed to hold the whole meeting and cover the usual agenda including planning, the hall and grounds maintenance and the Parish finances. The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2019/20 were both approved.



This screenshot was taken at the end of the meeting to mark the occasion of our first remote meeting. Our Chairman needs to improve his lighting for next time!



The Woolmer Green Allotments are celebrating their tenth birthday this year and we hope to be able to get together and celebrate later in the summer. The site has been fully let for most of the ten years and is full now with a waiting list. The plot holders are particularly grateful for their allotments this year and many of us are there a lot more than usual at the moment.

It is early in the season but there is rhubarb to be picked now and it is a great time to be preparing the ground and starting to plant seeds and small plants out. Above are a few pictures from around the site at the start of May.

Sarah Hall
Woolmer Green Parish Council
sarah.hall@woolmergreenpc.org.uk

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

In these difficult times it is nice to be able to share some good news. Welwyn Parish Council has achieved the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme. This scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the best local councils and provide a framework for con-



tinued improvement. To achieve a Foundation Award a council demonstrates that it has the documentation and information in place for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The council also has policies for training councillors and staff and is building a foundation for improvement and development. A lot of hard work has gone into attaining this award and will provide a platform for the Quality Award and, hopefully, the Gold Award. Our thanks and congratulations go to Louise, our Clerk, and her team.

As I wrote in my last article, we are continuing with Parish Council business as best we can under the lockdown. We are holding our meetings via Zoom and, as we get more used to this, even those with technophobia, like myself are managing. In May, we will be holding our Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group meeting and the inaugural meeting of the Climate Emergency Action Group.

The Climate Emergency Action Group will aim to raise awareness and support the community in taking appropriate action. Welwyn Parish Council has pledged to make our Parish carbon-neutral by 2030. We will be working with local groups, schools, organisations and of course you the

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

residents. When we have held our first meeting we will keep you informed of and involved in our Action Plan going forward.

We cannot let Covid 19 and the lockdown prevent us from continuing our work on the Neighbourhood Plan. At its next meeting, the Steering Group will agree a survey for residents to complete which will ask for your experiences of living in the Parish and your thoughts and ideas for the future of the Parish. Our thanks go to Councillor Bill Morris for his work on the survey.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our Annual Parish Meeting which is normally held in May. We will advise you of the new date when we have more information on the lockdown. Some Parish Councils are considering holding virtual meetings but Welwyn Parish Councillors enjoy meeting our residents face to face, answering your questions and hearing your views. Wonderful as modern technology is it cannot always replace personal interaction.

As I write this at the end of April we have not, as yet, been given a plan for easing the lockdown. I know some of you will be struggling with various aspects of it and I hope the leaflet we sent to you all proved helpful.

Please keep safe and stay well.

Marj Otty

Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council

LOCKED DOWN ALLOTMENT

As I write this for you all we are two days away from the remembrance of VE Day but, as all know, any celebrations organised have now been cancelled. Over the last 6 weeks I have noticed an incredible change down on the allotments, which have remained open since lockdown due to being classed as part of outdoor exercise. We have all had to observe the rules of social distancing, not sharing any of our gardening equipment and not lingering on paths chatting which could obstruct passing fellow 'allotmenters'!



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We have all resorted to 'shouting' conversations over the plots and there has been lots of waving going on!! After the war finished and shortages were still part of daily life, cultivating an allotment became almost essential for most households. We are now facing a similar situation now, maybe not quite as bad, but we are still going to be facing shortages as the year moves on. Farmers are struggling to recruit workers to gather their harvests from the



fields and if the weather turns then they will lose everything. Most of our allotment plots are now taken, which is wonderful, and because most people have more time on their hands everyone is working hard clearing, if a new plot, and maintaining if an existing plot. However, sadly due to the restrictions our allotment shop/hut has had to close so members have not been able to buy our goods. Thank goodness we were able to run the Kings Seed Scheme last year for our Members where they were able to purchase seeds, seed potatoes and goods for the growing year. With garden centres and nurseries having to close their doors purchases of seeds and plants has practically stopped. Some nurseries have been

