

Village Web

June 2020



What are these?



Suggestions to the editor please.
Answers will be published next month - Ed.

We will produce separate Village Web magazines
in both July and August.

Please submit articles to the editor at iwp.editor@gmail.com

Front Cover

At the Seaside (circa 1898)

by William Merritt Chase (1849 - 1916) from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Chase was an American painter known as an exponent of Impressionism and as a teacher. He is also responsible for establishing the Chase School, which later would become the Parsons School of Design.

Parish News from Anand, our Rector



The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

Seeks to be
Christ-centred
Faithful to scripture • Prayerful
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Welcome All

We are living in a most challenging time. A few months ago we would never have thought that the entire world would go into lockdown and we are now very much hoping that the restrictions will be eased. Despite the restrictions, job losses and loss of life many have survived with food on the table, a home to live in and a family to relate to. Thank God for technology which has enabled us to connect to the world. Church services never stopped as we have quickly adapted to a new pattern of streaming our church services through YouTube. Though the service focus is for local parish members many across the country and beyond are watching our services and appreciating them. However, we are still hoping to open our churches as soon as the government allow us to open. Some have been able to work from home without losing jobs or salaries while many others are living with many uncertainties. However, there is so much community spirit in the parish and many young people are helping neighbours and those vulnerable or, those shielding in buying food, bringing medicines and other essentials. We are very grateful for these volunteers.

Please follow our parish website to see our virtual services or type our parish name "The parish of Icknield Way villages" in YouTube search area and you will find our services which are streamed every Sunday. Thank you to the singing and technical teams who work very hard to produce the virtual services for us.

Thanks also to the Prayer Team (12 to 16 members) who are praying from 7.00 am to 7.30 p.m. every day, remembering all the members of our parish and asking God to keep us all safe.

Please feel free to send your prayer requests.

If you need to talk to me or need any help please feel free to call me at 01763 838703 or send an email to anandsodadasi@hotmail.co.uk.

Yours in Christ
Anand

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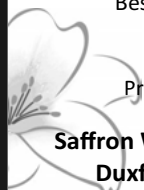
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A Reflection from Anand

The current pandemic can be a time of great reflection and self examination for individuals, families, groups, organisations, businesses and whole nations. Some people might be concerned about safety, health, wealth and the future. Many are hoping that the world will soon go back to the same one as before but perhaps with some new lessons learnt and with some life changing attitudes.

People of all faiths have cleverly created and adapted to new ways of worship and praying. Many creative online church services have sprung up. We have achieved this in our own parish. However, just yesterday (24 May) The Times had an article entitled “Church weighs up cull of bishops”, indicating that the Church of England will inevitably review the number of church buildings and the number of paid clergy including reducing the number of Bishops and dioceses. Bishop Cottrell said, according to the Times, ‘the Church has for too long meant a building and a vicar and possibly a geographic area to serve’.

The use of the word “church” in a Christian sense has never been intended to refer to a building but, according to the scriptures, as the ‘people of God’. The word ‘church’ originally meant ‘congregation’ (from the Greek, ‘ecclesia’) or ‘people’. This has been clearly demonstrated recently as even the pandemic could not stop us from being the ‘church’; *God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble* (Psalm 46:1).

One of the great strengths of faith in Jesus is that Jesus can understand human frailty and vulnerability as he himself experienced and suffered enormously for humanity in order to redeem them.

During this lockdown we have passed through the Easter season where we meditated, through virtual services, on the theme of Christ’s sufferings and his relationship with us in sharing our pain and difficulties (Mat 14:36 and Luke 22:42). His resurrection and ascension give us hope for an eternal life (John 5:28-29).

Let us sincerely pray for the pandemic to come to an end, for the medical personnel who are putting their lives at risk, for the governments and other leaders who have to make wise decisions and for scientists, as they race against time to develop a vaccine.

Warmly in Christ

Anand Sodadasi

Jammin' with the Bishop

Probably, “not a lot of people know that” Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, is a great fan of the Rolling Stones and prefers them to The Beatles. As a young man on a visit to the Taizé eccumenical community in France he was so drawn to Brother Roger, the community’s founder and leader, that he wanted to touch the hem of Brother Roger’s cloak and, as part of a three month sabbatical, craving solitude, he walked the Camino Del Norte (the northern route of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage) carrying a 10 kg backpack and writing a sonnet every day.

