

Footprints

Issue No. CCXXIII

March 2021.

Edited by Peter Walker, Norton Hse., Broad Green, Broadwas on Teme. (01886 822137)

E-mail : peter43walker@gmail.com

Copy by 15th of month, please.

THE END OF LOCK-DOWN IS IN SIGHT ?

[A bit of an improvement on the posters that used to say
“The End of the World is Nigh !]

Well, the snowdrops have been out for a while and the first crucuses and primroses are in bloom - Spring is on its way and things are looking brighter ?

We have just received the Government’s timetable for the easing of restrictions on movement and contact, if all the criteria and targets of disease control continue to be met.

Hopefully this means that by July / August we will start to see the normal run of social events happening again.

I know of certain groups who have decided to take it more cautiously and have actually postponed everything, to have a *new* start in 2022, but its for each group to set what they feel safe with - at least they will now have an option.

As things start to get moving again, I am hoping that the flow of social information will begin again and that there will be a little bit more to fill these pages, a big Thank you to those who have continued to feed me copy. It has been a struggle and things have definitely changed. In a little over 12 months, I will have been producing Footprints for 20 years, I think that might be the time for someone else to take over the reins ? Please !! If you have the IT skills in publishing or are willing to learn, please get in touch - I am willing to hand over as soon as maybe.

Church Words by Rev. Canon David Sherwin

Almost a year has gone by since we were told as a nation that we had to stay at home, Lockdown had begun and since then though we have had brief respites we are still struggling to move forward.

Last year we had the difficult news to contend with that places of worship had to close. We were not even allowed to open them for private prayer. Yet it was necessary for everyone's safety though hard for those who missed being able to enter the building for prayer and worship. Lent and Easter moved online and we learnt new skills very quickly, you tube and Zoom became part of our everyday planning. The Church never stopped being the church.

Thankfully we have moved a long way since then and places of worship are now open for private prayer and worship. This means that Lent and Easter can be celebrated even though there will still be restrictions on numbers inside our buildings.

The rhythm of the seasons and our Christian festivals are so important to our lives. The seasons are not stopped by a pandemic and neither is our yearly remembrance of our Lord's ministry amongst us, his passion and resurrection. It is good to be reminded, as we do in Lent, that Christ himself walked a difficult path, indeed he walked the way of the Cross, and we reflect that he calls us to take up our cross, deny ourselves and walk with him.

Life has its difficulties and those difficulties have been amplified by the pandemic, yet Jesus Identifies with us in his suffering on the cross. But there is a rainbow after the storm, there is resurrection, there is new life. For we as Christians believe that's Jesus rose again from the dead and is alive bringing hope for us all. This indeed is Good news and it is the message of the Church that has not changed for 2000 years and no pandemic or war or anything can take that hope away from us. Whatever we face we know that Jesus promise is true. "*I am with you always*". Through good times and through bad we know that God is love, and that love caused him send his Son into the world to live, die and rise again, and his love cannot be quenched by anything,

St. Paul knew that in all his troubles and said;

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Rom 8 38-9

I do hope that the message of Lent and Easter can bring us all the Hope that beyond suffering there is life, for Jesus promised 'life in all its fullness' to his followers.

God bless you and go with you

WWRT 2021 LENT TALKS ON ZOOM

'Sustaining Faith During Covid'

Wednesday 24th February

Revd Stephen News, C of E Chaplain at HMP Long Lartin, talks about coping with lockdown

Wednesday 3rd March

Revd Canon Mia Hilborn, Head of Spiritual Health Care and Hospitaller at Guys and St Thomas NHS Trust, London shares her experiences on the medical frontline

Wednesday 10th March

Harriet Baldwin, MP talks about how her faith has sustained her in facing the challenges within Government

Wednesday 17th March

Karen Smith, Primary Teacher explains how her faith has kept her going through the demands of educating children both in school and online

Wednesday 24th March

Bishop of Dudley, The Rt Revd Martin Gorick shares his experience of moving during lockdown and offers an opportunity to meet him

All talks start at 7.30pm and finish at 8.45pm latest with Compline.

To register please email Revd Anne Potter on

anne.wwrteam@gmail.com

At our Zoom meeting this week Stella challenged us with a 'Love' themed quiz. It is always interesting to learn something new and I think we all enjoyed the occasion. We had time for a chat and Lizzie shared some funny verses by Spike Milligan. We agreed that at our meeting in March we would share a short verse, preferably humorous. This will be for 2pm on March 17th. We also decided to have a coffee chat Zoom meeting at 2pm on March 3rd. Zoom invites will be sent out nearer the date.

Susan Reeve

Knightwick & District Trefoil Guild

Our small but active group sends out this message:

To all current and previous members of Girlguiding, this is an invitation to join the Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday afternoon of each month, currently on Zoom. We have members from Bromyard, Knightwick, Clifton-upon-Teme, Martley and Worcester. You can become a member of a Trefoil Guild whether or not you were involved in Girlguiding, but must be 18 or over. We support the guiding ethos, pass on skills and knowledge, we support our local communities, take on new challenges and generally have a good time with friends.

There are over 1,100 Trefoil Guilds - if Knightwick is not for you, try Worcester Evening Guild. Contact details are Susan Reeve email susan.reeve@reevery.net

As at present you would be most welcome to join our Zoom meetings. When we are able to meet in person we will be enjoying meetings at the Hop Pocket, making silver clay jewellery as well as other exciting outings and events where we can participate in a wide range of activities. We meet monthly and if you are interested in joining us I would be delighted to hear from you.

