



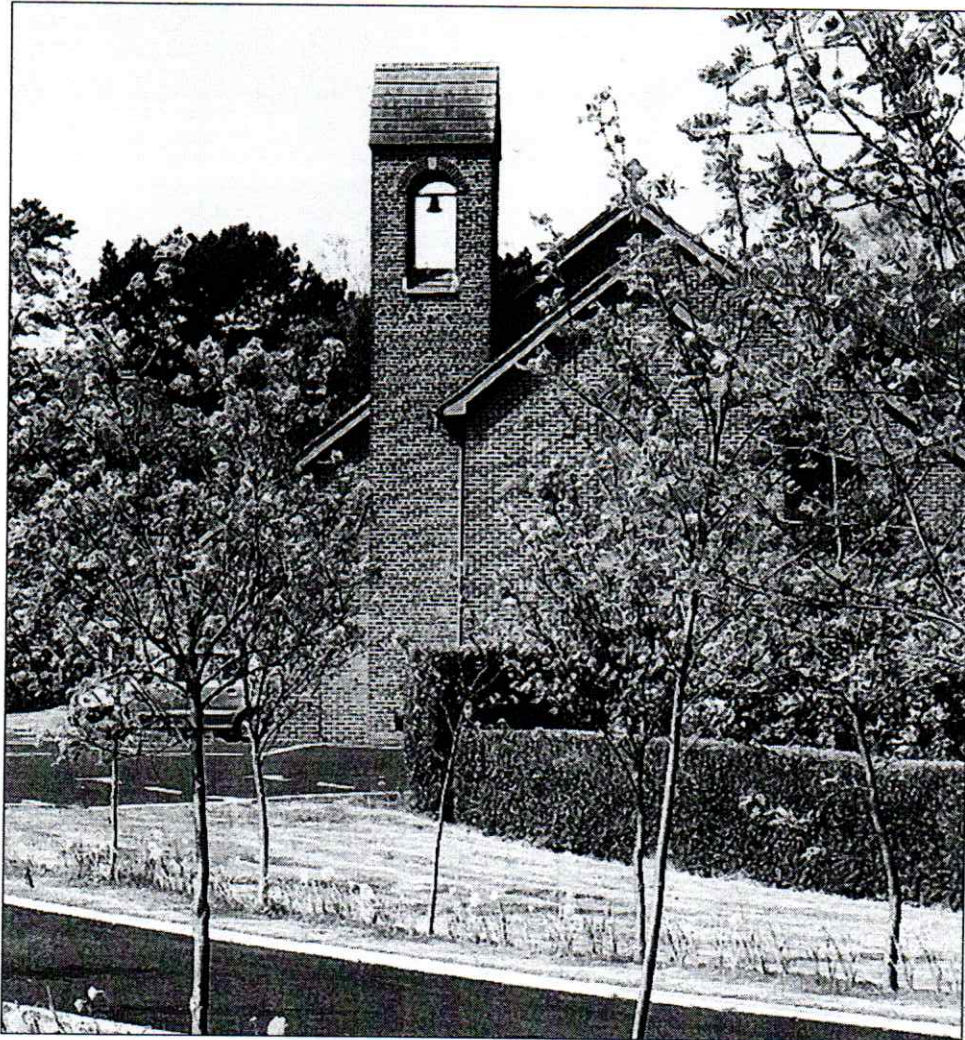
the  
**Church of the  
Ascension**

CLOUGHFERN PARISH

**CENTRED IN CHRIST  
FAITHFUL TO SCRIPTURE  
UNITED FOR MISSION**

# ***News and Views of the Parish***

**JUNE, JULY and AUGUST 2021**



## Taken from the Register. . .

### Christian Burial

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die..."*

John 11:25 (NIV)