These small insights into his life and character do not seem to be readily available from his online profile. To learn about them and other interesting anecdotes illustrating the character of the future 98th Archbishop of York one has to see and listen to the man in person.

An opportunity to do this came from an invitation to attend a Saffron Walden Deanery Evangelical workshop, hosted by the Parish in Great Chishill where Bishop Stephen was to give a leadership presentation. The purpose of my invitation was to represent the Village Web magazine, with a chance to have an interview with Bishop Stephen squeezed into gaps in the workshop schedule.

So, on a blustery Saturday morning earlier in the year, with some questions in hand, I found myself in the spacious Great Chishill village hall together with around 25 other people drawn from the evangelical teams of the Bishop, the Deanery and the IWP.

Given this opportunity I wanted to seek first hand the Bishop’s views on a number of issues. These included the following:

- The current and future sustainability of the future of the Church of England (CoE) in a very rapidly changing world
- The spiritual relevance and effectiveness of the CoE in reaching the spiritual needs of a modern society, increasingly skilled in rationalism and objectivity
- The apparent focus on sex and sexuality (earlier in the year there was a controversial announcement from the House of Bishops)
- To gain some further insight in Bishop Stephen’s interest from an early age in the controversial English artist Stanley Spencer; coincidentally, two of the artists Lenten paintings were to be printed on the covers of the March Village Web.

As an aide memoire I was calling these the four S's.

Responding to the question on sustainability, Bishop Stephen drew my attention to the work and hopes being placed on the output of the CoE Reform and Renewal programme and how working groups were looking at ways to change the Church at both the personal and institutional levels. The rate of change within the Church compared to the wider society seemed to remain its biggest hurdle.

On spirituality Bishop Stephen talked about what he called the “mask of illusion” where intellectualism and a lack of sensitivity to a more authentic internal self prevents the required leap of faith to become a fully engaged Christian. Although not fully explain, I think it's something that would not be out of place in either drama or Gestalt psychology workshops, for example.

On the focus on sex, he maintains that it's all a matter of view point; within the Church community there is no focus on sex, simply the focus on sex derives from being outside the Church community. I did not press further with these points.

On Stanley Spencer, Bishop Stephen reiterated comments from the introduction to his book, *Christ in the Wilderness*. As is often the case, his interest was the influence of an inspirational teacher.

Bishop Stephen likes the Rolling Stones so much that he uses a lyric from the title track, Let It Bleed (1969) to open his leadership remarks on the workshop on ‘Why evangelism?’. The line is “We all need someone to lean on” from which he then goes on to explain his four B's of evangelism, which are

- Belief ● Belonging
- Behaving ● Blessing

The details of these will have to be saved for another article.

There are two other tracks on the album which may also have relevant lyrics. These are the gospel inspired ‘Give me shelter’ and my personal preference, ‘You can't always get what you want’. This has the lyrical hook “if you try so hard, you just might find you get what you need” and I particularly like it when the drummer, Jimmy Miller, picks up the groove at the end!

With grateful thanks to Anand and Bishop Stephen for a very interesting and educational Saturday morning.

The Editor

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My thanks go to all the drivers who are volunteering to help clients and as a consequence are putting themselves on the front line and in harms way.

Ron Comben - RDCT

7th Royston Scouts

Children in Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from our villages have been unable to meet at the scout hut in Barley since mid-March. However, we have all been keeping busy and in touch via Zoom every week during lockdown.

Children have been tackling various weekly challenges for example, lockdown cooking using forgotten ingredients from the back of the cupboard and sleeping overnight in an unusual home location such as under stairs cupboards - Harry Potter style.

The scouts have also held two live online meetings with scouts in New Zealand, finding much in common as well as some interesting cultural

differences. One meeting coincided with Anzac Day in New Zealand when their scouts are up before dawn to light candles on their driveways. They joined us over breakfast NZ time. Starting the meeting with a Maori prayer, this was pretty special!

