

APRIL 2020



**SULHAMSTEAD & UFTON NERVET
PARISH MAGAZINE 70P**

Parish Directory

St Mary's Church, Sulhamstead Abbots. RG7 4ED.

Website: www.sunchurch.co.uk

Rector (Priest in Charge): Canon John Paton

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Tel: 0118 384 2158

Email: sunrector@outlook.com

Church Wardens:

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Church Flowers:

Nancy Beabey

Tel: 0118 933 1949

Wedding Organiser:

Dorcas Green

Tel: 0118 983 5369

Churchyard:

**Edward Bucknall
Tommy Knight**

St Mary's Church **Sulhamstead Abbots**

Owing to the latest Government advice, all services are cancelled until further notice and the Church will be closed. Please see St Mary's and the Parish Council websites for updates on the situation. If you have a particular concern or issue, please contact Canon John or the Church Wardens.

The Diocese of Oxford is providing a single live-streamed Eucharist each Sunday and on principal Holy Days. The first of these services will be this Sunday, 29th March and will be broadcast on the Bishop of Oxford Facebook page, the Diocese of Oxford Facebook page and YouTube.

If you require, or can offer, any assistance during the current crisis, see the page opposite for details of the Sulhamstead Helpers group.



LOCAL HELP DURING ISOLATION

We want to spread good around the neighbourhood: to help anyone living here as promptly as possible with practical needs and support.

Which means more than shopping, we can do that, but help like being on the end of the line for a chat, or to help setup technology so you can be more connected... if you have a need and feel stuck, just ask!

Giving just one phone number or person for the everywhere will become really difficult to handle - so we have come up with a means of matching needs with available helpers in the most efficient way. Better still there's an ever-growing team of volunteers waiting to respond (already 30+).

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

If you NEED help then please fill out this form: <https://u.nu/sulneed>

If you can OFFER help the please fill out this form: <https://u.nu/sulhelp>

If you want to keep in touch with activity in the community, then please visit our Facebook Page and join the community: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sunberks>

Turnaround to requests for help will be as prompt as possible, ideally same day, but if you have submitted the form give us a little time to find the right person to help with your needs.

This service will continue for as long as there is isolation, so please keep these links. The chances are you may end up needing both at different times!

PLEASE NOTE

This service is not for medical help, if you are concerned then follow advice and call 111. If it is urgent, then call 999.

Coronavirus is highly contagious, so we will ensure we keep to a safe distance of over 2 metres. If shopping or dropping off we will leave items on your doorstep where possible, but ensure you can collect them at drop off.

If you have any questions, then please email sulhelpers@gmail.com or, if you have already received a flier, call the person who posted it to you and they will help in any way possible.

From Canon John Paton

The story is told of a man who messaged his wife at home, 'Start worrying. Details to follow.' If there was a lot of anxiety at the start of this outbreak of the covid19 virus, I hope, now we have the details, things are calmer now. There is no pathogen lurking outside our front door, ready to attack us when we lower our guard. Unlike earlier plagues, it doesn't come in food or water, it's not carried to us in the wind, we can't get it from animals or insects, it won't come down the chimney. As I write there are 10 confirmed cases in West Berkshire, out of a total population of 159,000. Whether the nearest case is 2 or 100,000 people away from us, the only way it can break into our lives, as far as we know, is by coughing, sneezing or touching. Virtually everyone in the county is aware of this; and if we obey the guidance we've been given on social distancing and social isolation, it is to all intents and purposes physically impossible for any of us to succumb. The risks, if not negligible, are certainly minimal, and can be guarded against.

We all are doing what we can. And part of the protection that's now in place involves the suspension of public worship. We've been told that we must keep the church closed until further notice. For the next few months, prayer and worship will have to take place in people's homes. The Church of England has put up many resources on its website, and I'd encourage you to look for those. Otherwise, dig out a Prayer Book and a Bible, and re-enter the familiar pattern that way. Anthony and I will hold a communion service every Sunday at 10am, when we will hold you all in prayer; but sadly (and it's painful to have to say this) we just can't welcome people to join us while we're doing that. If we can get the technology to work for us, we may be able to record some of what we do and make it available on the website. Watch this space.

Watch out too for the weather on Easter Day: if it's warm and sunny in the morning we may be able to hold a service outside, to which you will be able to bring your own deck-chair and a small piece of bread; and - subject to social distancing provisions, which we shall enforce as if our lives depended upon it (as, in fact, just might be the case) - we may be able to celebrate the Resurrection together and sing the familiar hymns.

Please do stay in touch - with me and with each other. Keep well, stay safe; and may God be with you.



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From the editors ...

Well, these are certainly alarming and unprecedented times. We are all understandably worried for ourselves and our families. We used to think that this awful situation was being made even worse by the eeyores and doom-mongers of the press and social media 'influencers' but now we're beginning to wonder if they were right! No wonder we don't know where to turn ...

The depletion of supermarket shelves by the selfish minority appears to be completely unnecessary: have hens stopped laying eggs, are cows not producing milk and toilet roll production lines idle? Clearly not, as our local independent shops are still well stocked and need our custom more than ever. Well done Wellers, Warings, Hill Farms, Nisa, Londis etc.

The rapid reaction of local communities all over the country, coming together to make sure the most vulnerable members of the community are looked after, is heartwarming. You will see notices from our own SUN group on page 3. If you need help - or can offer help - please do get in touch.

