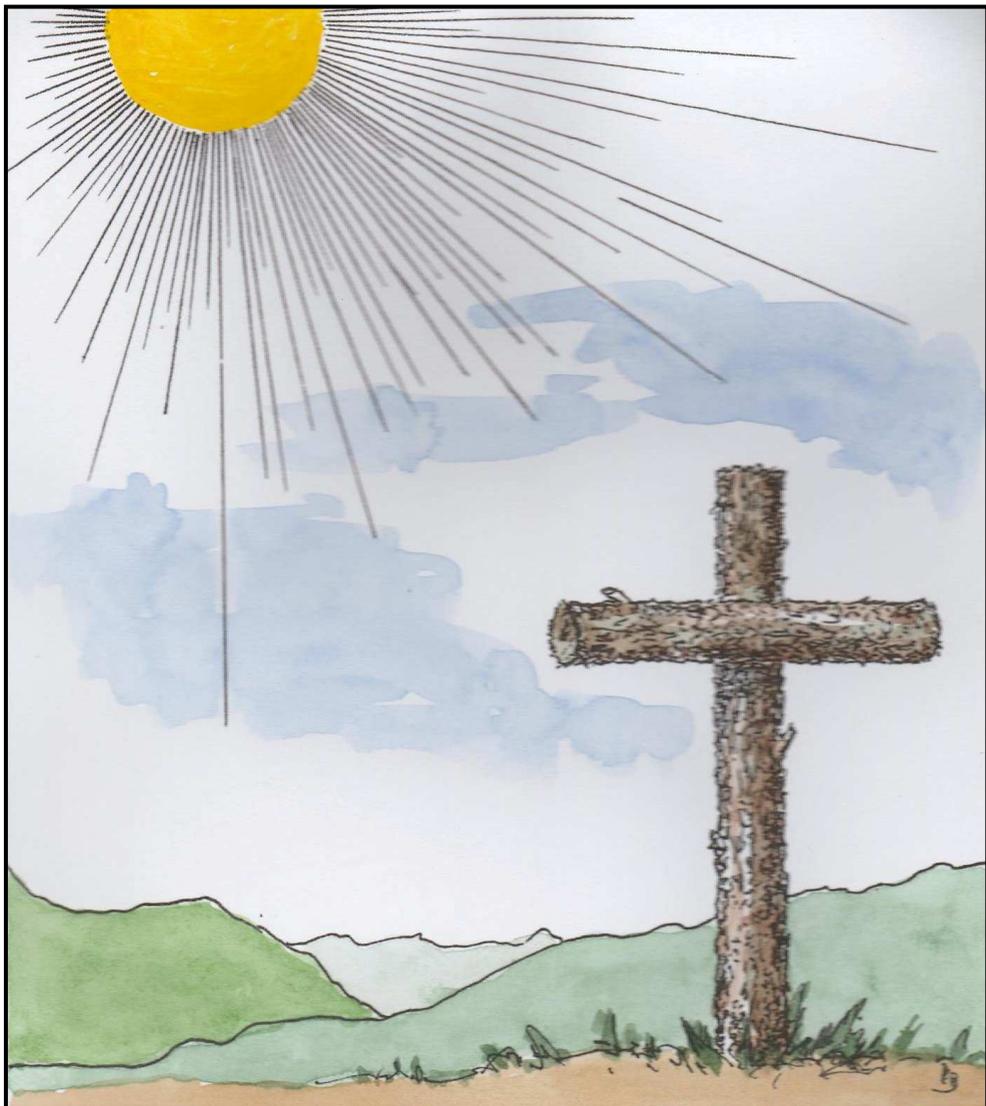


# The Welwyn Magazine



**April 2020**

*[www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)*

60p

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**April 2020**

**PUBLISHERS**

The Churchwardens at St Mary's

**COVER PICTURE**

EASTER

by Peter Branchflower

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By 1st of preceding month,

Include your contact details.

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or place in the 'Magazine'

pigeon hole in St Mary's church,

marking items 'Magazine'

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

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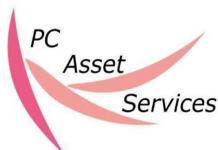
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# The Rector's Letter



Dear Friends

I am writing to you a day after stricter corona virus restrictions have been placed, and indeed more may follow. Many people will have cause to self-isolate over the next few months. Gatherings of any sort, including church worship have been suspended. Businesses and the people they employ are concerned over the effects of these restrictions. Medical workers and other care providers are being presented with fresh challenges. Please do read elsewhere what we as a church and others are doing to try and respond to this situation. Do support your friends and neighbours, particularly maintaining contact with those who are isolated and lonely.

In the Archbishops' letter they wrote: 'This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves? We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months.'

What they say about the church is also true of each community. It is a defining moment – what sort of community are we? Dashing to the shops to strip them of what we need? Or dropping notes through neighbours doors with offers of help? Some of those choices are quite stark. But as I look at Facebook pages etc., I see the answer – overwhelmingly we are a community of people who want to help one another.

But also as a Christian I am reminded that fear is driven out by love (1 John 4:18). People will, at points, be afraid and it is, I believe, our love for one another that is the remedy to that fear.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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**Antibiotic**

**Resistance**

Overuse of antibiotics in recent years means they're becoming less effective and has led to the emergence of "superbugs" - strains of bacteria that have developed resistance to many different types of antibiotics. These types of infections can be serious and challenging to treat, and are becoming an increasing cause of disability and death across the world.

The biggest worry is that new strains of bacteria may emerge that cannot be treated by any existing antibiotics.

Both the NHS and health organisations across the world are trying to reduce the use of antibiotics, especially for health problems that are not serious.