LOCKED DOWN ALLOTMENT

offering delivery services which we have used, but packets of seeds have become a very much sought after commodity. At the start of 'lockdown' we decided that as we fell into the 70+ group (well not me just yet only hubby!) and needed to isolate we would only visit the allotments on our bikes so my husband built a marvellous tool storage box, about the size of a coffin! The idea was that we could leave tools, nets, watering cans etc down on the plot so that we would not have to use our car. This seems to be working well but when we start to harvest our crops we may have to carry rucksacks or perhaps I could fix a storage box on the back of the bike.

Most of the plot is planted up with vegetables that can look after themselves like main crop potatoes, carrots, parsnips, broad beans and a first this year, Borlotti beans. The Borlotti bean was first bred in Colombia. This bean is rather striking with a tan colour streaked with red. It is good for drying and storing then used in soups and stews. The fruit looks as if will be plentiful this year with the strawberries about to ripen. I have been gathering my packets of sugar over the last few weeks in anticipation for the start of jam making production. We have been picking asparagus for the last week. This was planted about five years ago and has not done very well until this year so let it continue to give us yummy spears. At home I have planted courgettes, to-



matoes, runner beans, very early potatoes and lettuce. All these require much watering. My herb garden is looking good and the cucumbers and sweet peppers are doing very nicely in the greenhouse.

Margaret Temple

SPRING WORD SEARCH

There was a word search in the May Issue. The solution is below. Apologies for “SPRINGTIME” appearing in the solution as “SPINGTIME” !

The following words had to be found :

DAFFODIL	NARCISSUS	ANEMONE	SPRINGTIME
SUNSHINE	RAIN	APRIL	SHOWERS
MAY	BLOSSOM	BIRDSONG	TULIPS
EQUINOX	DAWNCHORUS	BREEZES	LAMBS
EASTER	EASTEREGGS	BUNNY	FLOWERS
MARCH	BLUESKIES	WARMTH	SIMNELCAKE
CHOCOLATE	CHICKS	YELLOW	REBIRTH

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NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER

I don't know if any other readers saw it, but on the BBC's Antiques Road Show recently, someone brought in some items of Martinware. What's this got to do with St Peter's? Well, the Martin Brothers were among what we would call the 'creatives', who worked with the architect of our church, J P Seddon.

Seddon believed in the Unity of the Arts, and St Peter's is an expression of this belief. Inside our church he personally designed the painted ceiling, some of the stained glass, the mosaics and tiles, pews and the lectern..



Photo courtesy of Thomas Curtis, 2014



For the chancel arch he turned to the Martin Brothers. It looks like stone at first glance, but is, in fact, ceramic. Because of the speed at which St Peter's was built, ceramic may have saved time compared with a masonry arch.

The arch was created by Walter Frazer Martin and was his only commission for a church. The bases on each side of the arch incorporate naturalistic details of birds, ball-flowers and foliage. These were described in Building News in 1875 as 'an imitation of 13th century work, ... unconventionally treated'.

Unconventional it may have seemed, but compared with the Martin Brothers' later work it was distinctly plain vanilla. This may be because they had established their pottery only a year before Seddon's designs for St Peter's were approved in 1874. Such an important contract would probably have represented a major part of the workload at the new company.



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NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER

Continued from p 30

However, back to the Antiques Road Show . The Martin brothers were pioneers of what at the time was called art pottery. Today, they are best known for their caricature ‘Wally Birds’.