William Dubois 3rd April 2021

Ann Marie McClurg 9th April 2021

## Church Cleaning List . . .

4 June	Mr and Mrs A McNiece
11 June	The Mackey and Cully families
18 June	Mr and Mrs V Cole
25 June	The Pryce family
2 July	The Young and McKay families
9 July	Mrs L Cherry and Mrs C Robinson
16 July	The Black family
23 July	The Turkington and Montgomery families
30 July	Mrs L Coleman and Mrs A Sproule
6 August	The Abraham family
13 August	Miss G Webb and Miss C Hunter
20 August	Mr and Mrs A McNiece
27 August	The Mackey and Cully families
3 September	Mr and Mrs V Cole



### COVID-19 and Church Cleaning

Until further notice, routine cleaning of the church may only take place on Friday mornings. In the event of a church service being held 72 hrs prior to scheduled cleaning, cleaning rota volunteers will be advised, and given special instructions.

**\*\* Please note Tanya Kay has advised that she is able to assist any cleaning group needing an extra pair of hands – her contact number is on the back of the magazine.**

## Editorial

63 Connor Road, Parkgate, Co Antrim BT39 0EA  
Tel: 9443 2173 Email: linda.cherry@btinternet.com

In this quarterly issue we will cover the months of June, July and August. As we head into the summer, some of you will be making holiday plans whether to stay local or venture further afield if the travel traffic light system permits. Booking your holiday well in advance seems to be a thing of the past as we all adjust to living with Covid-19. It is predicted that UK consumers now have big plans to spend post pandemic with the three basic needs being a holiday, haircut and a good day out.

During the pandemic we have witnessed the great price of death and illness but in every terrible situation there is always a silver lining. The environment has had the opportunity to rejuvenate with carbon emissions and pollution down globally due to the reduction in air travel and manufacturing; one example of this is how clear the water now is in the canals of Venice. Many businesses have had to reinvent themselves with gin distilleries now producing hand sanitiser. I think though the most obvious positive impact of the pandemic is the rejuvenated sense of community and it has been heartening to read stories of kindness being shown to others by small acts such as delivery of food parcels and medication to those feeling isolated.

We have also witnessed a new sense of appreciation and

gratefulness as we now appreciate more the things we took for granted such as our freedom, leisure, work, family and friends. We have also learned to value and thank our health workers who have been at the frontline during this time.

As things here slowly reopen, it will be good to go to a restaurant or the cinema or meet up with family and friends. With regard to parish life, church has reopened, and hopefully other groups and organisations will be permitted to meet indoors soon and also make plans for a normal resumption in September.

Meanwhile the church grounds are looking neat and tidy with flower beds weeded and restocked and the wooden benches receiving a fresh coat of paint. Thanks to Brian for organising all this.

Don't forget Father's Day on 20 June - a time to treat your dad to some new socks or a new DIY tool! For those sports enthusiasts there is much happening during the summer months with tournaments rescheduled from last year such as The Euros together with the 32nd Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Whatever your plans for the summer, the magazine team would like to wish you a peaceful and enjoyable break.

Linda

**PARISH OF CLOUGHFERN  
SELECT VESTRY MEMBERS - 2021-22**

Rector's Warden:	David Garland - 07753 486063
People's Church Warden:	Elizabeth McWatters - 028 9050 6805
Rector's Glebewarden:	Tanya Kay - 07597 916012
People's Glebewarden:	Jane Dunn - 07809 276378
Honorary Secretary:	Gillian Webb - 07746 423424
Honorary Treasurer:	Caroline Tares - 07870 761280

**Other members:**

Jennifer Boyd	Norman Dunn	Diana Harrington
Sandra Harvey	Christine Hunter	Billy Ingram
Kerry McIlwaine	Alan McNiece	Irene Orr
Barbara Turkington		

**Other Office Holders:**

Building and Development	
Fund Secretary:	Diana Harrington
FWO Secretary:	David Mackey
Gift Aid Secretary:	Christine Hunter
One-Off Gift-Aid Secretary:	Graham Cully

**BRIAN'S  
SLOT**

Hopefully by the time you read this our little charity shop will have reopened. We have been closed since mid-December, and this seems a long, long time ago and yet our people have not forgotten us.