**What You Can Do**

**Don't take antibiotics unless you're certain you need them.** An estimated 30% of the millions of prescriptions written each year are not needed. Don't ask your doctor for them if you don't need them. Illnesses

caused by viruses - common colds, bronchitis, and many ear and sinus infections - will not respond to antibiotics.

**Finish your pills.** Take your entire prescription exactly as directed. Do it even if you start feeling better.

If you stop before the infection is completely wiped out, those bacteria are more likely to become drug-resistant.

**Get vaccinated.**

Immunisations can protect you against some diseases that are treated with antibiotics. They include tetanus, whooping cough and pneumococcus.



Credit: World Health Organization infographic (World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2017)

**Stay safe in the hospital.** Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are commonly found in hospitals. Make sure your caregivers wash their hands properly. Also, ask how to keep surgical wounds free of infection. Use hand disinfectant dispensers wherever you see them, not just in hospital.

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# Christian Aid Week 2020

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In January, the Australian bush fires. In February, the flooding across England and Wales. And behind it all, the slow drumbeat of an increasing climate emergency.

Most of us are moved by tragic stories of people and places we know or have visited. That is why we remember the disasters of this year so far, even when they are no longer in the headlines. We wonder how long it will take for lives and livelihoods to recover.

At least here, or in Australia, the resources can be found to bring some help to those most affected by a crisis. In poorer or lesser known parts of the world, climate disaster victims are often far more 'on their own'. For them, flooding and droughts continue, year after year, slowly getting worse as the pattern of more frequent extreme weather unfolds.

Christian Aid is at work in Kenya and elsewhere, to help those who most need access to clean water – in fact any water. Every last drop must be conserved in those places where rain has failed again and again. This will be the focus of Christian Aid Week in May this year. If droughts cannot be prevented, their effect can at least be mitigated.

So as every year we shall ask for your help, by collecting in our local roads or by simply giving. To donate time or money is equally welcome. The Super Soup lunch has been postponed, look out for the new date once the coronavirus outbreak has passed. Meanwhile, donate what you would have spent anyway! Let us continue to raise funds for the world's poorest, and to pray for climate justice. Please help us once again, as generously as in many past years. Thank you.

*Edward Cardale*

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## Ladies' Lunch—Spotlight on Africa

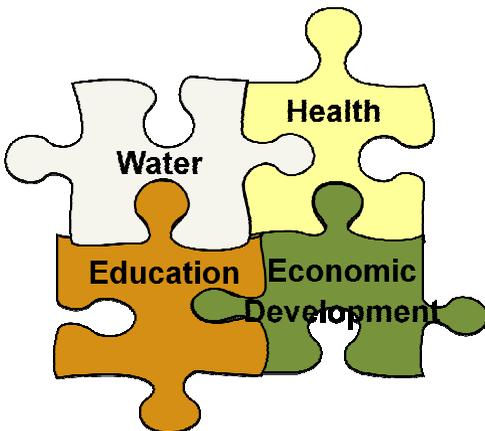
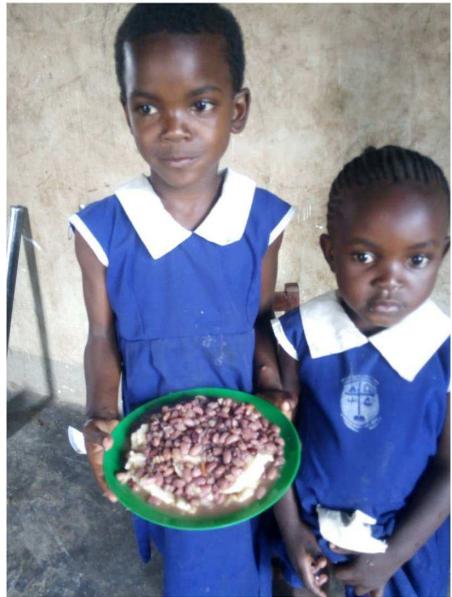
We at "Ladies' Lunch" have had some superb talks over the years but I'm sure all those present at the recent lecture - "SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA" - must have counted it as one of the very best. To such an extent that many of us gave substantial additional contributions as we found Wendy Howson's talk so inspiring, heart-warming and uplifting!

Her career had very neatly divided into two: she is a South African and worked firstly out there as a TV director and producer for 20 years and as a Corporate Relations Manager for Hewlett Packard. She was then sadly widowed very young, her young son taught her the computer, she then married an Englishman from Leicester and has lived over here in the UK (Harpenden) for 12 years, having moved 18 months ago to Welwyn.

Wendy is a committed Rotarian and Trustee for a charity in the Himalayas on the border of Tibet and Nepal called the Himalaya Consortium for Himalayan Conservation, having visited India no less than 13 times! However, it was her work as a volunteer with HARPENDEN SPOTLIGHT

ON AFRICA (in Mbale in the desperately poor area of E. Uganda) for the last eight years, during which time she has visited their projects three times, that she came to talk to us about.

In the nineties there had been an old school with one room which was used by 290 pupils. So, a new modern primary school (finishing age 14) was built and there are now 630 using a classroom with 18 teachers. Salaries are fund-raised and 70 lucky kids now have a mattress! Children from Harpenden Swift Park now fund-raise for the kids in the slums of Uganda on a children-to-children basis. Now that they have proper food to eat, they can do sport which they find very exciting. There is now



a water committee and clean water comes from modern drills working in 36 bore-holes. They now have "Dry Rack" basic latrines and a clinic

*Continued p.13*

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## Spotlight on Africa (continued)



was started three years ago which now sees thousands of kids. There is full child immunisation with digitised medical records properly kept. They even boast ambulance services and miracle of miracles they have learned what toys are! (thanks to Willowbee Toys - what excitement in their young lives!). Income is generated from carpentry graduates (a year's course and they now have five women carpenters too!) They have a tailoring centre and last month our speaker was involved in setting up Garden Nursery Skills.