There are a few other slivers of silver lining. Dolphins and swans are back in the waters of the Venetian lagoon now that there are fewer people and much less rubbish in the water. Carbon emissions have dropped dramatically with much less traffic on the roads and in the skies. Maybe now people will stop blaming cattle (and their methane) for global warming ..

Alas, this is small consolation for those who are suffering from Covid-19 or who will lose loved ones, or for those whose businesses and livelihoods are threatened by the pandemic. Most of us will eventually recover from this. For some however, this virus may be the final straw: the farmers still recovering from the catastrophic bush fires and those striving to feed the starving animals; flood victims whose homes and possessions were destroyed by the incessant rain; refugees, the homeless. It is a long list.

Hopefully we will all make the best of this period of enforced incarceration and perhaps emerge from it with a different perspective on life. Keep safe and well.

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If anyone is self-isolating on the 2nd and requires some other help please let us know and we will do our best to support you. Contact 0782 456 7508 or mary@rialls.com



Do you know about The William Bishop Trust?

The Trust was set up for the benefit of students under the age of 25 years who are in need of financial help towards the furtherance of their education. This can be for help to buy specialist clothing, tools, books, musical instruments and any other item needed for the continuation of their study.

The charity was founded by the late William Bishop in 1846, to establish a church school for the poor children in the Parish of Ufton Nervet. It is highly probable that the present Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet Primary School is the direct successor of the school founded in 1846.

To benefit from a grant from the trust, the applicant have been, or is at present, a pupil of the S.U.N. School. Applications from eligible students are welcomed and will be dealt with by the trustees in confidence. Written applications should be sent to:-

Mrs Sheila Price, The Abbots, Sulhamstead Abbots, RG7 4EE or email theabbots@hotmail.com



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

“Government guidelines now require that all normal social activity ceases, which includes the programme of events and classes run by our Village Hall Users. The Hall is therefore closed until further notice. As a central focal point in the community the Hall will of course still be available for formal community meetings such as Parish Councils if required and emergency use such as acting as a distribution centre for support to needy and vulnerable members of our community. The latter could only occur with advice and support from the relevant authorities. All usage at this time can only be within the prevailing Covid-19 guidelines.

The Village Hall Trustees and Hall Manager would like to thank all our Users and other Friends for their support and would like to wish you and your families and friends our very best wishes in these unprecedented times.”

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Children's Church

We welcomed a number of familiar and new faces to our March Children's church and We talked about Lent, how Jesus went out into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. We discussed why Sundays weren't counted, as they are holy days.

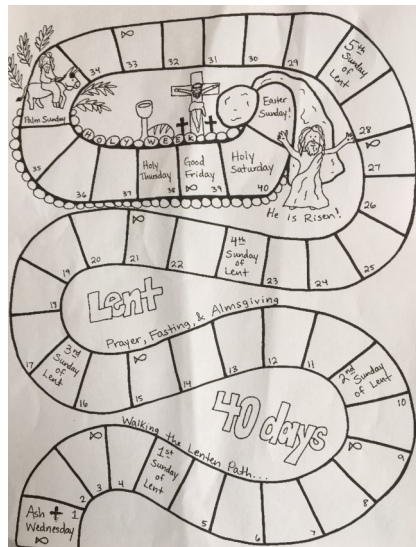
We talked about how generous God was, giving up his only son and about the last week of Lent and how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, how he had his last supper with the Disciples on Holy Thursday and rose again on Easter Sunday.

We talked about it being the 'purple' season, the colour of kings, and we made a purple jigsaw in the shape of cross. The back was white, to signify purity.

We talked about how Jesus fasted in the wilderness and how good it would be if, rather than giving something up for Lent, we might do something generous instead, like God did in giving up his son. The children suggested things like giving up their clothes or toys to charity, picking up litter when we were out walking or giving food to food banks.

We coloured in 'time lines', a day by day journey through the 40 days of Lent, and they children took these home so they could use them as a Lent 'diary', to write in all the good things that they do.

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Ever wondered who or what is Generation Z?

If there was a prize to be given for the number of key people you've influenced before you are 18, Greta Thunberg would probably win. She has had an extraordinary time of it, speaking at major conferences, going to key venues and meeting many important world leaders. Yet she is only 17. She is part of the 'Gen Z' generation.

Who are the 'Gen Z'? First, let's set them in context.

The large numbers of people born after the ending of the Second World War, especially in the UK, were 'baby boomers', which was then shortened to just 'boomer.'

Births in the second half of the 1960s and 1970s were fewer in number; they "stopped the boom" as it were. Then Douglas Coupland published his book *Gen X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture* in 1991 and the phrase instantly stuck: they were "Gen X" (born 1964 to 1982) from then on.

The children of Gen X could naturally be called Gen Y, and they were, at first. But as they were born between 1983 and 2001, the term 'Millennials' was irresistible. Their children are all Gen Z, here taken as 2002 to 2020, that is, they are all 21st century!

They weren't born when 9/11 happened; only a few were born when Concorde was mothballed in 2003 and someone born in 2005 was only 11 when the Brexit Referendum took place!

I never thought I'd say it but ...

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St Mary's 100 Club

Winners of the March draw were

1st:	<i>Elizabeth Hawkes</i>
2nd:	<i>Jane Slater</i>
3rd:	<i>Ursula Aitken</i>

Congratulations to all the winners

As services have been suspended for the time being, we are still working on arrangements for the 100 Club draw and will notify members in next month's magazine.

All in the month of APRIL

It was:

250 years ago, William Wordsworth, British Romantic poet, was born.