One of the reasons our shop has been so successful is the unstinting loyalty and generosity of the Cloughfern parishioners and their families and friends. So very, very humbling, the kindness we have been shown. So much so, that within the guidelines and Covid-19 rules when we reopened the shop, we

were doing so having made £1000 for parish funds.

Thank you to Christine, Diana, Alan and Tanya, and thank you everyone who has donated so generously.

**MOORE'S TOURS**

No definite word yet as to when we can meet again but I suspect that if it is this year we will probably pick up where we left off early 2020 and restart with a local outing or talk in our halls. So much depends on Government rules AND what Church House permits us to do. We can't wait!

Watch this space, **Brian**

## Minister's Message

The English metaphysical poet John Donne (1572-1631) wrote,

*"No man is an island entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."*

The COVID pandemic has brought, and continues to bring, hardship and tragedy to many across the world. In our own country, the efforts of politicians, scientists and healthcare professionals have offered the hope of better times ahead.

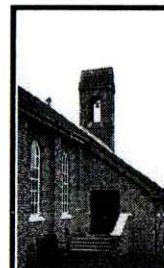
As we look forward with hope, it is important to reflect on what we have learned from our experience of the pandemic. The pandemic has reminded us, as the poet Donne observed, that we do not stand apart from our fellow human beings.

The Gospel reminds us that we are connected to one another and dependent upon one another. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called upon to support one another and, as a faith community, to support the wider community.

As we look ahead to better days may we, individually and collectively, find new ways of reaching out to connect with and support one another and the communities in which we live.

Your servant in Christ, **Tim**

TJ Close, Minister



**Online Parish History**

We are in the process of compiling material for a history of our parish church for the parish website. We would be interested in receiving written material or photographs relating to the history of our parish church.

If you have material, which may be of interest, please let me know. Thank you.

**Tim**



# Scouts

## 1st CLOUGHFERN SCOUTS

Hi Folks,

As the Scouting year draws to a close, we have reflected on what has been a difficult year. The Scouts have worked hard in order to gain badges and learn new skills, we have been very encouraged by their enthusiasm. This year Scouts obtained the following badges: Fire Safety, Pioneering, Athletics, Global issues, Teamwork Challenge and Personal Challenge. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the Scouting year has been disrupted, however the Scouts all engaged in activities as and when we were able to meet.

We are hoping that we will be able to take the Scouts camping when the restrictions ease. It has been over a year since we were allowed to camp and it's safe to say that we have missed it.

I'd like to say a MASSIVE thank you to each Scout for actively engaging in our programme last Scouting year. They carried out each activity to the best of their ability and turning up each week throughout the year.

**If you are reading this and know anybody who would be interested in becoming a Scout Leader, please encourage them to come along to our Troop, we meet each Thursday at 7.45pm. They won't regret it!!**

Geoff, Stephen and Fiona 6



## 1st CLOUGHFERN BEAVER SCOUT COLONY

### 1st Cloughfern Beaver Colony

Beavers resumed on 22 April and it was great to see our young people again. As we can only meet outside at present we have completed a hike at Threemilewater and learned about World Earth Day. We held a scavenger hunt in the church grounds and played games on the lawn. We have also covered The Green Cross Code and went for a walk on the Doagh Road in our hi vis vests to practise what we had learnt.

As we are unable to hold our annual Sleepover this year Beavers are being encouraged to join NI Beaver Scouts Rally Day At Home 2021 online on 15 May where they can build a den to sleep in and join in various Zoom activities during the day.

It goes without saying this has been a very difficult year for everyone but particularly for our young people. We greatly look forward to a return to a more normal term in September and we have places available for boys and girls aged between 6 and 8 years old – if you know of anyone interested in a place, please pass their details to any of the leaders.

