

Footprints

Issue No. CCXXXX

August 2022.

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



at Cotheridge Church
Saturday 3rd September
at 7.30pm

with Michael Lunts who entertained us so well
a couple of years ago, that time with his
rendition of Flanders and Swann.

Tickets £12.00

Now available online from "Ticket Source" by
searching "Tickling the Ivories Cotheridge"
or phone 07543 606629

Join him for an entertaining evening of comedy songs !

Church Words by Rev Anne Potter

Recently I came across this poem by Arthur Hugh Clough. Being out of copyright, due to its age, I am able to share it through the parish magazine :

There is no God' (1850)

*'There is no God,' the wicked saith, 'And truly it's a blessing,
For what he might have done with us it's better only guessing.'*

*'There is no God,' a youngster thinks, 'Or really, if there may be,
He surely did not mean a man always to be a baby.'*

*'There is no God, or if there is,' the tradesman thinks, "twere funny
If he should take it ill in me to make a little money.'*

*'Whether there be,' the rich man says, 'It matters very little,
For I and mine, thank somebody, are not in want of victual.'*

*Some others, also, to themselves, who scarce so much as doubt it,
Think there is none, when they are well, and do not think about it.*

*But country folks who live beneath the shadow of the steeple;
The parson and the parson's wife, and mostly married people;*

*Youths green and happy in first love, so thankful for illusion;
And men caught out in what the world calls guilt, in first
confusion;*

*And almost everyone when age, disease, or sorrows strike him,
Inclines to think there is a God, or something very like Him.*

The author, Clough, had many periods of religious doubt during his life, and because he was unable to subscribe to the 39 Articles, detailing the beliefs of the Church of England, he resigned from his position as a Fellow at Oriel College in Oxford. He lectured in America for a while before returning to London to work for the Department of Education. Clough was interested in radical politics and a tireless supporter of his wife's cousin Florence Nightingale, who was a woman of great faith.

Whilst Clough's poem is in many ways light-hearted and has the rhythm of a nursery rhyme it raises questions around the nature of faith. In the first four stanzas he presents the self-absorbed reactions of different people to God's existence – the 'wicked', a 'youngster', a 'tradesman' and a 'rich man'. The second half moves to specifically country people, the 'parson', 'married people', 'youths' and then to 'everyone' who when faced with getting old, disease or sorrow are inclined to think there may be God after all. This nineteenth century poem presents insights into human nature and the place of faith in folk's lives but it could just as well reflect (with a slight adjustment to the gender issue and the parson and his wife) twentieth century thinking. 'There is no God' - there could be - offering doubters or those of little faith, a glimmer of hope in a God of grace and mercy as revealed by Christ in the first century.

As you reflect on the poem may God fill you with peace in the coming month.

Rev Anne

Cheese and Pudding Evening

A really big thank you to Rob and Yvonne Pearce for organizing another great evening in their garden at Little Green. Even though the sun didn't shine and an extra layer was needed by the end of the evening, the rain held off and everyone was able to enjoy the great spread of food provided.

Our thanks to everyone who helped in the setting up and running of the evening. Also to all those who provided such a varied selection of inviting puddings - the waistline will have to wait to recover ?!!

Thank you to everyone who came, it was good to see so many familiar faces and a few new ones for a happy and relaxed evening.

Events Diary - August

4 th Thurs	12 - 2.00pm	Lunch in Company at Broadwas Village Hall
7 th Sun	10.30am	Morning Worship - Broadwas Church
8 th Mon		NO Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council this month
10 th Wed	10.15am	Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley
14 th Sun	3.00pm	Evening Worship - Knightwick Chapel
18 th Thurs	2.00-4.00pm	“Cuppa and Chat” - Cotheridge Church
21 st Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion - Broadwas Church
22 nd Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayers - Broadwas Church
24 th Wed	10.15am	Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley
27 th Sat	10.30 - 12 noon	Charity Coffee Morning for Barnardos at Martley Village Hall
28 th Sun	10.30am	Morning Worship - Broadwas Church
29 th Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayers - Knightwick Chapel

SEPTEMBER

1 st Thurs	12 - 2pm	Lunch in Company at Broadwas Village Hall
3 rd Sat	7.30pm	“ Tickling the Ivories ” with Michael Lunt at Cotheridge Church

Cuppa and Chat

Thursday 18th August 2-4pm

Please come and join us at St Leonard's, Cotheridge for our next '**Cuppa and Chat**' as we begin to develop the church as a regular community space. Enjoy our Thursday afternoon sessions when you are welcome to join some of us for a natter and catch up on what is going on locally.

