

Footprints

Issue No. CCXXXIII

January 2022.

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Copy by 15th of month, please.

Happy New Year

with belated Christmas greetings as well from :

Harold & Liz Bentley

Heather & Eric Dale

Sandie & Pete Greenwood

A final thought from David

before he officially retires on January 2nd.....

Once again we found ourselves with a Christmas filled with uncertainties. The pandemic virus continues to rage across the world and threatens to cause problems for us once again as we enter the New Year. We may have thought it was all over and things were getting better but sadly that does not seem to be the case.

However, there is one certainty as Christians that we believe, it is the reminder each year that Emmanuel, God is with us. In the Christ child of Bethlehem God came amongst us. He lived and grew, died, and rose again this is indeed good news and a great gift for each of us.

I pray that you will keep safe, free from illness, and you will know the love of your family and friends in some way. Whether that is a physical presence or just knowing that they are there for you. We may ourselves be a little far away from you now but you are always in our thoughts. May you also know that our Saviour, Jesus holds us all in his thoughts each and everyday, Emmanuel, God with us is there for us every day.

Fun, faith, food and a very fond farewell

During the last week-end in November many of us gathered to say thank you and farewell to David and Jane Sherwin.

David arrived in our communities some 20 years ago accompanied by Jane and their three, then unmarried, daughters when he was licensed as Priest- in-Charge of the Martley Benefice which then comprised just three parishes and the five churches of Martley, Wichenford, Broadwas, Cotheridge and Knightwick .

On Saturday 27th November the Memorial Hall, Martley was filled with a motley throng of all ages for two hours of fun, music and memories served up alongside afternoon tea with lots of delicious cakes and savouries. There was the presentation of the famed golden clapper by the Path-or-ones, David duetting first with Tom Pearsall and then with wife Jane, a very funny poem about David written and read by Emily, a monologue, with apologies to Shakespeare, written by Jennifer and read by David and a very funny sketch performed by some of the bell ringers who presented David with a Welsh dragon puppet. The famed Chucky and other puppets appeared and a number, not including Chucky, were given away to children small and very big!

On Sunday 28th November St Peter's Church, Martley was filled with worshippers who had come to join with David and family at his last service as Team Rector for the Worcestershire West Rural Team (WWRT). Led by Team Vicar Anne Potter and Assistant Priest Jennifer Whittaker, it was a service full of faith, fun and not a few tears. David had written the service and it included his and Jane's favourite hymns many of which he played on his guitar. Heartfelt tributes were made to David and Jane by churchwardens and other representatives of the now 14 parishes and 16 churches of the WWRT Benefice that they were leaving to start their retirement in Wales. Lucy Cox and Andy Dickinson, the head teachers of the Martley Primary School and Chantry School respectively also paid tribute to David's work in the schools.

After the service everyone was invited to cross the road to the Chantry School to share in a pig roast supplied by Hilltop Farm, Cotheridge. This was served up with every kind of salad and followed by an extraordinary array of cake all supplied by members of the various churches.

An indication of just how David's ministry, supported by Jane, has been appreciated by the community he served was indicated by the extraordinary sums raised to give them a gift on their retirement. We were able to give them the garden furniture of their choice, a surprise minibreak with accommodation at Rick Stein's in Padstow, a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a substantial cheque for them to spend as they wished.

David and Jane have made a great impact in our area and will undoubtedly be greatly missed but they leave a wonderful legacy of care in our communities whether in the churches, pubs, schools, hospitals and village fetes and other events. They leave with our love and prayers for a long and happy retirement.

Dear friends

How time has flown since we had such a special weekend together. It was wonderful, though, mixed with sadness that we would be leaving you but you gave us a tremendous send off both on Saturday and on Sunday. What fun we had and what moving words were said about us. The 20 years we have been with you have been amazing and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to be your minister and friend for that time. We would like to thank you for the generous gifts we have received from you they were most appreciated and we look forward to using them, in Rhayader in our garden and will look forward to enjoying a holiday in Padstow Cornwall where we can use the voucher you gave us. The rest of the gift will come in most useful as there are needs that we do have even at present as we settle in to our new home I will write again to let you know how we are settling in but for now we just want to give one big thank you from both Jane and I for all your love and generosity both now and over the years and for the gifts that we have received from you.

God bless

Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year to all.

love from *David and Jane* xx

Poppy Appeal 2021

This years Poppy Appeal has raised £5484 This is a very good total seeing as how we are down five House to House Collectors.

I would like to thank the House to House Collectors we still have who went out and helped to contribute to our total. Also thank you to all our fixed point establishments.

Also thank you to everyone who contributed to our Poppy Appeal.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year.

Ed Jones & Sue Ganderton.
Poppy Appeal Organisers.



Members enjoyed a creative session with Jacqui demonstrating how to decorate some bags which she brought for us. By drawing pictures and designs using special felt pens and then carefully dropping rubbing alcohol on to the work we watched the colours spreading and mixing creating very stunning effects. We enjoyed being busy. We then partook of a light Christmas buffet.

Our next meeting will be Lunch at Holt Fleet on Wednesday January 26th at 12.30.

Happy New Year to all our members and their families.

Susan Reeve

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

....from the Friends' of St Leonard's, Cotheridge.

The new committee began in earnest last year with family-focused activities and we are very much looking forward to organising further events in the near future.

And now the new heating system has been commissioned the Nave is now much more comfortable as demonstrated on Christmas morning.