Lastly, I would just like to thank all of the leaders for their continued support, hard work and enthusiasm through a challenging time.

Linda



## 1st CLOUGHFERN CUBS

Hi,

Face to face scouting has returned and the Cubs have been taking advantage of the good weather. We are now off Zoom and meeting back up around the local area as we are unable to use the church facilities.

If you have anyone aged 8 to 10 who is interested in joining the Cubs in September, please get in touch with Chris. (Contact details can be found on the back of this magazine).

Chris



## INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

### Indoor Bowling Club

Due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been unable to play bowls this season. We will monitor the situation and hopefully, when people get their vaccinations, play can resume in September 2021. In the meantime, everyone take care and stay safe.

David Mackey, Hon. Secretary

## Old and alone and needing help...

An old Italian priest lived alone. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was so hard. A member of his church, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. So the old priest wrote a letter to his parishioner and described his predicament:

*Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. I remember you in my prayers!*

Fr Louis

A few days later he received a letter from his parishioner.

*Dear Fr Louis, whatever you do, don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Thanks for your prayers.*

Vinnie

At 4 am the next morning, the local police arrived and dug up the entire area, without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old priest and left. That same day the old priest received another letter.

*Dear Fr Louis, You can go ahead and plant your tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.*

Vinnie

## Remembering Prince Philip

This month (10th June) the Duke of Edinburgh would have turned 100. This article is from the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent tribute to him in the House of Lords.

"We have thanked God for Prince Philip's life of extraordinary service. There are some rare people who bring energy into a room - the Duke of Edinburgh was very much one of those people. His presence lifted a gathering. He might have challenged and interrogated, but whatever he said, he never bored anyone.

"The Duke of Edinburgh had a profound moral imagination, extraordinary foresight and even vision. He saw the world not just as it is but as it could and should be, as worked out in his commitment to young people, especially through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, to the Commonwealth, to our Armed Forces, and to engineering, technology and design... In Edmund Burke's words, he had an instinctive sense that the social contract was found in the traditions we inherit from the past, in our obligations to the present and in our responsibility to those yet to be born.

"His genuine and deep sense of humility and his service came from the same place, which was his faith... He had a sincere Christian faith absolutely untainted by false piety... He understood deeply how important faith is for the vast majority of the world's population. He engaged the rich diversity of faiths within the UK and the Commonwealth. He was a pioneer in recognising the crucial role that faith leaders play in advocating for creation care. He was literally half a century ahead of his time in this area."

## The Parable of the Great Banquet

One thing that we've probably missed over the past year is parties. This month should enable us to party again! Lots of Jesus' parables focus on parties, as they are a picture of the joy, hope and life of the kingdom of God. The parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24) challenges us not to miss out on this.

In Jesus' day, when people accepted an *invitation* to a banquet, they were only told the actual time on the day: '*Come, for everything is now ready*' (17). Jesus invites each one of us to share in the life of His kingdom.

However, the guests made *excuses* for not coming. At the time, this would have been extremely insulting to the host. They said: '*I have just bought a field; I must try out my new team of oxen; I have just got married*' (18-20). These are all good things in themselves, however they reveal their priorities were elsewhere. We too can be pre-occupied with our own routines of work, family, retirement, holidays, friends, home, social media, that we forget God's priorities for our lives. Jesus calls for total commitment from His disciples. What *priority in my life is holding me back from accepting His invitation?*

How did the host respond? He ordered His servants to '*Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.*' (21). He invited the unexpected and unacceptable people to his banquet. Jesus makes the point that *God's kingdom is open to all!* Thinking about our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours, even if they're not like us or show little interest in God: *Are we willing to offer them God's invitation to share His love and life?*

By Canon Paul Hardingham

# POEMS

## The Ancient Church

Sometimes I sit within my pew  
And gaze upon an ancient view  
Of stones, which, set by mason's line  
Have stood through centuries of time;  
Of glass, whose colours, vivid, bright  
Have told their wondrous tales of light  
And filtered sunshine's timeless rays  
To countless eyes through countless days.