150 years ago, Vladimir Lenin, Russian communist politician and revolutionary was born.

75 years ago, starting 1st April to 22nd June, the Battle of Okinawa, the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War, was fought.

Also 75 years ago, the concentration camps at Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen and Dachau were liberated; also, Colditz Castle POW prison.

65 years ago, American fast-food pioneer Ray Kroc opened his first McDonald's franchise in Des Plaines, Illinois.

50 years ago, US President Richard Nixon announced that the USA was sending troops into Cambodia to hunt Viet Cong, sparking widespread protests.

30 years ago, the Hubble Space Telescope was launched.

15 years ago, Charles, Prince of Wales married Camilla Parker Bowles.

10 years ago, Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano erupted explosively, sending a plume of volcanic ash across NW Europe. Air travel was disrupted for six days.

Only six days - we didn't realise how lucky we were ...

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SULHAMSTEAD & UFTON NERVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ash and Sycamore class went on an exciting trip to Winchester Science Museum at the end of February. Both classes took part in exciting workshops; Ash even launched their own rockets using real rocket fuel! The children really enjoyed exploring the exhibits, many of which linked to their science learning about forces, space and the human body. The day finished with a fascinating show in the planetarium, finding out about what makes our galaxy.

World book Day saw all the children and staff dress up as characters from their favourite books. As the theme was share a story, we wrote a 'whole school' story during the day, starting with Acorns class and being passed on through the school. We got together at the end of the day to share the story.

Acorn and Oak class had a visit from the 'Road Rangers'. This was a fun session to teach the children about road safety.

We were very grateful to our army of parent helpers who spent a recent Sunday morning in school tidying and cleaning the grounds. The flower beds have been planted up and the outside areas look ready for the arrival of spring. Thank you!

Our junior football team have played extremely well this term, securing themselves a place in the South West Regional Finals of the Small School competition. Our choir have also been practising hard learning songs and a dance for the Anvil Junior Music Festival. Unfortunately, both events have been postponed due to the coronavirus but we are hopeful they will go ahead next term.

Helen Edwards

Factoid: Why is the passionflower called the passionflower?

This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens, was discovered in South America by Spanish missionaries centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

The five petals and five sepals represent the 10 disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona is the crown of thorns. The stigma is the cross or nails, and the five stamens are the number of wounds Jesus received.

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A NEW TWIST ON EASTER LAMB

Instead of roasting a bone-in leg, why not try butterflied leg of lamb instead, easy to cook and carve.

Mix together 2 tbsp olive oil, 3 crushed garlic cloves and the zest juice of one lemon. Pour this over a 1.5kg butterflied leg of lamb, cover and leave in the fridge for at least two hours.

When you are ready to cook, bring the lamb back to room temperature, season with salt and pepper then cook at 200C or Gas 6 for approx. one hour if you like your lamb pink or 75 mins if you prefer it well done. Cooking time vary according to the thickness of the meat so test this after about 45 minutes of cooking - you may need to turn the oven down or cover the meat.

Whilst it's cooking, make a dressing by blending/pounding the chopped rind of 2 preserved lemons and 50g of green olives, then stir in 4 tbsp olive oil, the juice of one lemon, 30g of capers and some chopped dill. Once the lamb is cooked, spoon over half the dressing and leave the meat to rest for 10 minutes, covering with some foil. Serve the remaining dressing with the meat.

This is even more delicious when barbequed or grilled, served with crispy roast potatoes and a green salad.

As seen on FB (hoping this isn't a breach of copyright ...)

Waiting for new Aussie slang to be born in the next few months.
Early guesses:

Sanny – hand sanitiser
In iso – self isolation/lockdown
The Rona – self explanatory
Magpie – supermarket hoarder

In a sentence: "Me boss tested pozzi for the Rona so now I'm in iso. Popped down to Woolies for some sanny but it's been bloody magpie'd".



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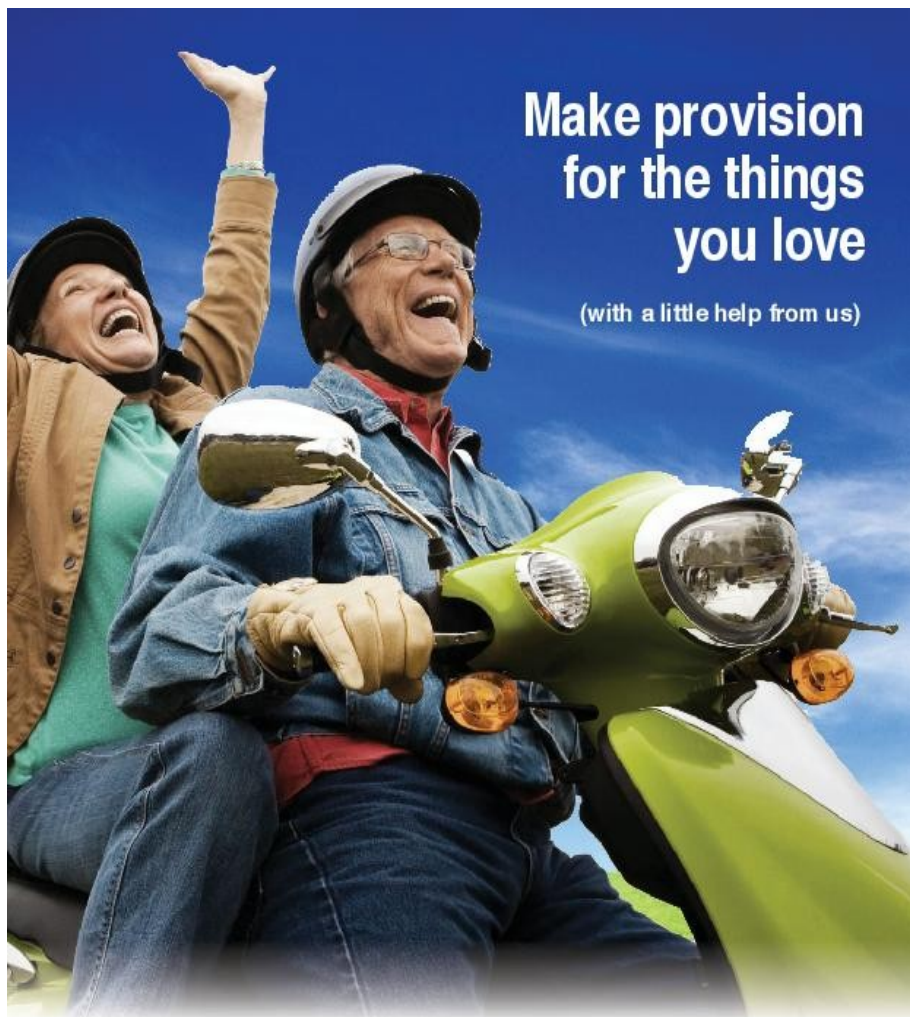
Flood, Drought and Pestilence