More details to follow

Services for January 2022

- 2nd 10.30 am – Contemplative Service, Broadwas Church
6.30 pm - Evensong, Cotheridge Church
- 9th 3.00pm - Evening Worship, Knightwick Chapel
- 12th 10.15 am Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley
- 16th 10.30am - Holy Communion, Broadwas Church
- 23rd 10.30 am – Morning Worship, Broadwas Church
- 26th 10.15 am Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley
- 30th 10.30am - WWRT Joint Service, Broadwas Church
Candlemas

continued from Footprints - December 2021

Some more local history - taken from the Worcester Herald Newspaper late 1920's and early 1930's and signed by "A Stroller" – This was a long running series of Worcestershire parish descriptions and histories written by Frederick Corbett, a local county solicitor.

SALE OF A PRESENTATION.

On the recusant rector being got rid of, or perhaps in anticipation of the riddance, the Dean and Chapter, evidently in financial difficulties, sold the presentation to the rectory; for that time finding a purchaser in William Cratford of Chelmarsh, Salop; whom Grazebrook assumes, and doubtless correctly, to have been of same family as the Cratfords who at the same date secured a lease of the manor.

WHEN THE RECTORY WAS A NABOTH'S VINEYARD.

Of Henry Bright, who became rector in the time of James I., I shall have to speak at some length. On his death, in 1627, the preferment, now so highly esteemed that, in order to secure an incumbent, it has been found necessary to unite the parish with two others, became the subject of a serious struggle between the Chapter and the Secretary of State, as a prize worth quarrelling over.

Secretary Conway, a local man and M.P. for Evesham, who later became Lord Conway of Ragley, near Alcester, wanted the rectory for his own chaplain, Thomas Archbold, and alleged a promise by a former Dean of the first vacancy, while the new Dean pleaded a personal promise to one of his Chapter, and the Chapter collectively protested that they had already nominated one of their own body.

Conway was persistent, and when the Dean died, renewed his claim; and the new Dean, William Juxon, the historic Juxon who later as a bishop attended Charles I., on the scaffold, referred the matter to the Bishop, by whose mediation the dispute was compromised.

THE CIDER AND PERRY TITHE

As at Martley, and much about the same date, there were difficulties at Broadwas between rector and parishioners, as to the tithe payable in respect of cider and perry. Increased production, stimulated by the propaganda of Andrew Yarranton, awakened clerical interest.

Instead of a rough drink, made from crabs and wild pears for farm labourers, cider and perry had become marketable commodities of importance, made from "vintage" fruits specially selected and carefully cultivated.

The Rector of Broadwas, like the rector of Martley, claimed tithe of the produce; while the farmers claimed a customary "modus" of two pence a hogshead, or only half of that offered at Martley.

Litigation in the High Court ensued, and the farmers secured evidence of aged men as to the custom. Probably the witnesses had been paid for their statements: for the rector, who speaks of them as "two old beggars," alleged subornation of perjury; and the farmers, alarmed by a threat of prosecution, gave way, compromised for arrears, by payment in some cases as high as eighteen pence per hogshead and guaranteed in future to pay tithe on cider and perry fruit, on same basis as on other smaller farm products. The terms of settlement appear to have been put on record as an order of the Court of Exchequer and are noted in the Parish book under date 1699, certified by the Rector.

SEVENTEEN CENTURY CHURCH COLLECTIONS.

The parish books contain records of church collections, of the latter part of the Seventeen Century; which Mr Noake, as was his custom, examined.

It is interesting to note the catholicity of objects. There was especially kind feelings for sufferers by fires, not then protected as nowadays by insurance; and whose misfortunes might any day be shared by those who, as they passed the church door, dropped contributions on plates held by the churchwardens. There were no collecting bags in those days, so the benevolent did not hide their light under a bushel; and the rector gave frequent opportunities of exhibiting it.

The sympathies of the parishioners extended far and wide, and many collections are reminders of European disasters and sorrows. One was for relief of distressed Irish, probably victims of the Civil War following the Revolution of 1688; and two were in aid of Protestant Churches, then suffering from persecution in Poland and the German Palatinate. One was for relief of French Huguenots, victims of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes; another towards ransoming Englishmen; held captive by the piratical Turks.

ENGLISH EARTHQUAKES

Of especial interest is a collection, on July 23, 1688. For sufferers by an earthquake in Yorkshire. This must have been one of a series of earthquakes, mentioned in Evelyn's Diary, as felt at a number of places in England; and which in London were accompanied by "a storm of wind as had seldom happened," which "kept the flood tide out of the Thames, so that people went on foot over several places above London Bridge." These outbreaks led to an interesting correspondence on the cause of earthquakes, between Evelyn and Dr Tenison, then Bishop of Lincoln and later Archbishop of Canterbury; which may be regarded as the up-to-date explanation of that period, and gives interesting information as to then recent experiments with explosives.

to be continued

Village Information

Church Officials:

Team Rector - vacant

Team Vicar - Rev Anne Potter 01886 832355

Assistant Priest - Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897

Churchwardens – Lower Teme Valley Parish

Rob Pearce 01886 821959

Peter Walker 01886 822137

Parish Councils

Broadwas & Cotheridge : **www.broadwas-cotheridge.com**

Chairman – Richard Burrows

Clerk – Carole Hirst tel: 07496 252637 (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm)

Email : parishclerk@broadwas-cotheridge.com

Knightwick & Doddenham

Clerk – Geoffrey Brewin 01886 821386

Village Hall—Broadwas Geoff Winkworth, Chairman,
01886 822215

and for all Bookings - Timesavers - 01905 312456,

www.timesaversconciierge.co.uk

Clubs and Societies

Broadwas Sports Assoc. Sec. - David Creed-Newton - 01886 880534
davidcreednewton@btinternet.com

Croquet Club – John Guy 01905 748192

Royal British Legion – Sue Ganderton 01905 422711

W.I. – Barbara Lloyd 01905 333635

Schools:

Broadwas C of E Primary School - Secretary 01886 821347

Bumblebees : Pre-school/Out-of-School Care 07817637241

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