The pulpit where, through long past years  
God's servants preached to faithful ears;  
The lectern and its Bible read  
Aloud to both the quick and dead;  
The feet, which down that aisle have trod  
To worship everlasting God;  
The angels, as they downward gaze  
Have heard ten thousand songs of praise!

Songs of joy, and infant cries  
As they gathered to baptize,  
Songs of love and celebrations  
In marriages and confirmations,  
Songs of sadness and of loss  
Sung before the Saviour's cross.  
So many lives have come, then flown  
Within this ancient house of stone.

So, as I sit and wonder how  
Such history should guide me now?  
Such faithful worship through the years  
May move me to shed humble tears.  
These ghosts bring me joy, not fear  
I know I'm just a tenant here  
And in one way they are my guide –  
They keep me free from pompous pride!

By Nigel Beeton

## Charity

Charity or love what's in a name?  
The King James Bible translates them the same.

Corinthians 13 tells the great theme  
Of love everlasting, everyone's dream.

Loved by all brides on their wedding day  
The verses they all want the preacher to pray  
The wonders of love that overrules all,  
That holds on believing whatever befalls.

Love always trusting always prevails  
Enduring, protecting, love never fails.  
Faith hope and charity, virtues all three  
But love is the greatest and ever will be.

By Megan Carter

## The Post Card

A post card from you sent to me  
Causes me to smile with glee!  
I can't have the blues  
As I read the news  
Of your time with the sun and the sea!

I love how it lands on the mat  
So it's there when I hang up my hat;  
And no more time passes  
Ere I reach for my glasses  
And happily read all your chat!

A message by text's not the same.  
And Facebook is all just a game.  
I know some will say  
It's the new modern way,  
But the lack of a card? It's a shame!

By Nigel Beeton

## Good to know

The little word of love,  
the right time and place  
Will be blessed by God above,  
and watered by His grace.

Author unknown

## Reflected Faith:

### Sit and be Still

How do you 'sit' in church? I'm a wriggler and change my position on the seat often. I cross one leg over the other, then swap them over, stretch them out, then cross them at the ankles. I do the same with my arms. I lean one way and then the other.

In other words, 'I'm a fidget.' But having been absent from a church building for so long, I wanted to think this month about simply *sitting and being still* before the Lord.

I'm well aware we've done little else this last 18 months – but if you manage to get into a church building, for whatever reason I'd like to encourage us all to just sit still and breathe in the place. To relish being 'back'!

To sit 'heavily' in that spot. To feel the solidity of the surface you are sitting on. Lean into it. Feel how it supports you. Feel each part of your body where it is touching the chair or pew.

Look around you at all the distinctive seating set aside for

the different participants of the church: the choir, the worship leader, a deacon or curate, the priest and so on.

In an Anglican church there will be a chair especially dedicated for the use of the Bishop.

However plain or fancy each piece of furniture is within your building, they all have the same purpose. To hold the person and keep them safe.

### *This month:*

As you sit in the church building - or at home if you are not able to do so - think of all those people in the Bible stories who sat with Jesus. The number of times He taught in the Temple or in a synagogue, or to crowds gathered on a hill. Recall the Last Supper and His friends gathered sitting with Him to eat and share the Passover meal, and then recall the meal with the men from the Emmaus Road. So many meal times with the bold and the weak, the saints and the sinners. With you and me.

*By The Revd Dr Jo White*

## The story behind the HYMN:

### 'Lord, for the years'

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.*

*\*Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,  
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;  
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,  
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name. ...*

*By Timothy Dudley Smith*

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so - 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrated her 95th birthday in April. She does indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

And so indeed the 'extra' verse added for the Queen has also held true:

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,  
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,  
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,  
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

*Taken from Parish Pump*



### **I am only one**

I am only one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
What I can do, I ought to do,  
And what I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

*- Anon*

## News and Views

### Have you ever laughed at a joke you did not understand?

Then you are not alone. It seems that two thirds of us have laughed at jokes we did not 'get', simply because we wanted to fit in with our friends at the time.