It seems incredible that, after enduring one of the wettest Februarys, my thoughts now turn to drought as peak bedding plant production looms. My general attitude to outside watering is 'only when absolute necessary', so in my bedding plant planning I try and incorporate those that are reasonably drought tolerant.

At the top of my list this year are ivy-leaved geraniums, the trailing ones with semi-succulent leaves. Two years ago, I bought six plug plants which have now increased to 59 sturdy specimens. Although 'ordinary' geraniums are also fairly drought tolerant, I had much more propagatable material from the ivy-leaved versions at the end of the dry, last summer. Not only that but the cuttings came through the winter in much better condition, possibly because the waxy surface is less congenial to mould spores.

Also, near the top are bedding dahlias which are actually quite easy from seed and much cheaper than buying named tubers. I wasn't entirely happy with the Mignon Mixed variety I grew last year, so I have reverted to Bishop's Children. These derive from the named variety Bishop of Llandaff. They have single flowers, loved by the bees, and attractive bronze foliage, and the plants grow to a respectable size so fill the space well. Also, by the end of the season, the plants will have produced tubers that can be left for the following year if covered and the winter is not arctic. The downsides to seed, however, are that the colours are mixed and individual colours tend to vary in size. As I much prefer colour-blocking I took the trouble a few years ago to label all the plants so I could lift the tubers to segregate them by colour. Needless to say, my efforts were wasted as they all got frosted in storage!

My general attitude to dahlias has changed over the years. I used to think those with flowers the size of dinner plates were vulgarly unnatural and belonged in the same Dame Edna Everage category with gladioli and busy lizzies. However, as individual objects rather than contributors I now think they have personality and pizzazz. Many National Trust properties, like The Vyne, now devote a demonstration border to them. The most impressive display I saw was at Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire where lots of different varieties are grown on terraces either side of a mini valley. I did jot down the ones I would like but that's as far as it went as, currently, I just don't have the space to do them justice.



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At the time of writing Coronavirus is on the rampage. Like floods and droughts, it is another reminder that, despite our technological sophistication, it is nature that remains in charge. The government is considering ordering people of my age to stay at home - at least if I have to isolate, I can spend time in the greenhouse and garden producing bedding plants.

I am reminded of the Derbyshire village of Eyam from which general area my ancestors hail. Visited by the bubonic plague in 1665 it heroically opted for self-imposed quarantine led by their rector William Mompesson. In total 260 died, including Mompesson's wife, and many families were virtually wiped out. This is the major story in Eyam Museum, but there is another vignette of more personal interest. This concerns Dennis Growbags, a lead miner and probably one of my forebears. Trapped underground for six days he only survived by eating his tallow candle. Just think – if it had been made of wax I wouldn't be here, and you wouldn't be reading this.

Percy Growbags



CHURCH NOTICES

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our children's minister, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Baptisms: after Easter, the North and South ends of the church will be utilised. Children will be baptised at both ends.

Coming up: Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.

Next Sunday Mrs Brown will sing a solo at the morning service before the vicar preaches on the subject of 'Terrible experiences and how to survive them'.

Players picked for St Andrew's darts team will be pinned to the board on Thursday.



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DIARY OF A FAMILY ~~AT WAR~~ IN ISOLATION

Week 1

Lease up on London flat so Child A establishes squatter's rights in family home. (Uneasy) peace established until she coughs at work so ordered to 'work from home' (most depressing phrase in English language, next to 'replacement bus service'..) Home workstation set up, ground rules established, (uneasy) peace returns. Honey and lemon stocks depleted.

Week 2

Still coughing. Panic buying honey and lemons; wondering if Bank of England will scrap GBP and replace with loo rolls (currently selling for £5 each on eBay). Suddenly, my small and grotty serviced office in a near-deserted building seems attractive ...