Funds are raised in Harpenden every month via quiz nights, concerts, sports competitions, cycle rides, golf matches - you name it! - yet the Harpenden charity has only 24 members! I wonder if the residents of Harpenden realise just what a wonderful job is going on!

So, over many years, Wendy's former skills in business in her younger years, along with her utter devotion in helping so many of the world's disadvantaged, provided us with a wonderful story which truly warmed our hearts. Long may she continue her good work!

Vickie Harris





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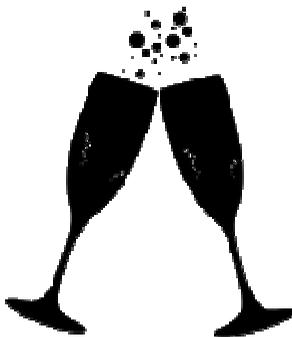
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## VE Day celebrations in Welwyn and the Welwyn Festival

Sadly, in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic both of these events have had to be at least postponed, possibly cancelled altogether. If a new date is scheduled we will let you know as soon as possible.

Many people have worked tremendously hard on both of these events, so we really hope to be able to put their efforts to good use later in the year.

In the meantime, stay safe and keep in touch with family, friends and neighbours through Skype, Facebook, telephone calls and emails. Don't let physical isolation turn into total isolation.

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Once the pandemic has run its course, will you consider inviting an international student to your home, for one day (daytime only) or for a weekend? Share a meal, conversation and exchange cultural traditions and views of the world. It is so very rewarding for both host and student guest. Please consider becoming one of our volunteer hosts. We operate all year round and would very much welcome you to join us.

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# Welwyn Parish Council

At our Full Council Meeting, at the end of February, we co-opted and welcomed Stephen Archer as our new Councillor representing Digswell Ward. I am sure he will do an excellent job on behalf of all the residents of Digswell.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Welwyn Parish Council's surveys on the Car Parks and the Neighbourhood Plan. We split the Car Park survey into two, residents/businesses of the village and non-residents. As I write this, in February we have closed the residents' survey and have 30<sup>th</sup> March as a deadline for the non-residents' survey. We received approximately 550 responses from residents/businesses. This is excellent and gives us a lot of information to work with going forward. With regard to the survey asking if Welwyn Parish Council should produce a Neighbourhood Plan, we received 237 replies in favour and one against with over 50 volunteers asking to be involved with the process. We were delighted with the response and will keep you informed about the work in progress of both of our working groups.

The River Mimram is now doing well as a result of the continuous rain. This is obviously keeping the ducks happy even if residents are longing for better weather. We are enjoying the spring flowers which were planted by Leo Boon and Ian Skidmore. Thank you to them for bringing spring into the village and surrounding area.

The churchyard wall, between St Mary's Church and the Rose and Crown, was recently blown down in the strong winds. We will be erecting a fence for safety until a decision is made as to how best to repair the wall. This is a complicated procedure as<sup>17</sup>

all of the wall surrounding the church grounds is in the curtilage of a Grade 2 listed building. To make the whole wall surrounding the church grounds safe will be very expensive. We are conscious of the implications of using our taxpayers to pay for this, make good the repairs and our legal obligations with regard to the churchyard. We are considering other ways to cover the cost, possibly by fund raising. I will keep you informed when a decision has been made.

Councillor Bill Morris has been working hard on responding to various planning consultations. He has brought together a response for the Luton Airport Consultation. He has also looked at the A1 (M) proposal for making it a Smart Motorway and Welwyn Hatfield's Draft Local Plan. We are grateful to Bill for the time he has given to these consultations. Welwyn Parish Council has also been working with the Welwyn Planning and Amenities Group (WPAG) and the Welwyn Parish Planning Group (WPPG), on the Local Plan and the effect it would have on Welwyn Parish. Together we have formed a Call for Sites Working Group, working on behalf of the whole Parish with the aim of achieving an acceptable outcome for all our residents.

We are still receiving complaints about dogs leaving their mess and the owners not clearing it up. Please be responsible as a lot of work goes into keeping the village a place we enjoy living in and dog mess is unacceptable.

I hope that when you read this, the weather will have changed for the better so that we can all get out and enjoy the lovely area in which we live.

Marj Otty,  
Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council



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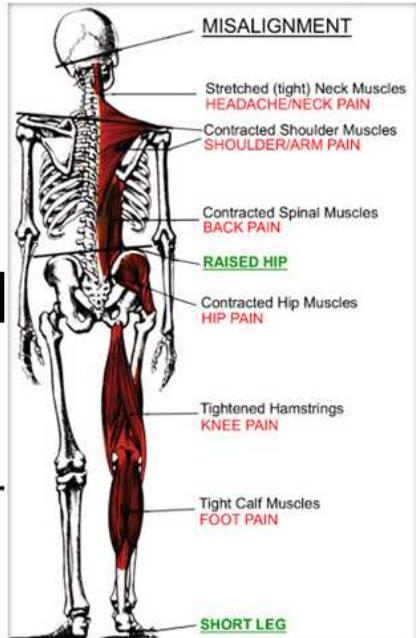
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## A bowl of red roses

It was St George's Day in 1917, the location a desert camp in Northern Mesopotamia, as it was then called. A Chaplain walked down the three steps leading to the interior of a tent and to his amazement saw a large bowl of red roses on the table beside his Commanding Officer. Roses and desert did not seem to go together! The Officer said, "Didn't you know that St George was born in Cappadocia? One of the other ranks went over the Persian border early this morning to gather some from there".

There is no need to dismiss the St George and the Dragon story as just another fairy tale. Think of a crocodile, huge, old and ugly, living in a marsh near Silene in Libya. It was not uncommon for people to make human sacrifices to such a creature.