The Martin brothers

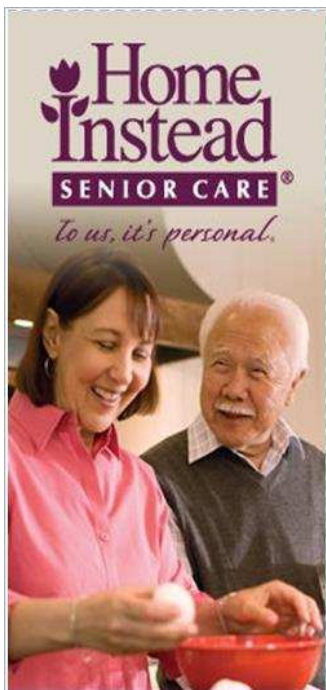


A Wally Bird

These are large standing ceramic birds. They generally have a fierce-looking beak, massive feet and talons, and a quizzical look in their large eyes. The head lifts off to reveal a cavity in the body, intended to store pipe tobacco. . Some were modelled to look like caricatures of political figures, such as Gladstone.

Their pottery closed in 1914, but today Martinware is highly collectible, especially the Wally Birds, some of which have sold at auction for £50,000 or more. Having completed the contract for the chancel arch, the Brothers donated a small gift to St Peter's. Sadly we got a small plaque rather than a Wally Bird!

Roger Ford



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REFLECTIONS ON COVID 19

Some people are wondering if, looking at the mess we're in, God has sent the coronavirus as a punishment to make us mend our ways.

The same thought is there when we say: "What have I done to deserve this?"

So why is this world-wide crisis happening? For our Lent course we followed Ruth Valerio's challenging book: "Saying Yes to Life" which took each act of creation in Genesis Chapter 1 and saw how God created a world, delighting in everything he made, declaring it to be "very good." It wasn't difficult to see the dreadful wreckage we humans have done – a world riven by conflict, poverty, suffering, climate change. Environmental destruction such as deforestation, mining, animal trafficking, all make it more likely that a virus can jump species and get into humans. The bats, said to be the carriers of the virus, had been trapped and sold on markets for human consumption. Ruth Valerio writes "It's a disaster of our own making." It is the brokenness of creation that ultimately causes us harm.

Many years ago, we had two burglaries within two days of each other. Away for the week-end before moving house, our home was desecrated and practically emptied. Change of address cards led the burglars to our new home and they took everything from there too. We were numb with grief at all the precious things that had gone, especially irreplaceable things like tapes of our children when little singing nursery rhymes. So how do we think God feels when we plunder and desecrate his beautiful creation? Genesis Chapter 6 says he was "grieved to his heart."

The ancient Book of Job speaks straight into this problem. Covered in sores, Job sits on an ash heap where his friends find him. Appalled at the terrible change in Job's circumstances, they beg him to repent because he must have committed a dreadful sin, they argue, to be in such a state. But Job never blames God, but cries out to him in his suffering. We readers know, because we are told in Chapter 1, that it's the work of Satan that's caused his agonies, and not God.

Jesus himself is asked this very question in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 13 when some Galileans who were making sacrifices were massacred. Had these people sinned for this to happen, Jesus was challenged. He replied: "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No." The people asked him the same question about a tower that had collapsed and killed people. Again the answer was no. And in John's Gospel, Chapter 9, Jesus meets a man who has been blind from birth and the disciples ask him whose sin had caused this – the man's or his parents'. Again, the answer was neither.

Ruth Valerio writes: "One day, we will make it out of this crisis. But what sort of world do we want there to be on the other side? Can we repent of the world we have created, and instead look to build one without such a huge gap between rich and poor – a world where we live in harmony with creation, in which we understand that the well-being of one is bound up with the well being of all?"

Gay Carpenter

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERILDA

Happy Birthday Everilda!

Now that it is open once again, St Mary's Churchyard is an interesting place for a wander if you pass it on your daily walk. Several absorbing minutes can be spent pondering about the people whose names live on solely because they are inscribed on gravestones.

In my walk through the other day I came across the imposing memorial to Charles Wilshere (1814-1906) and his wife Elisabeth Marie, their four daughters and one grandson. It's in the far corner of the churchyard next to the damaged wall separating the churchyard from the garden of The Rose & Crown.