Week 3

STILL COUGHING! Develop insight into mind of Caligula and alleged murder of virus-infested nephew. London threatened with lockdown so Child B returns home; within 15 minutes, taking lumps out of Child A. Develop sore throat from shouting at A & B. Time for Ground Rules. All agree. Ground Rules last 45 minutes. How difficult is it to remember which towel is whose? Wonder whether camp bed will fit into small and grotty office. Child B unloads essential self-isolation supplies: chocolate biscuits, crisps and mouldy avocado. Whines about lack of blinis and smoked salmon. Blame parenting skills. Have to leave house ...

Husband arrives home; millennial self-isolators hysterical due to his lack of self-isolation. Another row. Cat self-isolates in shed to get away from shouting. Have to leave house again; may take sleeping bag to small and grotty office...

Three days in, feels like three years. Jigsaws, Netflix, Scrabble, mainlining Lemsips: nothing alleviates boredom or familial conflict. Find self looking forward for first time ever to Saturday Night Take Away (Ant and Dec, not curry). Ooh, curry!

Bugger: two hour wait. A and B locate emergency Prosecco supplies; (very) temporary peace.

Oh nooo - they've shut small and grotty office. Need more Prosecco ...

And this is just the beginning ...





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The cricket season - along with every other aspect of UK life - is affected by the Covid-19 virus so practice and games are suspended until further notice. However, life goes on and we are hoping that the extension and refurbishment of the pavilion will be able to go ahead.

Plough Monday

Long before we all realised how complicated life was going to become, SUN school gathered on the playground on to celebrate Plough Monday on 27th January.

Local farmer Mr Hannington came with his tractor and plough. We were led in worship by Canon John who prayed for the planting of the seed and for a good harvest. Oak and Acorn classes then did some of their own planting of cress seeds, which grew a lot faster than Mr Hannington's crops! We look forward to Harvest when we trust all the crops have had a good growing season.



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A short note from an escapee ..

There we were, a botanist, a couple of engineers, a nuclear physicist, a couple of chaplains, a historian, a bunch of assorted graduates, a colonel and a one-time air cadet. Actually, we were just two elderly gents escaping house arrest. A scrupulously safe cup of tea (two metres apart), putting the world to rights again (see the above cast list), and proceedings moved outside to a spell of metal detecting and would you believe it (see above cast list) water divining. Both outdoor activities were rewarding (no Saxon hoards to be found behind the Victorian privy yet, and not much value in the hand made nail so easily found), and all the field drainage pipes were where they should be.

Sociable talk, and outside activity made the day for two elderly gents. Physically safe, and mentally refreshing, and so easily done. We two (see above cast list) are just like many of you. The products of normal interesting lives, still full of promise and capable of so much.

Try to meet a friend (or two) in the garden or by the canal, walk and talk for half an hour, recharge your batteries, and you will both (or all of you) return home refreshed, physically and mentally.

We are not alone, your next encounter may only be a phone call (and two metres) away. Both halves of the above cast list had a good time, and so can you. Try it. Soon.

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On how to run your notice board

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to place a notice board outside your church seems a good one – and its design in blue plastic with luminous red detachable letters seems entirely in keeping with the aesthetics of your building. Make sure that it is lockable, however, as an innocent notice saying ‘all are welcome’ may be modified by a devotee of anagrams to say something far less polite by the following day.

We recently replaced ours, which had disappeared shortly before last bonfire night. That the Scouts’ bonfire had a board which closely resembled our old one in its centre was, I am sure, a complete coincidence. The Venture Scouts’ collective smirk during the following week’s Parade Service did give one pause for thought, and the Cubs’ collapse into helpless laughter at the chorus ‘So light up the fire and let the flames burn’ only increased suspicion.

On reflection, you may not have been wise to use your notice board to tell everyone your holiday dates. Certainly, various local burglars were tripping over each other inside the vicarage while you were away. However, the note the last one left you, saying that next time he broke in, he would bring *you* something, since you had so little left, was quite touching.

Inevitably, now that your church has a notice board, there will be open warfare over who is allowed to display notices on it. Will the Slimmers Club be seen as biblical? Why is the Ladies Guild notice twice as large as all the others? And do remember that while everyone will want space to display their notices, no one will ever remove them once the event is over. Plaintive announcements of Christmas parties in April or of Summer Fetes in November only serve to take people down memory lane.

Here’s the best way to manage a notice board: create that panacea for all problems: a sub-committee. These poor people only ever exist in order to get the clergy out of tight corners and to make sure that matters are discussed at such inordinate length that every issue eventually dies a natural death. And if even that fails, you could have a quiet word with our Scouts before next year’s bonfire night.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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DIVISION D HANDICRAFT CLASSES

SPECIAL RULES FOR EXHIBITORS IN THIS DIVISION

All entries in Classes must have been completed within 12 months prior to the date of the Show and all items must not have been exhibited before at a SUN Produce Show.

All forms of exhibitors' identification must be obscured on exhibits.