Church Services in March

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| March 7th (Lent 3) | 10.30am Celtic morning prayer Martley group |
| March 14th (Mothering Sunday) | 10.30am Wichenford Mothering Sunday Service 10.30am Martley Mothering Sunday Service 10.30am Broadwas Mothering Sunday Service |
| March 21st (Lent 5) | 4.00 pm Team Zoom service |
| March 28th (Palm Sunday) | Usually Laylocks outdoor event, <i>To Be Confirmed</i> |
| Holy Week | |
| Mon 29th March | 8.00pm St Peter's Martley (Compline in church) |
| Tues 30th March | 9.00pm St. Laurence Wichenford (Compline in church) |
| Wed 31st March | 9.00pm St. Mary Magdalene Broadwas (Compline in church) |
| Thurs 1st April (Maundy Thursday) | 7.00 pm Zoom Passover Meal |
| Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) | 12.00pm-1.00pm - Martley Church |
| Sunday 4th April (Easter Day) | 9.30am Broadwas Holy Communion 11.00am Martley Holy Communion 10.30am Wichenford HC by extension |

All services are subject to government covid guidance and restrictions at the time.

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.

BROADWAS – “A Thoroughly English Village”

Broadwas, whose rectory we found held, since 1928, in conjunction with that of Knightwick and Doddenham, is a small and exceedingly fertile Teme-side parish; lying east of Doddenham and extending east to Cotheridge; and bounded north by Wichenford, and south by the river, which separates it from Lulsley and Leigh.

SOIL AND CROPS

The parish has, in modern times, been the subject of several boundary adjustments, giving here and taking there; and now contains 1108 acres, of which 683 are rich Teme-side alluvial deposits, with much liable to flood and all of similar character to those meadows in Doddenham, that Habington, three centuries ago, pronounced “pastures comparing with the best in the nation”. These Teme-side lands have for countless centuries been kept in permanent grass, as religiously as the famous “Backs” at Cambridge.

The Uplands of Broadwas, mainly tillage, are of much better quality to those of Doddenham. Instead of rising to 570 feet, their maximum height is about 200; and this soil, consisting of marl on subsoil marl, is well adapted to mixed husbandry, producing excellent crops of cereals, beans, roots, hops and fruit.

DRAINAGE AND COMMUNICATION.

The drainage is by the River Teme, and by some very small tributary books, mentioned in a charter of the year 786 and which ca still be identified.

The main road from Bromyard to Worcester, by way of Knightsford Bridge, passes through the parish from west to east; and is supplemented by minor ones, connection with Wichenford and the new Broadheath district of St John in Bedwardine.

Worcester is six miles distant; and Knightwick Station three miles.

POPULATION, OCCUPATIONS AND AMENITIES

The population at the Census of 1921 was 260; and the sole industry is agriculture; including fruit growing. Village amenities include a famous old wayside inn, “The Royal Oak,” post office with telegraph and telephone services, police station, public garage, motor engineer, haulier, carrier, butcher, smith, and two grocers. The Post Office Directory of forty years ago mentioned several other tradesmen; who have since been driven out of business by the townsman’s van.

THE VILLAGE

The village, from which there is a fine view of the Malvern Hills, stands on a natural terrace overlooking the Teme; with the church

below in a wooded hollow nearer to the river; and Mr Noake, after a visit some eighty years ago, reported that he did not know “ a more pleasing bit of rural scenery or a more thoroughly English village.” Visitors of today will agree.

An old half-timbered house, known as “The Butts,” and of which there is a view in the Victoria History of Worcestershire; and is attributed to the “Fifteenth Century “or earlier” with Seventeenth Century additions. Near it diverges the approach to the church; a lane shaded by lofty trees.

“CHURCH WALK”

“Church Walk” still remained in Mr Noake’s time, the fitting scene of a picturesque practice at burials when, by immemorial usage, the funeral procession halted, whatever the weather, and deposited the coffin in the middle of the road, forming a circle round it, and paid to the dead the homage of a ceremonial bow.

KING OFFA’S GRANT.

For seven and a half centuries, Broadwas was Priory property under a Grant of the year 786, made to the Church of Worcester by the Mercian King Offa. The Grant is one of those treated of in Dr Grundy’s recently published “Saxon Charters”; in which he has succeeded in tracing and identifying the manorial boundaries.

In those times the name was Bradwas, meaning “Broad-waters”; and it seems probable that the Teme at this point then formed a shallow lake, or at least marsh, which in subsequent centuries silted ; and that the river channel changed its course, left portions of the former bed upon opposite banks; which in modern times has involved the rectification of parochial boundaries.

Thus in 1884, portions of Broadwas , which had been left by the shrunken channel south of the river and geographically attached to Leigh, was surrendered to that parish

In other respects natural features remain much as in Offa’s time, and can be recognized by the description in the Survey of that period.

[To be continued as space allows]

Village Information

Church Officials:

Priest in Charge - Rev David Sherwin 01886 888664
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 – Eric Dale
Clerk – Carole Hirst tel: 07903 377066 (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm)
Email : parishclerk@broadwas-cotheridge.com

Knightwick & Doddenham

Clerk – Geoffrey Brewin 01886 821386

Clubs and Societies

Broadwas Sports Assoc. Sec. - Gill Brooks 01886 821292
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

Footprints Production Team

Editor: Peter Walker 01886 822137 ; peter43walker@gmail.com
Treasurer & Distribution Organiser: Paul Reeve 01886 821322
Green Pages Entries : through Adrian at:
info@timesaversconciierge.co.uk