It is quite within reason that residents who had seen their sons and daughters thrown into that pool or tied beside it as bait, would come to demand why the ruler's family should be exempt.

Thus the situation that St George found. The story goes that having fought and wounded the creature, he made a leash from the young woman's girdle and led it back into the city. Everyone was terrified. He said he would kill it only if everybody adopted the Faith. A clear case of 'force majeure'.

St George refused the gifts heaped upon him, telling the ruler to give them to the poor. He rode away. Everywhere he went he strengthened the weak-hearted by denying the gods of the heathens and became the admiration of all who heard of his courage and chivalry. He died for his Faith, beheaded under the rule of Diocletian in 303 and was buried at Lydda in Palestine.

In 1191, English Crusaders discovered a Christian Church in Lydda with red roses beside a tomb. Hearing the story of St George, they fixed roses to their helms and went on with a new battle cry "St George for England".

The first Church to be dedicated to St George in England is at Fordington in Dorset. The Order of the Garter was instituted in his honour by Edward III. It is still the highest honour in the land and the Knights process to St George's Chapel in Windsor castle each April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the date on which a feast day was declared in his honour in 1222.

St George's Banner was carried at Agincourt in 1415 with that of Our Lady and the Royal Standard. His name shouted down the lines was the signal for the army to move forward.

It is still St George's day as the flag with the Red Cross flies from Church towers across England.

Monica Marson



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## Contact details and other information for use during the Coronavirus Pandemic

We have two dedicated emails and volunteers are trying to match those needing help with those (many) people offering. Please give full contact details and be as clear as possible as to what you need or can offer.

**If you need help contact:**

coronavirusneedhelp@welwyn.org.uk

**If you can offer help contact:**

coronavirusofferhelp@welwyn.org.uk

Please note that by emailing us you consent to us retaining your contact details until the outbreak is over. This is an introduction service – what is shared between people offering and receiving help is thereafter the responsibility of those individuals. (Villages may be also doing this via parish councils and Facebook pages) If you wish to reach neighbours and friends not on email a separate document 'Hello' allows you to give details through people's letter boxes. If you would like to fill it in and us to copy it for you, then the church office is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings for copying free of charge. If you need help but are not on email

please phone 01438 714150. Please phone friends and neighbours – and do not flag before the restrictions are over. People may be isolated and lonely. Viruses cannot travel down phone wires.

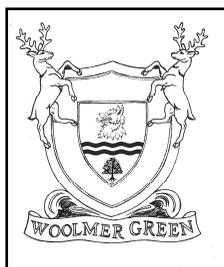
Please note that foodbanks require your help more than ever – the churches are drop off points for donated food.

Support local businesses – they need your help. If you do not wish to spend time in a pub or restaurant many of our excellent hostellers offer gift vouchers and delivery services, and I am sure if you forego your regular custom they won't reject a donation to funds!

Last and not least. The churches rely entirely on funds donated by parishioners. We will lose giving in services during this period. Please find ways to support us financially at this time. Details are on church websites.

Please remember these arrangements may need to change as the situation changes – we are following the latest national and church advice. We will try and update as appropriate.

# WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



## Local Plan

As updated last month, there was a 'call for sites' to meet the additional assessed housing need and the additional sites are now being con-

sulted upon. Since the last update, the site adjacent to Knebworth (WGr3) was rejected as it would join the two villages and close an already small gap between them. The Marshall car dealership site (WE100), that had previously been allocated as employment land, has been reclassified as suitable for 34 dwellings and some retail/employment units. This is the site being consulted on although it is likely that the promoters of the rejected sites will continue to argue for their inclusion.

Already in the Draft Local Plan is the Green Belt site behind Lessiters and Marshalls (HS15). The Parish Council has consistently argued throughout the Local Plan process that this site should not be taken out of the Green Belt as there are brownfield sites available for development, (Entech & Marshalls dealership) and the Parish Council held a meeting with our Borough Councillors recently and restated its position. However as HS15 has been assessed as a suitable site for development it is to remain in the Local Plan.

With regard to the Entech site, this

housing development was granted permission on appeal after being refused by the Borough Council as it was allocated as employment land. It will now be regarded as a windfall development, i.e. it has not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process and these new homes are not counted in the total quoted for Woolmer Green. The Parish Council will continue to put its case that the Entech site was available at the start of the plan and should have been included in it. Potentially at least 256 dwellings could be built in Woolmer Green over the next 15 years.

You are now invited to have your say on the amendments to the Local Plan.

You can view the documents and submit comments online:

<https://www.welhat.gov.uk/local-plan-sites>

You can send comments by email to: [localplan@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@welhat.gov.uk)

If you want to view paper copies of the documents or would like a Comments Form please contact the Clerk. Tel: 03707 776132

Email: [clerk@woolmergreenpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@woolmergreenpc.org.uk)

**The deadline for comments is 5pm Wednesday 1st April 2020**

(This is a later deadline than anticipated in last month's article.)

## Woolmer Green Annual Parish Meeting

This is planned to be held in the **Village Hall at 7.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup> April** and will include the usual updates on local matters and the opportunity to raise concerns with the Parish Council, Borough Councillors and our County Councillor.

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

## Contact details etc. *Continued from page 21*

Please check the Welwyn churches' website [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk) where you will find links, and other documents referred to for download. Paper copies of documents will be available in all churches.

People who are far away from family may wish to log next of kin details with clergy – please contact them using the information below. By doing so you consent to us holding that data for the duration of the outbreak.