26. An item of cross stitch, tapestry or embroidery—please specify on the front of the entry if a kit has been used
27. A Hand Knitted or Crocheted item
28. A Piece of Handmade Jewellery
29. A Hard Handmade article (wood, metal, leather or glass)
30. A Handmade Card

DIVISION E CREATIVE CLASSES

All exhibits in the classes should be no larger than A3 including frame (42cm x29.7 cms or 16.5 ins x 11.7 ins)

31. Pencil Drawing of a local church
32. Poem on Recycling
33. Item made from recycled materials.

DIVISION F CULINARY CLASSES

SPECIAL RULES FOR EXHIBITORS IN THIS DIVISION

- Read the Schedule carefully and ensure that you **use the correct containers, where specified, or your entry may be excluded by the Judge.**
 - Where labels are required only use small, PLAIN printed labels.
 - Dishes containing nuts should be labelled accordingly(I, case of allergy)
 - Entries **MUST** be exhibited as stated in the schedule or as stated below:
Class 36: Mark label "Mild" or "Hot" and ensure lid is airtight.
Classes 37,38,39 & 40: should be placed on disposable plates.
34. A Jar of Home-made Jam
 35. A Bottle of Home-made Wine or Liqueur
 36. A Jar of Home-made Chutney
 37. A Victoria Sandwich filled with jam only
 38. A Decorated Cake. *Decoration will be judged not cake*
 39. A Home-made Loaf (any type)
 40. 6 Scones—any type, sweet or savoury. *Judged for consistency, flavour and texture.*

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William and the Rabbit Hutch

Hello Dear Readers

Since I last wrote Mummy and Daddy have had a little break away and Mama and Pop-Pop came to stay and look after us. It was all very exciting.

First of all, the weather was terrible. Mama loves to take us for a walk in our double buggy and says that fresh air is very good for little boys. We could not open the front door against the wind and Mama could not push the buggy as we are now too heavy for her so Pop-Pop suggested that we would go out in the car. Once again, our straps had to be let out as we have grown so. Eventually we set off down the road with the rain lashing down. Mama looked round and noticed that I had not been strapped in my car seat properly so we had to do an emergency stop. I am strapped in and then we set off again. We drive to the garden centre where there are lots of pets to look at and a nice café. We all have a delicious snack even though we have just had breakfast. Thomas and I notice that Mama and Pop-Pop have a strong coffee each. Then we are allowed out of our high-chairs and we head off for the animals. On the way we pass the pets' toys. We squeak each and every toy as we walk past. Then we admire the rabbits, lizards and one sleepy snake. Pop-Pop is distracted by some seeds, he is always looking at flowers and seeds, and Thomas and I manage to escape. We are playing hide and seek, our favourite game.

After a little while we hear our names being called. We hear Mama run to Pop-Pop and ask "are they with you?" Pop-Pop says he thought we were with Mama. They start rushing around and even go back to the café. Now Thomas and I have done a very clever thing. We are hiding inside one of the large rabbit hutches. It was a bit of a squeeze as Thomas is very solid, but we managed to get through from one side to the other and nobody can see us. They only spot us when Thomas shrieks out. We are taken home and Pop-Pop does not buy any seeds.

The weather continues to rage. We get soaking wet just getting into the house from the car. In the afternoon we decide to do some cooking. We have noticed that some of the shelves in the shops are empty. It seems we cannot buy pasta any more so Mama decides we shall make some. You only need flour and an egg. It is great fun. We knead the pasta dough into a ball and put it in the fridge for a while. We scrape off some fluff which stuck when Thomas threw his piece on the floor.



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a dream day that leaves a lasting impression

It is very hard to stop Thomas eating it raw. We cut out shapes and hang them on the airer to dry out a bit and then we cook them for only 2 minutes. We have them with cheese and ham. Delicious.

The next day Mama and Pop-Pop take us to church where we learn about a man who could not walk and then miraculously could walk. We sing and do some crafts and then come home. Mummy and Daddy return from their holiday refreshed. And then our life changes.....

Very sadly Mummy has told us that we will not be going to nursery for a while as it will be closed. Mummy and Daddy are working at home a lot. It seems we may not see Mama and Pop-Pop for a very long time.



With love from William and Thomas

SULHAMSTEAD & UFTON NERVET WI

"It's a Fair Cop, Guv"

Our February meeting enjoyed a very informative 'briefing' from three officers of the Thames Valley Firearms Unit. We learned that, following intensive training - which focuses as much on tactical engagement as being able to shoot straight - the officers are deployed wearing kit weighing up to six stones, including body armour, helmet shield and both lethal and non lethal firearms. Although their primary focus is to attend life-threatening crimes, we were interested to learn that these officers are also trained medics and provide para-medical support. We braved the cold weather to view the mobile armoury contained in their police vehicle and ask lots of questions about their experiences. Two of the officers were female - no tokenism here but true equality in action. A fascinating insight into policing in the 21st Century.

Our competition - something in blue - was won by Avril Harrad and the flower of the month was won by Wendy England.

The AGM and March meeting was cancelled but we hope that it will be business as usual soon.



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WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN EXPLORERS CLUB?

Explorers, the joint church and school club that meets weekly at SUN school has been investigating the elements earth, wind, fire and water this term. These are also the names of the school houses.

For each one we have played a game or had an activity , we have then used the element for our time of reflection. We are pleased to say that we now have 25 children coming to the club each week.

Earth

We planted seeds and then learnt about the parable of the Sower and the seed. The children enjoyed playing the invasion game linked with this story.

Wind

Great fun was had attempting to fly our home made kites on the calmest day of the year. We thought about how the wind is often likened to the Holy Spirit. An unseen force that can be felt by everyone. One child described the holy Spirit as blowing God's love to us.

Water

We measured out 178 litres of water, the average daily amount each of us uses in the UK . We watched a film from the charity Water Aid to see how many girls across the world have to fetch and carry the families water supply. We struggled to pick up a 3 gallon bucket let alone put a 5 gallon bucket on our heads and walk 4 km.

Fire

We will be looking at the flame of a candle and making tea light holders. We will explore the theme of Jesus being the light of the world . How can we shine for good, in our families, school and communities?