Charles Wilshere lived at The Frythe, moving there in 1867 when he inherited it from his brother William. William had built a Gothic revival mansion here in 1846 after he had ceased being an MP. Charles set about enlarging The Frythe when he moved here.

What hit me as I read this memorial was the birthdate of the second of Charles' daughters: it was exactly 100 years before my own. She, like me, had an unusual name, Everilda. Did she I wonder, use one of her middle names, Frances or Laura, or like me, have to explain her name every time she was introduced to someone new? She lived most of her life at The Frythe as did her sisters Edith and Alice. Everilda died in 1919, so by now I've already had a longer life than her. None of these three sisters married, Edith died in 1928 and Alice in 1934.

Then I wondered about the grandson on the memorial: Sydney Francis Wyndnah, son of Florence and her husband Captain G.E. Haley. But a look at the dates immediately told a sad story:

Florence, two years younger than Everilda died on 14 September 1877, aged 39. Her baby Sydney had been born just four days earlier, so poor Florence had died following childbirth, sadly not uncommon in Victorian times.





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HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERILDA

Continued from p 36

Perhaps she had pre-eclampsia, a dangerous condition that is now recognised but wasn't in 1877. Sydney didn't fare well without a mother, he died aged sixteen months in January 1879.

There are many more stories one can find about the Wilshere family, and The Frythe which has had many interesting uses since it ceased being a family home.

A search on the internet reveals a lot, so do several books on local history.



The chronogram on the wall of St Mary's Church

The Wilshere family were very generous Victorian patrons of St Mary's Church (we could do with such patrons today!) and have left an unusual riddle for us on the outside of the church: the family took delight in Chronograms, much as today we spend time on crosswords or Sudoku, a Chronogram is a Latin inscription in which a date in Roman numerals is hidden. (see p 17) So here's another reason for a wander around the churchyard

Vernonne Allan

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Our shop in Welwyn, which is, of course, our main source of income, remains shut until further notice, although we have already begun to prepare a plan for how we can re-open the shop in a controlled and safe manner, as soon as we are legally able to do so. Even though the shop is closed, we felt that it was important that the window display provided some cheer to those who might pass by and we are again indebted to Georgia Shaw and her husband for the fabulous display, featured below, themed on the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.



The work done by the wonderful staff in both the Danesbury Neurological Rehabilitation Centre and the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital has never been more important than it is at present. They have had to make room for additional patients, some suffering from Covid-19, and the continued pressure on them is intense. At their request, the charity has been providing fresh fruit, cakes and chocolates to the staff each week and we will, of course, respond to other requests, as and when they arise.

Continued on p 42



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FRIENDS OF DANESBURY & QVM HOSPITAL (Cont)

Continued from p 40

[If you would like to support the work of the charity, do please visit the following link on our website for ways to send us donations:](#)

<https://www.danesburyqvm.co.uk/donations/>

As an additional method of fund-raising, the charity has registered with www.easyfundraising.org. The way that this works is that you create your own account with them and then use their site as a 'portal' to access a vast range of participating online retailers. Then, when you make a purchase – which costs you no more than it normally would – the retailer passes a small percentage of the cost to us. The amounts are not huge but they all add up!

* * * * *

The Trustees Meeting on 22 April marked the last direct involvement of Charles Richardson as a trustee. After 14 years of service to the charity, Charles has decided to step down and we wish him all the best in his 'retirement'. Over the years the charity has been indebted to him for his hard work, attention to detail, and indefatigability. His contribution to our work will be missed. If you think that involvement in the charity is something where you could make a valuable contribution, do please get in touch with us.

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Church Notice Board

All Churches are currently closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus.