### **Contact details for your clergy:**

**Welwyn and Ayot St Peter:** The Rev'd Dr David Munchin, 01438 714150, 07787 567747,

[davidmunchin@outlook.com](mailto:davidmunchin@outlook.com)

**Codicote:** The Rev'd Philip Waller: 01438 504318 [vicar@st-giles-church.org.uk](mailto:vicar@st-giles-church.org.uk)

**Datchworth and Tewin:** The Rev'd Susannah Underwood: 01438 817183 [team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk)

**Woolmer Green:** The Rev'd Dominic Holroyd-Thomas: 01438 813043 [curate@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:curate@welwyn.org.uk)

We are still able to visit people in their homes at their invitation, with some restrictions and precautions, so do be in touch if that is something you would like.

***A prayer:*** *Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

For the latest government response please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topicalevents/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response> For the latest health advice from the NHS please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/>

## THE CHURCHES' RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

### WELWYN TEAM MINISTRY – RESPONDING TO CORONA VIRUS

In these challenging times we would like to reassure you of the support and prayers of your local churches in Welwyn, Woolmer Green, Codicote, Datchworth, Tewin and Ayot St Peter. One silver lining of the present cloud is the enormously generous way that the community has pulled together and provided support for one another. Below are some details of how we are trying to do our bit to help. However please note that **PUBLIC WORSHIP IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED IN ALL CHURCHES** as from 17th March 2020. We will still be worshipping and praying for you as a clergy team at 5pm on Monday, 8.30am on Tuesday, 9am on Wednesday, 5pm on Thursday, 9.30am on Friday, 9am on Saturday. Why not join us in prayer from home at these times?

#### **Other ways to join us in prayer whilst at home**

- We have prayers for you to use, on paper (collect from churches) and electronically ([www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)).
- If you are tech savvy the Church of England website <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-andworship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> and Daily Prayer app (for iOS and Android <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/daily-prayer>) means that you can pray along with us.
- Radio 4 broadcasts a daily service, normally at 9.45am. Radio 3 broadcasts choral evensong normally every Wednesday at 3.30pm and Sunday 3pm. BBC1 broadcasts Songs of Praise normally at 1.15pm on Sunday. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/>
- On Sundays at 9.30am we will **try** to live stream our Parish Eucharist from one of our churches on Facebook and then upload the video to YouTube. You can follow the readings and hymns on the website as well. The best way to access this is through the [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk) and follow the links.
- At any time a Reader will share with you a short service of prayer over the telephone. Prayers and contact details on the dedicated sheet.

- Funerals and Weddings will proceed as normal though measures may be taken to restrict numbers. A sheet containing prayers for those not able to attend a funeral is also provided.

**Advance notices of Holy Week streamed services:**

- Palm Sunday 9.30am (palms will be available in churches),
- Maundy Thursday 8pm,
- Good Friday 12-2pm,
- Easter Eve 9pm,
- Easter Morning 9.30am (easter eggs available in churches).

Churches will stay open, as much or longer than usual. Do come in. You will find paper copies of this and other documents there. You are welcome to stay and pray.

The dedicated sheet with contact details etc. is on page 21 of this

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## THE WARTIME ALLOTMENT (Part 2)

The difference between then and now is that 'to everything there is a season', so no lettuce in January! Everything was taken into the kitchen for eating, nothing would be wasted, ie. leaves from beetroot, Brussels, and the outer tough leaves of cabbage. Out would come the 'Mincer'! This would be clamped to the kitchen table, then once all the dirt, grubs and bugs had been washed away, you would start mincing! Nothing would daunt you, the fact it was full of holes from bugs didn't matter, it could be 'minced', and this would then go into soups and stews to add a bit of 'substance and goodness'. I read about a Croydon housewife who had success with a home baked pudding she named MI5 pudding, so called because she refused to disclose the ingredients!



Fruit would provide 'afters' for a meal, also it was very good for making home-made wine. Most garden sheds or out-houses contained a demi-john or two of home-made wine bubbling away nicely. On occasions there would be an explosion, when the wine got a bit excited, and this would in turn send everyone running to take shelter! All gardens grew rhubarb and would always have an apple or plum tree

growing or have access to pick apples and pears either legally or by the odd bit of 'scrumpling'. Everything from the garden or allotment was either bottled, preserved, jammed or canned. Sugar was always a problem though as this was on rationing. People came up with inventive ways to sweeten foods. Carrots and parsnips were

## THE WARTIME ALLOTMENT (Part 2)

popular as a sugar substitute. If you made jam though on a large scale for others in the community then you would qualify for an increased sugar ration.

St Mary's School also turned their green spaces into vegetable and fruit gardens. Pupils were encouraged to learn about horticultural practices as part of the curriculum. A fulltime grounds man was appointed in 1942 to help with the growing and propagation. Most of what was grown was cooked in the school kitchens to provide a meal for pupils at a cost of 4d (less than 2p new money).

In January 1941 the national effort was to get 1,000,000 acres growing potatoes as they supposedly would feed you without fattening and give you energy, prevent fatigue and help fight infection. The Ministry of Food created a cartoon character called Potato Pete plus numerous recipe books were written to encourage the consumption of potatoes.

My research tells me that during the war years 1942-43, allotment holders contributed greatly to the amount consumed by households by growing nearly 1,000,000 tons of vegetables. Sadly, this over-planting of potatoes throughout the country led to a potato shortage in the years 1944-1945 due to the lack of labour being available to lift them out of the ground and really bad weather. Potato shortages lasted until the end of 1947 when they were rationed to 3lb per person per week. I have only given you a small 'snap-shot' of what everyday life was like during WW2. With families working together on fields, farms, gardens and allotments most survived on a limited but nutritious diet and a genuine work ethos.