Sian Webb

A . B .

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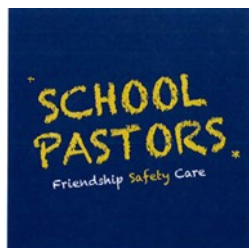
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Café B

In accordance with government guidelines, Café B will be closed until further notice. However, when the restrictions are lifted, we hope to open on Thursday morning and would like more volunteers. Please contact:

Alex Lines, Manager Café B
cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk **www.facebook.com/CommunityCafeB/**

Get to know School Pastors



Find out more about supporting our young people. The links below will give you details.

Lynn Everett, School Pastors Coordinator
07778 911182

schoolpastors@togetherinmission.org.uk .
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Can you give someone some company?

We have more clients than volunteers at the moment which means that some of our volunteers are visiting two different people in the week. It just goes to show what a wonderful team we have ... but we would prefer to have one volunteer making friends with their own client as we match the right person to volunteer. Not all families are nearby to support their loved ones so we can provide a valuable service of regular contact and encouragement. Please think about providing a kindness to someone in the community.



Bev French, TiM Friends Coordinator **07748 686615**
bevrench6@gmail.com

2020 will be a special anniversary year for Together in Mission with a number of celebrations and fund raising events planned. Watch this space!

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SUN E UPDATE

The Trustees met in March, along with the chair of the Village Hall committee, to review past events and discuss what we can do next.



The quiz/curry night made over £1200 profit, which was intended to contribute significantly to a defibrillator [for the village. The Parish Council has offered to identify a [suitable location for this and arrange its installation. However, in the light of the current pandemic, we may need to consider [the provision of funding for more pressing parish requirements.

The village walk/plant a tree went very well, despite the poor weather – see the article on page 32.

Upcoming events were discussed but, owing to the Corona virus, we have no idea whether they will be able to go ahead:

- Produce Show, to be held in the Village Hall on 18th July (see pages 20 & 21)
- Village picnic, to be held at Sulhamstead Cricket Club grounds on Sunday 23 Aug
- Classic car show - if we can find a venue
- Music evening, Ufton Court, Friday Dec 4.

We are working closely with the Village Hall committee to identify potential joint events and current suggestions include bingo, beetle drive, treasure hunt and a bluebell walk.

SUN E is working closely with other village groups to enact a coordinated response to the Coronavirus outbreak

ADVERTISING ASSISTANCE NEEDED!

SUN E is looking for a volunteer to advertise SUN E events on social media platforms. It's not an onerous task (if you know what you're doing!) and could be a great project for DofE, something to highlight on a UCAS personal statement or a hobby for a social media-savvy person with a bit of spare time.

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St George: who was he?

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine told the story:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

Fooling Around!

April Fool's Day: great fun for youngsters of yesteryear but probably a bit unsophisticated for the modern generation.

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1st April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

Probably the most famous April Fool's effort came from the BBC. In the 1960's it broadcast a feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. Even those of us who bought our spaghetti in the supermarket from the pasta shelves began to wonder if we'd been wrong. Italian farmers explained their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants was carefully filmed, from planting to reaping. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Auntie playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from March 25th to January 1st. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the spring equinox, March 25th. Either way a touch of hilarity at the end of Lent does not seem amiss – even in these sombre times.

by Canon David Winter

CORONAVIRUS FACT:

We are only three weeks away from finding out everyone's true hair colour ...

1ST UFTON NERVET SCOUT GROUP NEWS

IN THE LAST MONTH

Pancakes were enjoyed by all Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers!

Beavers had a visit from a Guide Dog to talk about how they are trained, we welcomed some new Beavers.....and made pancakes.

The Cubs have been making indoor dens.....and pancakes.

The Scouts had a great Freezer Camp with the Explorers during the weekend of Storm Dennis—very wet and windy.....and made pancakes!

The Explorers did some game prep and the Pringle Challenge and.....made pancakes!



1st Ufton Nervet Scout group meet every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday evenings during school term time. Cathryn Knight Group Scout Leader
0779 319 6863 cathryn@uftonscouts.com

Protecting yourself online...

As the world moves more towards being online, it's important that we don't forget to protect ourselves from cyber crime. It can be daunting having to learn new processes like online banking and keeping in touch with our friends and families on social media, but did you know that £1.7million was lost to cyber criminals by residents in the Thames Valley between April 2018 and March 2019?

Here are some of the simple actions that you can take to protect yourself online:

Use a strong, separate password for your email. By creating a separate password for your email account, you're securing yourself should your password be stolen from an account elsewhere. Choose three random words and substitute letters for numbers to make the password harder for someone else to guess.

Watch out for fake emails and texts asking for your information. These are called phishing messages, and they can sometimes look like they're from genuine sources. Look out for tell-tale signs such as poor spelling and grammar, incorrect email addresses and requests for information or payment out of the blue. Never give out your personal information unless you are sure it's from a trusted source.

Install the latest software and app updates. You wouldn't put an old set of tyres on your car. Why would you trust old software to protect your personal data? Software and apps are regularly updated to secure against the newest viruses and online threats. Check the settings on your phone and computer to make sure you have the latest updates installed. Call your manufacturer or go on their website if you're not sure how to do this.

Secure your social media. Social media is a great way for us to keep in touch with loved ones and share our lives with them, but would you want a stranger to see this? Check the settings of your social media accounts to make sure you have adequate privacy filters enabled.

More details on how to protect yourself from cyber crime can be found on the [Thames Valley Police website](#).