And more than half of us have actually gone on to repeat jokes with punchlines which we don't ourselves understand. More than half of us have even researched a joke in order to try and figure out what was supposed to be so funny about it.

In research done by a British neuroscientist, it was found that humour that relies on puns or more obscure concepts is the most likely to confuse audiences. While laughter is universal, humour is very subjective. People all over the world laugh, but what they find to be funny varies widely, depending on culture, context and language.

During the research, it was found that two of the most misunderstood jokes are:

*Some Omega-3 vitamins fell on my head when I opened the cupboard. I got super fish oil injuries.*

*What does a dyslexic, agnostic insomniac do at night? He stays up wondering if there really is a dog.*

### Do you love a bargain?

Some people adore bargains, promotions, and cut-price items. They are the ones who always

forage out reduced clothing and food, collect coupons and loyalty points with great care, and are at the front of the queue to bag items on Black Friday.

Now a new study has found that such deal-prone bargain-hunting may be more than a preference – it may even run in your genes. It could be a tendency which is passed on genetically as well as learned.

The study was published in the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research.

### Nectar in your garden

Our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps in towns and cities.

They yield 85 per cent of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology.

Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees.

One ecologist has called home gardens "pivotal" in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the county. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.

### Is there life without the BBC?

Could you live happily without the BBC? Just try it for two weeks.

That was the recent challenge of the corporation's outgoing chairman, Sir David Clementi, to a group of critics who said they resented the licence fee.

Apparently, nine days later, two thirds of the critics had changed their mind and said that the licence was worth every penny. Sir David observed that when "things that they took for granted are removed from them, they realise how valuable the BBC is."

So he encourages anyone else who thinks that the licence is not worth £3 a week, to try life without the BBC. "I think that most people would find it very hard to cope."

### Could an open-plan house damage your marriage?

Think twice before you knock down internal walls in your house and move over to open-plan living. If you are married, it does not lead to happiness.

So says Sarah Beeney, the TV property presenter. She points out that open-plan living means that "you cannot shut a door" after rowing with your partner.

The star, who is married with four children, admits she has no plans to knock down walls in their new house. Speaking recently to Prima magazine, she said that people are too often "fooled into thinking that open-plan living is the solution to happiness."

She went on: "I'm not convinced that taking down every wall and living in an aircraft hangar is actually that great. Sometimes it's nice to not have to see the other's face or hear them."

### Beware the use-by date

Nobody likes to throw food away, but if you ignore the use by dates and go by smell alone, you can risk serious illness.

So warns the Food Standards Agency. In a recent study, the regulator found that half of us do not always check use-by dates.

Many of us still smell the milk to see if it is still okay, and even Theresa May, the former Prime Minister, has admitted to scraping the mould off jam in order to cut waste.

The agency has warned that some Britons who actively ignore use-by dates could risk being hospitalised. Use-by dates are carefully calculated by assessing bacteria on food which could multiply to make them ill.

A spokesman for the agency said: "It's great that consumers are trying to minimise food waste, but there are

lots of ways to do that without gambling with your health, such as planning your meals ahead of time, checking what you have in the fridge that is close to its use-by date, and freezing food right up until the use-by dates.”

Sadly, there are around 2.4 million cases of food poisoning each year, and 180 deaths.

### What will happen to our offices in the future?

There will be less of them – a lot less.

In fact, one recent study warns that the pandemic will mean office

space in the UK shrinks by a fifth, which is 18 million square feet.

Certainly, the current flexibility of working from home, brought on by the pandemic, seems set to bring in permanent changes, according to the risk management and insurance broker Gallagher.

In the future, office will be mainly for collaborating or attending meetings, or for storing vital equipment and IT. Working in an office five days a week will become a thing of the past. And of course, that, in turn, will have a profound impact on the look and shape of our cities.