Sunday Services

	ST MARY'S
8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Parish Communion / Junior Church
11.15 am	'40 Minutes' (1st Sunday)
6.30 pm	Evensong (2nd , 4th & 5th Sundays)
6.30 pm	Choral Evensong (usually 2nd Sunday)



	ST MICHAEL'S
11.15 am	Parish Communion and Junior Church (1st & 4th Sunday)
	Family Service (2nd & 5th Sunday)
	All age Communion (3rd Sunday)



Weekday Services

ST MARY'S

Current week's services are on the notice sheet in church and on the website www.welwyn.org.uk

Tuesday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Saturday	9.00 am	Parish Prayers (St Mary's)

ST MICHAEL'S

Friday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (St Michael's Woolmer Green)
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Common Worship used at all Communion Services except where stated

Children

ST MARY'S

2.00 pm	Play and Praise (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
3.30pm	Craftea (see Diary on back cover for dates)

Confessions

By arrangement with the Clergy.
The Ministry of Counsel and Absolution is available to anyone who seeks it at any time.

Clergy Surgery Hour

Saturday	10.00 am to 11.00 am
A member of the team will be available in church for any enquiries. Mainly intended for Baptisms or Weddings but is	

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Church Notice Board *continued from p44*

All Churches are currently closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus.



ALL SAINTS' DATCHWORTH

09.30 Sundays Holy Communion
11.15 4th Sunday Family Service
17.00 Thursday Evening Prayer

ST PETER'S TEWIN

09.30 Sundays Holy Communion
11.15 3rd Sunday Family Service
18.30 1st Sunday Evensong
18.30 3rd Sunday Holy communion
17.00 Monday Evening Prayer



AYOT ST PETER

11.15 Sundays
1st: Matins:
(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)
2nd: Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)
3rd: Family Service
(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)
4th: Parish Communion
(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)
5th: Holy Communion *(BCP, King James' Bible)*

ST GILES' CODICOTE

08.45 Sundays Holy Communion
09.30 1st Sunday Worship 4U at Peace Memorial Hall
10.30 2nd,4th Sun Informal Worship
3rd Sunday Informal Worship with Communion

EVANGELICAL CHURCH WELWYN

09.45 Sunday Bible Classes *(All ages 7+)*
11.00 Sunday *(facilities for young children)*
18.30 Sunday *ditto*
20.00 Wednesday Bible Study *(except 3rd Wednesday)*

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MEDITATION

Unexpected change

A couple of months ago when I was contemplating what I might write about for this reflection, I decided to think about ‘change’. After all, I had some big changes in store as I prepared to be ordained as a deacon at the end of June. Goodbye career in the civil service, family home, and St Mary’s church. Hello full-time ministry at St Etheldreda’s with St Luke’s in Hatfield.

Whilst this move was going to be life-changing stuff, it was exciting and fully ‘under control’ in the form of a superbly planned to-do list! Little did I know that COVID-19 had other ideas. Within the space of just one week in March, my leaving-dos, grand cathedral ordination service, house move, and holiday plans were cancelled. Like most of the world, I was thrust into a weird ‘lockdown’ reality of worrying obsessively about my and everyone else’s health, and working out where to find loo rolls and pasta.

I’d like to say that in the face of all this uncertainty, I felt peaceful, and accepting. However, the truth is I felt chaotic, anxious and self-absorbed. I just wanted to escape the whole awful situation – and I couldn’t.

One morning, after a series of sleep deprived nights, I found myself re-reading something a monk had said to me last summer: *‘happiness is not about the absence of pain and suffering, it’s about the presence of love and goodness. Keep on loving and doing good even when things are hard, and you will feel better.’*

My ‘survival brain’ shouted at me to ignore these words. ‘Stay under the duvet’ it said, ‘there’s a scary world out there that you need to avoid interacting with!’

However, I shook myself out of inaction and picked up the phone to a friend who was struggling with self-isolation. This small act of love, and the others that followed, really did start to make me feel better.

This year hasn’t brought about all the changes I was expecting. However, it has revealed something that I’ll hold onto way beyond the current crisis. God’s way of love is immovable whatever is happening around us. Change can be unsettling and downright scary when it is totally unexpected and unwanted. However, rooting our words and actions in love really does drive out fear.

Kathryn Alford