Growing your own, eating seasonally and getting regular exercise on an allotment is the best life tonic anyone could have, not just back then, why not now! **Go on, give it a go?** As I write this, I know there are still a few plots vacant at the allotments in Lockleys Drive. The Welwyn Allotments Association covered vacant plots in 2019 to keep the weeds down, so this should make it easier for any newcomers. We no longer need to dig for victory, let's all now **'Dig for a Better Life'!**



*Margaret Temple*

## **Coronavirus (18th March 2020)**

Very quickly we have found ourselves in uncertain times that are changing fast. The situation is clearly very serious and we must all do what we can to follow the advice being given by Public Health England. It is also difficult not to get caught up by scary headlines and false information. In general, the BBC website and news programmes have good balanced and adequately researched information, although it's clear there are a lot of unknowns even to the experts.

If you live alone you may be worried about where to get help from. There are many neighbourhood groups popping up with people offering to get supplies for those who are social distancing or self-isolating. If you have Facebook, the 'Welwyn Village News' group is a good source of information about what's available. For example, many of the village restaurants are now setting up take-away delivery services and Katie's Bakery is delivering bread to people three times a week. New ideas are being posted on a regular basis. We would urge people to continue to support local businesses as far as possible so that, when we come out the other side, they remain viable.

We recognise that we may not be able to deliver the Welwyn Magazine over the next few months as we are dependent on our wonderful group of volunteers to do this. One possibility is that we will need to produce an on-line version and whilst that will be no good for those who do not have internet access it will be better than doing nothing. We will probably need to do this via the 'Welwyn Village News' Facebook page, so do please keep an eye on this if you can.

St Mary's Church will provide as much support to people as it possibly can whether you attend church or not. Please email



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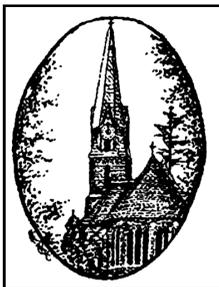


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## News from Ayot St Peter



Although it is early days, first indications are that the changes to services at St Peter's, reported in the February magazine, are receiving a positive response. Following requests from parishioners with young children, the third Sunday of each month now features an informal "family service" suitable for all ages.

On the fourth Sunday of the month the morning service is now "parish communion". This follows the same liturgy as St Mary's and uses a modern translation for the Bible readings. As the weather improves we hope this will attract those who would like to

experience a familiar form of worship in the atmosphere of our historic country church. Meanwhile for those who prefer the Book of Common Prayer with readings from the King James Bible, these will continue to be used for Matins on the first Sunday on the month and Holy Communion on the second Sunday. All services will continue to start at 11.15. So far attendance at the Book of Common Prayer services has been holding up, despite the severe weather which can daunt even the stoutest heart faced with a journey into the countryside on a stormy Sunday morning. And to judge by the initial services, those who asked for more family-friendly services are attending now that they are being provided. Once again we hope that numbers will rise when spring arrives. Meanwhile Juliet and Colin Thompson are in our thoughts as Juliet recovers from major surgery. They have been at the centre of St Peter's life for as long as I can remember and many years before that. We miss them both and pray for a Juliet's recovery. Services are not the same with their regular pew empty.

Roger Ford

Ayot St. Peter new service rota.

**1st Sunday in the month:** Matins following the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible and hymns from the blue Common Praise hymn book.

**2nd Sunday in the month:** Holy Communion following the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible and hymns from the blue Common Praise hymn book.

**3rd Sunday in the month:** Will take the form of a Family Service using the New Revised Standard version of the Bible, the Common Worship Prayer Book and the blue Common Praise hymn book.

**4th Sunday in the month:** Will take the form of the Eucharist using Common Worship Order 1 and the New Standard version of the Bible and the blue Common Praise hymn book.

**5th Sunday in the month:** Holy Communion following the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible and hymns from the Common Praise blue hymn book.



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## Church Fellowship

The Campaign to Protect Rural England. This countryside charity is a group in England with over 40.000 members and supporters, formed in 1926 to limit Urban development - CPRE campaigns for a sustainable future for the English Countryside.

Kevin FitzGerald (Hon. Director) came to our February meeting to talk about CPRE.

There has been a “Call for Sites” which is asking landowners and developers to provide more land for development, often Green Belt. Land should only be released from Green Belt in exceptional circumstances. CPRE actively promotes the use of Brownfield land to safeguard the green fields. It wants this to be the first priority. There have been huge developments in Welwyn/Hatfield which are on-going in Codicote and Knebworth. Local plans in Hertfordshire show that approximately 73.000 dwellings are planned or threatened within protected Green Belt country-side. Only one in ten new homes built on Green Belt land is affordable. Green Belt is a major feature of land in Hertfordshire and has provided protection for our countryside.

There are many ways to assist this voluntary organisation and to enjoy the many activities in an effort to protect our Hertfordshire countryside.

The local office is 31a Church Street Welwyn AL6 9LW.

Our speaker was given a donation for the funds and a bottle of wine for himself in appreciation of a very interesting afternoon.

Marjorie Lyon

## Sherrardspark Wood Walks

### Cowslips and Bluebells

**SATURDAY, 25th April at 2.00 pm**

With Neale Holmes-Smith, Environmentalist and Wood Warden. Walks start from the Pentley Park entrance, near Templewood School, unless advised otherwise. Booking may be necessary for popular walks. We request donations of £3 per adult (under 15s free).

Dogs must be kept on leads at all times please. Remember to wear suitable footwear.

**Watch out for extra walks that may be added to the programme**

<http://sherrardsparkwood.com/events.html> email@sherrardsparkwood.com





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## AROUND THE W.I.s

### MARDLEY HEATH W.I.

Our February talk, 'Ladies in Engineering' by Professor Dawn Bonfield MBE, introduced us to a world not many of us had thought much about before, or perhaps even realised existed - say 'engineer' and you visualise a man. But since 1908, when Alice Perry became the first woman in Europe to graduate in this field, women have gradually made their mark. In WW1 they replaced men who went to the battlefields leaving factories idle, but although they were fully trained were not given full engineering status: they were 'technicians'. As those with young children brought them to the factories with them, canteens were provided for the first time and other improvements made.