If you think you have been a victim of an online scam, you should report this to Action Fraud on their website or by calling 0300 123 2040.



Burghfield and District Branch Royal British Legion The Royal County of Berkshire

“LIVE ON”

To the memory of the fallen and the future of the living

BRANCH MEETINGS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, OUR
MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.

WE WILL KEEP MEMBER INFORMED ON AN ONGOING BASIS AS
SOON AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

Our Branch continues to go from strength to strength – we now have more than 120 members most of whom have not served in the armed forces. However, we all support the great work that the Royal British Legion does to help ex servicemen and women who are in any need. We meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Burghfield CSA and we always have inspirational speakers.

If you would like to come to our meetings and possibly join our branch you would be most welcome.

Just call Jane Steeds on 0118 983 2320.

CAN THE LEGION ASSIST YOU?

National Welfare Helpline - 0808 802 8080 (free landline call)

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/can-we-help>



A huge Thank-You to everyone who came long and supported our Village Walk and Plant on 28th February.

Leaving from SUN school, the walk took us on windy trail to a local woodland, where staff from Englefield Estate were there to greet us. Together we helped to replant an area of woodland with several hundred trees, to begin its regrowth .

Despite its best efforts, the weather was unable to dampen the spirits of everyone who took part and the afternoon proved to be a wonderful mix of excited children, enthusiastic adults and encouraging Englefield Estate staff.

With the planting done, the walkers headed back to SUN School, where some well deserved refreshments were waiting. Taking respite from the weather outside, everyone crammed into the school hall, creating a wonderful, community buzz, amidst gleeful whoops from winning raffle ticket holders!

The welcome refreshments afterwards would not have been possible without the kind donations and willing hands to serve them. Alongside the raffle, we raised £96.31, all of which will help support our local community.

So, walkers, bakers, raffler's, tea ladies/men, tidy uppers and consumers of cake,

THANK-YOU ALL!!!!!!!

Rachel Howman

Sulhamstead Parish Council

Chairman: Margaret Baxter **Tel:** 0118 983 1306
Clerk: Tina Harris

Ufton Nervet Parish Council

Chairman: David Hannington **Tel:** 0118 983 2383
Clerk: Fiona Jones **Tel:** 07947 027065

MAGAZINE ADVERTS

To place an advert in this magazine please contact:

Mrs Felicity Holden

Tel: 0118 983 2459

Email: adverts@sunchurch.co.uk

ADVERTISING RATES

Whole page: £110 per year

Half page: £75 per year

Cheques should be made payable to: SUN PCC

Can we help?

Bland's School Foundation Trust is a Burghfield charity which provides small sums to support the education of children who need financial assistance and live or attend school in Burghfield. The charity looks at education in the widest sense and donations have been made for school trips, scout trips, courses and educational equipment.

If you think you might qualify for a donation towards a specific activity please do not hesitate to contact:

Lotte Plant (Secretary and Trustee) 01189 832205 or
email: carlottaplant@gmail.com

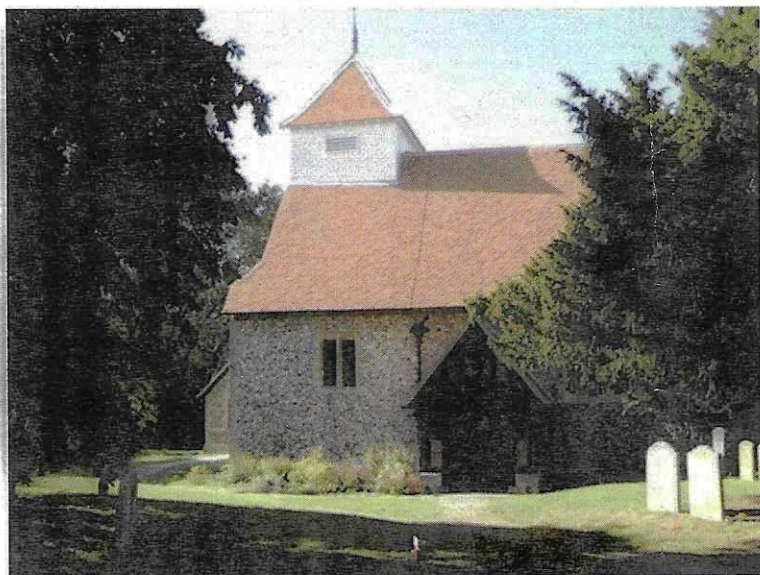
St Mary's Church

The United Benefice of Sulhamstead Abbots
& Bannister with Ufton Nervet

Sulhamstead Abbots, Berkshire

RG7 4ED - United kingdom

WARNING - this GPS Postcode is 1/4 mile from the Church - Go Northwest



St Mary's, Sulhamstead Abbots, is part of a parish that includes Sulhamstead Bannister and Ufton Nervet. Worship has taken place on this site since 1189, possibly earlier. Most of the church is 13th century, with major restorations in the 15th and 19th centuries and a parish room erected in 2000.

A schedule of service is published in the monthly Parish magazine.

Rector — Revd Canon John Paton

Tel: 0118 3842158 sunrector@outlook.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8.30am | Holy Communion B.C.P - 1st and 5th Sundays |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion C.W - Weeks 2,3 and 4 |
| 10.00am | Parish Communion 1st Sunday Service & Children's Church |

For all information about St Mary's Church, Sulhamstead Abbots visit our website

www.sunchurch.co.uk