## CHARITY SHOP

Opening times are:  
10.30am until 12.30pm  
Every Tuesday and Saturday

Any items for sale can be left in the porch or brought along on these days. Also we will be happy to accept any donations for our food bank appeal, during shop opening times, if anyone cannot make it to church. Thank you.

Brian, Tanya and all the volunteers

## GARY COBAIN

BUILDING CONTRACTOR



ALL  
WORK  
CONSIDERED

Contact mobile number:  
**07967 817452**

*The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

### On getting to church at a social distance

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15 room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.

Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verger now objects to standing outside during Mattins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring interesting patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.

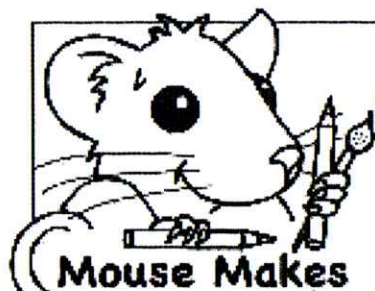
Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace





## JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?  
John 4:46-54

Who did Jesus heal from fever?  
Mark 1:29-31

How was the paralysed man brought to Jesus?  
Mark 2:1-12

Jesus healed and made the...

SICK	ABLE
DEAD	WALK
BLIND	FORGIVEN
DEAF	ALIVE
CRIPPLED	SPEAK
SINNER	MOVE
MUTE	SEE
PARALYSED	WELL
DISABLED	HEAR

Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?  
Mark 5:1-20

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?  
John 5:1-15

What did Jesus say made the woman well?  
Matthew 9: 20-22

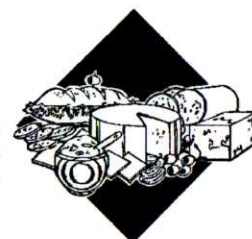
How many men were healed from leprosy?  
Luke 17:11-19

What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?  
Mark 10:46-52

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?  
John 11:1-45

"There are many things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."  
John 21:25

# RECIPE CORNER



## Strawberry Shortcake Slice

### Ingredients

600ml double cream	1 tbsp vanilla bean paste
1 tbsp orange blossom water	125g icing sugar, plus 2 tbsp
500g shortcake biscuits, plus 3 crushed	
350g strawberries, sliced	

### Method

Line a 20cm cake tin (square or rectangle) with cling film, leaving an overhang. Whip 500ml of the cream, vanilla paste and orange blossom water and 125g icing sugar with an electric whisk until thick and billowy.

Add a layer of biscuits to the tin and spoon over some of the cream, about 1cm thick all over. Add a layer of strawberry slices, then repeat with the cream, biscuits and strawberries until you fill the tin, finishing with a layer of biscuit. You'll have some strawberries left over to serve. Press everything down well so every biscuit is covered in cream. Cover and chill overnight.

To serve, flip the tin onto a serving plate, and remove the cling film. Whip the remaining 100ml of cream with 1 tbsp of icing sugar and dollop on top of the cake, swirling it around. Top with the remaining strawberry slices in lines, sift over the remaining 1 tbsp of icing sugar and sprinkle the biscuit crumbs in between the rows of strawberries. Cut into slices and serve.

Taken from [www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/strawberry-shortcake-slice](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/strawberry-shortcake-slice)

### Miscellaneous observations on life

I want to be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

Few things are more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own.

Learn from others' mistakes. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Money isn't everything, but it does keep you in touch with your children.

## YOU HAVE TO LAUGH...

### Neighbourhood Watch

In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"

"He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" the wife asked.

"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"



### Out to graze

A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat's milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

"These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in Britain with your old goats?"

A spry old gentleman answered: "They send us on bus tours!"



### Ground

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.

Today, it's called golf.

### Thankful

A minister said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says a prayer over you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"



### Sportsmanlike

During a game, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you are out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all that?" Again, the boy nodded yes.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."