After that war, women were not generally allowed to continue in this occupation, but in WW2 again took over many 'male' engineering roles, including piloting war planes. We have all heard of Amy Johnson, whose death in a crash remains a mystery. After a glittering flying career, she was the first president of the Women's Engineering Society, whose centenary is celebrated this year. (Dawn is a past president). Other notable WW2 achievements by women are largely forgotten, e.g. the rebuilding of Waterloo Bridge by female construction workers and the invention of a special valve by aeronautical engineer Beatrice Shilling that saved Spitfires from stalling when diving.

Dawn mentioned some brilliant women scientists of the more distant past, among

them Sarah Guppy, mother of six, the engineer behind Bristol's iconic Suspension Bridge. She handed her plans to Brunel, saying that women must not be boastful. We were reminded that Lord Byron's daughter Ada Lovelace, a mathematician, laid the groundwork for modern computer science.

Nowadays, many more women gain engineering degrees, but bullying and sexual discrimination cause a large number of resignations, with drop-outs increasing with age.

Sixteen visitors are coming to our meeting next month (on March 19th) - 'Songs Through the Ages' with Linda Stanton - so our cake makers were warned!

Marjorie Sandiford





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# Campaign to Protect Rural England

## CPRE Hertfordshire Awards 2020



For those caring about their Community and/or the Environment

Our annual Awards Scheme is now open and we invite you to think about the people or groups who help improve life in your community and/or enhance the environment in Hertfordshire and nominate them for an award.

We want to recognise those who work so hard to protect, promote and enhance towns or villages and/or the surrounding countryside to

make them better places to live, work, go to school or enjoy for today and tomorrow and to celebrate their efforts. For example, charities, informal groups, events, businesses and individuals of all ages.

*“It is great to see individuals and groups receiving recognition for their work and contribution to the community” Cllr Jeff Jones.*

There is a lot happening across Hertfordshire and we would love you to nominate, or to spread the word by telling others about the awards. We are happy to receive self-nominations.

For more information contact [gill@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:gill@cpreherts.org.uk)

To make a nomination just download a form from our website [www.cpreherts.org.uk/awards](http://www.cpreherts.org.uk/awards) and return it to us.

**Closing date: 31 May 2020**

Our judges review the nominations during the summer and the Awards are presented at an evening event in October.

Previous nominations have included village halls, playgrounds, chalk streams, local nature reserves, health walks and woodland restoration, riverfly monitoring, a bird box trail, an eco-house and various “friends of” groups, a community car scheme, community choirs, festivals, community orchards and a lambing weekend.

We also receive nominations for businesses and individuals of all ages, who make a difference in their community and/or the environment.

Someone or something in your community deserves to be recognised!

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## FRIENDS OF DANESBURY & QVM HOSPITAL

It is far too easy for the work done by the volunteers and staff in our shop in Welwyn to be taken for granted, just one of those things that happens seamlessly and which does not really get the accolades that it deserves. Nonetheless, it is one of the most important stages in the life-cycle of fund-raising and giving that constitutes the work of the Charity.

Our ability to support neurological rehabilitation across the county is also made possible by other fund-raising events. Pictured below are (left to right): Roger Simons, Julia Gearhart, Simon Whitworth (Trustee and Treasurer of the Charity) and Lorna Tappin. Roger was a patient of the Stroke Early Supported Discharge Team (ESD) in the QVM Hospital. The ESD team helps patients who have had strokes to transition quickly and safely home from hospital. The team then promotes each patient's recovery, with six weeks of intensive rehabilitation services in the patient's home, which may include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, psychology, social work services, and more. Julia and Lorna are two of the ESD staff who were responsible for Roger's rehabilitation.



Roger, who is a member of Royston Town Band, organised a fundraising concert, which raised money that will be used to purchase iPads, which can be lent out to ESD patients. The patients can then use apps to guide them through exercises or language activities, to get extra practice. The ESD team also will be able to use the tablets for teaching, using various wellness apps, or an app with a rotatable 3D brain diagram.

Do pop into our shop in Welwyn High Street and have a look at what we have to offer. We rely on donations as, unlike some of the larger charity shops, we do not buy in items. We have recently also started selling on eBay's charity site (see the link below):

<https://www.charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/FRIENDS-OF-DANESBURY-AND-QUEEN-VICTORIA-MEMORIAL-HOSPITAL/3150501>

You can also visit us on both Facebook and Instagram.

Do help us maintain this rewarding and productive fund-raising → giving cycle.

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## ST MARY'S WELWYN FOOTBALL TEAM



February started with a league cup match away to Holy Rood of Harefield. On a

perfect playing surface Welwyn dominated possession throughout, but struggled to find a way through. With a minute to go before the half the opposition scored a scrappy goal with their first attack. Welwyn continued to press into the second half and got their reward with 10 minutes remaining as Tommy Taylor set up Carl Webb to score a perfectly placed left-footed placed curler into the bottom corner. Into extra time, St Mary's took the lead as Webb was fouled after dispossessing an opposition defender and Callum Russell dispatched the penalty. With moments remaining, the score was level again as the opposition scored a 40 yard pot shot which arrowed into the top corner leaving keeper Brad Cook with absolutely no chance. Welwyn were made to pay for wasted chances throughout the game as they fell to a 7-6 loss on penalties.