Cotheridge Fete

Saturday 9th July dawned and it was dry and warm and sunny. The fete was set up ready for the opening. All the main stalls did really well and I would like to thank everyone for all the effort that they put in. Peter Walker and his gang of helpers did tremendously well setting up the tents, collecting tables and chairs from around the countryside – which takes all of the Friday; and again on the Sunday to take everything down. Thank you. To all the stall holders – thank you for organising everything so well on the day and the preparation behind the scenes.

What a lovely way to spend an afternoon - the fete gives the opportunity to all the locals (and others) to come together, chat and relax. Meet old friends, make new ones, watch the mad antics of some and laugh and enjoy oneself.

Well done everyone. Thank you to all the locals for supporting the Fete and for bringing all your friends and family. I will let you know how much we have raised when I receive the final figures but to date it is just short of **£3000** (we usually get a bit more in after the event to add to it).

Next year's, 2023, Fete will be on Saturday July 8th, the second Saturday in July as usual. Please put it in your diary. We can only do the fete if you have this booked in now!

Thanks again to everyone

Pauline

A comment from an outsider visitor :

“A magnificent fete, one of the best in the County, if not the Country – a beautiful garden setting, plenty of traditional stalls, and at only two hour long there was a continuous buzz of activity – really well organized - Thank you !”

This month's speaker was Ken Downes who came to talk to us about his career as a Silversmith. Ken made his talk very interesting with explanations as to how Hallmarking came about and what the markings represented. We enjoyed seeing some fine examples of silver ware and the photographs of some of the items Ken had created through his working life.

It was good to welcome Ken and Sharon to share our Summer Lunch Buffet prior to the talk. Thank you to the members who provided the spread. It was all delicious.

We paused for a minute at the beginning of the meeting in respect for Jay Popplewell who died recently, soon after her 90th birthday. We had hoped to celebrate with her. She will be sadly missed. Jay had been a longstanding member of WI, always ready to help and advise and had taken the office of President and remained as a committee member. She was so generous and one WI member noted that Jay could knit more 'Teddies for children in hospital' than other WI members.

August is the month when we plan our outing which will be to Witley Court. We will contact members with date and time in a week or so.

Susan Reeve

Worcestershire open studios

<http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk>

As part of Worcestershire open studios, local artist Jacqui Worrall will have her studio open for visitors on

Saturday 27th to Monday 29th
at Alune, Bromyard road Cotheridge 11am - 5pm.

Jacqui is a batik artist, who also paints in acrylics and oil, and has a love of colour. She will also have her hand dyed, hand spun Alpaca yarn, scarves and wraps on display and for sale, among a variety of other gifts and cards. Tea and cake available. Come along and have a look!!

Worcestershire open studios covers the whole of Worcestershire with many artists studios and home studios open to the public. Brochures detailing all the open studios will be available at Laylocks garden centre.

Some more local history - from the Stroller

THE “MAKER” OF THE WORCESTER KING’S SCHOOL.

Very notable among “Worcestershire Worthies,” and pre-eminent among those of Broadwas, was Henry Bright; for 40 years master of the King’s School at Worcester; and upon whom, according to Penn, a Coat of Arms was bestowed by the King “for that he was a most excellent scholar and rare teacher of the tongues.” It is noticeable that the “Arms” as granted were without “crest” as if to mark recognition of civilian in lieu of customary military service.

Bright was essentially a Worcester man, the family pedigree in Burke tracing from Nathaniel Bright of Worcester, born 1493, who was his grandfather. Henry himself was baptized at Worcester in 1562; and married a daughter of Rowland Berkeley of Worcester, the common ancestor of the Spetchley and Cotheridge families, so that he was brother-in-law of Judge Berkeley and uncle of Sir Rowland, “the Cavalier.”

“The King’s School,” so styled in recognition of the Charter of Henry VIII., which gave it a regularized status, was, like most of those bearing royal names, a refoundation of an ancient monkish school. The dissolution of the Priory left this in a somewhat derelict condition; from which the newly constituted governing body, the Dean and Chapter, perhaps from lack of experience long failed to extricate it. There were frequent changes of masters, and unfortunate selections, and much friction, evidenced by formal and probably injudicious “monitions,” administered to the masters in the Chapter House, and by them treated with contempt.

FULLER’S EULOGY.

From this chaotic condition, which lasted some forty years, the school was rescued by Henry Bright, of whom Fuller wrote, “For my part I behold this Master Bright placed by Divine Providence in this City in the Marches, that he might equally communicate the lustre of grammar learning to youth both of England and Wales;” and whom, on death, the Dean as Chairman of the governing body of the School, eulogised in an epitaph inscribed on his memorial, as a “Very famous Schoolmaster, than whom no one was more industrious, learned or skillful, in successful teaching Latin, Greek or Hebrew; as witness both Universities, whom he sufficiently furnished with numerous learned young men.”

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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