### Egyptian this and that

A group of tourists was watching the re-enactment of an ancient Egyptian religious ritual. One pointed to the statue that was being praised, and asked a nearby local for the name of the god. "Why do you ask?" the local man replied.

The tourist shrugged. "Oh, just idol curiosity!"

## Mervyn Kelso

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# THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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Church Website: [www.cloughferparish.co.uk](http://www.cloughferparish.co.uk)

## THE SELECT VESTRY

<b>RECTOR'S CHURCHWARDEN</b> David Garland Tel: 07753 486063	<b>PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN</b> Jane Dunn Tel: 07809 276378
<b>PEOPLE'S CHURCHWARDEN</b> Elizabeth McWatters Tel: 028 9050 6805	<b>HONORARY SECRETARY</b> Gillian Webb Tel: 07746 423424
<b>RECTOR'S GLEBEWARDEN</b> Tanya Kay Tel: 07597 916012	<b>HONORARY TREASURER</b> Caroline Tares Tel: 07870 761280

## ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Jennifer Boyd	Norman Dunn	Diana Harrington
Sandra Harvey	Christine Hunter	Billy Ingram
Kerry McIlwaine	Alan McNiece	Irene Orr
	Barbara Turkington	

## OTHER OFFICE HOLDERS

<b>BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT</b> <b>FUND SECRETARY</b> Diana Harrington Tel: 07742 739633	<b>PLANNED GIVING SECRETARY</b> Christine Hunter Tel: 07732 603202
<b>F.W.O. SECRETARY</b> David Mackey Tel: 028 9086 2581	<b>ONE-OFF GIFT AID SCHEME SECRETARY</b> Graham Cully Tel: 028 9085 3174
	<b>ORGANIST</b> Irene Orr Tel: 028 9087 9709

## CLOUGHFERN PARISH VISITING TEAM

Jo Cole, Shirley Flack, Audrey McKeag, Christine Hunter, Irene Orr

**SAFEGUARDING TRUST PANEL:** Clare Campbell, Norman Dunn

**PARISH REP FOR THE LEPROSY MISSION** Anne Sproule Tel: 9086 2689

## PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS - Church Halls Tel: 9086 0046

<b>Sunday</b>	11.00 am	<b>Sunday School – Up to 10 Years</b>	Gillian Webb	Tel: 9086 3305
	11.00 am	<b>Sunday School – 10 Years and above</b>	Barbara Turkington	07731 908039
<b>Monday</b>	10.30am	<b>Yoga</b>		
	7.30 pm	<b>Indoor Bowling</b>	Barrie Moore	07799 191621
	7.45 pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Cloughfern Guides and Rangers</b>	Gillian Webb	07746 423424
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.30 am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Gillian Webb and Christine Hunter	
	11.30 am	<b>Prayer Group</b>		
	6.45 pm - 8.00 pm	<b>Rainbow Guides</b>	Carole Coupe	07860 481773
	7.00 pm - 8.15 pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Cloughfern Brownies – 7 Years</b>	Ciara Field	07510 633036
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.30 am	<b>Ladies Badminton</b>	Christine Hunter	Tel: 9086 2651
	7.30 pm	<b>Indoor Bowling</b>	Barrie Moore	07799 191621
<b>Thursday</b>	6.30 pm	<b>Cub Scouts – 8 Years</b>	Chris Cully	07515 560282
	6.30 pm - 7.45 pm	<b>Beaver Scouts – 6 - 8 Years</b>	Linda Cherry	Tel: 9443 2173
	7.45 pm	<b>Scouts – 10 1/2 - 15 Years</b>	Geoff Hegarty	07736 310126
	7.45 pm	<b>Choir Practice</b>	Irene Orr	Tel: 9087 9709
<b>Mothers' Union</b> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month at 7.45pm				
<b>M.U. Prayer Group</b> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month at 7.15pm				

N.I. Charity No. 10321