Because of various storms St Mary's were limited to just one additional match in February, braving Storm Dennis hoping to keep cup hopes alive with a county cup quarter final fixture away to Letchworth FC Firsts. Facing winds of up to 60kph, Welwyn struggled to get into opposition territory in the first half. Welwyn defended well for the first 20 minutes before a fierce drive from the edge of the box was accelerated by the wind and into the back of the net. Letchworth piled on the pressure and finished the half 4-0 up. With the wind now in Welwyn's favour, it felt like the game wasn't over and within 20 minutes the score was 4-2 thanks to a half volley from Tommy Taylor and an Ali Trotman tap in after the 'keeper spilled Jim Stevens' freekick. Chasing a third with 10 minutes remaining Welwyn went all out attack and were punished as a cut back from the right was well finished to put the tie behind reach.

Michael Chehade

### Remember ....

Social distancing shouldn't mean social isolation. The Coronavirus cannot travel down telephone wires or across the internet. Keep in touch with your family, friends and neighbours.



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## Neighbourhood Watch

Writing in February, we're very pleased to find that crime figures are available earlier than in previous years. Some things do get better! Here's our summary for last year's figures covering the Ayots, Welwyn village, Oaklands and Mardley Heath, Woolmer Green and Digswell.

There are 14 categories of crime recorded. Overall there has been an increase of 18%, compared with a reduction of 14% the year before. However, burglaries are down by 24%, and vehicle crime is down by 12%. That's the good news! We hope that increased security measures we have been taking will have contributed to these reductions.

Once again, the most frequently recorded crimes are violence and sexual offences (up 15%), and anti-social behaviour (up 14%). These two categories together account for 42% of all the crime recorded in 2019. The first of these categories includes domestic abuse so we shouldn't feel at increased risk while we're out in Welwyn. Already this year we've written in the magazine about this topic.

The increase in anti-social behaviour is

disappointing. None of us likes to encounter this and we must not take it for granted that year-on-year increases are inevitable. Please keep on reporting it when you see it. It has been a local policing priority in the past and could be again.

Public order offences are almost unchanged (up from 26 to 28) and as in 2018 there were just two robberies recorded. Do be careful though to keep your mobile phone secure and don't wave wads of notes around if you haven't yet gone cashless.

One other category of crime to increase is bicycle theft. There were 14 instances last year, a whopping increase of 180%. Can you guess where most of these thefts took place? Welwyn North Station. With increased cycling being one of the ways it is hoped to counteract climate change it would be a great pity if cyclist commuters were discouraged. Our local roads are busy enough already and the station car park is often full. Stronger locks and attendance at a bike marking event held by our local police may make a difference.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards

[www.owl.co.uk/herts](http://www.owl.co.uk/herts)

## Parish Registers



**St Michael's Woolmer Green**

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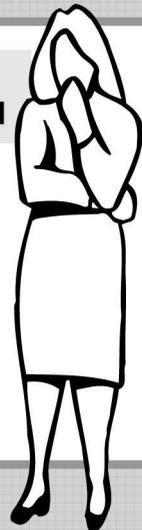
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# Church Notice Board

## Sunday Services

8.00 am	<b>ST MARY'S</b> 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)



11.15 am	<b>ST MICHAEL'S</b> 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](http://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)

Friday	9.30 am	<b>ST MICHAEL'S</b> Morning Prayer (St Michael's Woolmer Green)
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*Common Worship used at all Communion Services except where stated*

## Children

2.00 pm	<b>ST MARY'S</b> 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
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# Church Notice Board *continued*

## 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

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## MEDITATION— Time and its relatives

In everyday life, we think of time advancing at a constant rate. We think of its motion **relative** to how long it takes something familiar, regular and constant to happen. We define a day in **relation** to the time it takes the earth to spin one rotation on its axis, we call that one day and then subdivide that into hours (24 of them) and then minutes and seconds. We define a year, approximately, in **relation** to the time it takes the earth to circumnavigate the sun. This view serves us well in most of our everyday lives but it fails us, as Einstein predicted, when we are dealing with phenomena at the scale of sub-atomic particles, and also at the cosmic scale. (Note that he developed a Theory of **Relativity**.) These are the domains of the physicists and which are beyond description and explanation in terms of our everyday language and experience. Physicists seek to describe them in the language of mathematics. Similarly, Christians and others seek to describe the mysterious workings of their God by analogy, parable or metaphor.

Having settled on a common system of measuring time in **relation** to what we assume are the unchanging motions of the sun and our earth, we also assume that time proceeds at a constant rate and that clocks today run at the same rate as they did a hundred years ago. Again, these assumptions work for us in most of our everyday activities but why then does time appear to go faster as we get older, I wonder?

It is ten years since I celebrated my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday but it feels like much less. I read

the same columnist in the newspaper every Saturday but it seems only a couple of days since I read last week's. The days flash by and I never seem to have time to do the things that I want to do. I don't even have time to get bored! Is time not proceeding at a constant rate after all and are the movements of the sun and the earth speeding up? No, I prefer to believe that I now measure time in **relation** to what I remember and what I have achieved. I believe that I sometimes slip into thinking of these features as my 'familiar, regular and constant' happenings and time becomes a variable. As I age and do things increasingly slowly and my short-term memory becomes ever shorter, the future is upon me before I am ready for it and so appears to be coming at me ever faster – as is my inevitable end. Think of sitting in a car wash and wondering if the wash brushes are moving backwards or is the car moving forward. Which is fixed and which is moving in **relation** to the other? Maybe both are moving but how can we tell? It's **Relativity** again. You can't get away from it and we haven't even considered how gravity distorts space and bends light, how space and time are **related**.

At the end of all this, we can all marvel at those things which are incomprehensible in terms of everyday experience, whatever language that we chose in trying to make sense of them.

Ron Feasey