Stuart Farrow

Our Villages

www.heydonvillage.co.uk

The week proceeding lockdown was one full of uncertainties and I was concerned about how we would know what was happening across Heydon should the virus take hold. After talking to a few other folk in the village it seemed like a good idea to create a website. Many people are comfortable with Facebook but for older residents (and me) a simple website is much easier to navigate. Sam Allen in Chishill was even quicker off the mark with his excellent Chishillcare website and I stole lots of his ideas for the Heydon site! Although I have created websites in the past for my own business the village website had it's own challenges but these days it's fairly straightforward to use an off the peg template and build up from that. The website then became a hub for finding volunteers and in no time we had many people offering to help with shopping, dog walking, and prescription collections. Fortunately we haven't had much demand for a village volunteer group, those who need help have been looked after by friends, family and neighbours but it's going to be a long haul back to normality and it's great we have people in place should there be a need in the future.

For now I have been using the website to post information about local services, advice from South Cambs council and government updates about the current lockdown status.

In future I would be happy to expand the website to be more of a noticeboard and to include more information about the village generally. I would welcome any suggestions from Heydon residents.

Cristian Barnett (admin@heydonvilage.co.uk)

Strethall

Tennis as usual at Strethall – Rates: adults, £2 per person per hour; students: £1.50 per person per hour. Proceeds go to Strethall church.

Contact Roger Harcourt 01799 525596.

United Reformed Church

Like every church and chapel we greatly miss seeing our regular worshippers, their friendly faces and having our comforting services. Our doors are always open, as is the church garden should anyone be in need of quiet reflection and a moment of prayer.

We do flowers on the Sundays when we would have had a service and I continue to deliver the flowers quietly on the doorstep of those who we feel are in need of our thoughts and prayers. We also try and put a prayer for the day on our notice board outside on the wall for those who walk by on their daily exercise to read and reflect upon.

We have encouraged the children of the village to show their appreciation and gratitude to the NHS and ALL those who are helping us during these very challenging times. The village telephone box is covered with some very thought provoking poems about lockdown here in Great Chishill.

Angus and I take meat and prescription orders on Wednesdays which gives us the ideal opportunity to keep an eye on the elderly and members of our community.

We have encouraged children of the village to show their gratitude and appreciation to all the people who are helping us at this tricky and testing time. They made the Rainbow Bunting which reads, "Thank you NHS and all who help us", lights come on at night to remind us that while we are safe and cosy in our beds they are working hard to keep people safe and well. We have an illuminated message on the URC gates thanking the NHS. I know this has been appreciated by at least one doctor who often returns from duty in the early hours of the morning and she said it is a great comfort to read it. **Tess Gent**



Elmdon Church Clock

Divine Intervention? A True Story

St Nicholas Church, Elmdon, in common with many other old churches, has a venerable ancient clock with magnificent machinery housed in a glass-fronted cabinet accessible via a sturdy set of steps. The winding, chiming and striking mechanism is electrically driven which is just as well, although the electric motors have seen better days and require plenty of tlc (tender loving care).



Timekeeping, however, is another matter entirely. The wooden pendulum has a massive weight on the end which can be raised or lowered by adjusting the nut that holds it in place. This enables the "clock minder" to ensure that it keeps perfect time, but whoever has that thankless task has to climb the steep spiral staircase whenever adjustment is required. This is usually about once a week, or else people start grumbling about the clock. There is a box of pre-decimal pennies which can be used – and presumably once were – for fine tuning, although you have to wonder who would insist on such precision. Big Ben is said to employ the same technique, but that's a somewhat different situation.

What is the point of telling you all this? Well, several months ago the Sexton's department engaged some new (unpaid!) staff to spread the responsibility for a number of essential tasks. As well as the sexton we now have a clock minder, flag raiser, building locker/unlocker and various other essential operatives such as the famous Marigold Maids. This expansion of activity of course meant that more people needed access to the building. Normally this would not be a problem, but now we are in "lockdown" the authorities have decided that this includes church buildings. This is where the problem arises. Having separated the roles of flag raiser and clock minder which used to be done by one person, we now need to ensure that an extra person has access to the church at all appropriate times. Usually the clock minder wouldn't think twice about this since the church would be open during most of the day. The flag raiser, however, is seldom called upon but when the occasion does arise it is obviously extremely important as the flag must be raised at the crack of dawn and stay there until after sundown. This means that the flag raiser now has what used to be the clock minder's key.

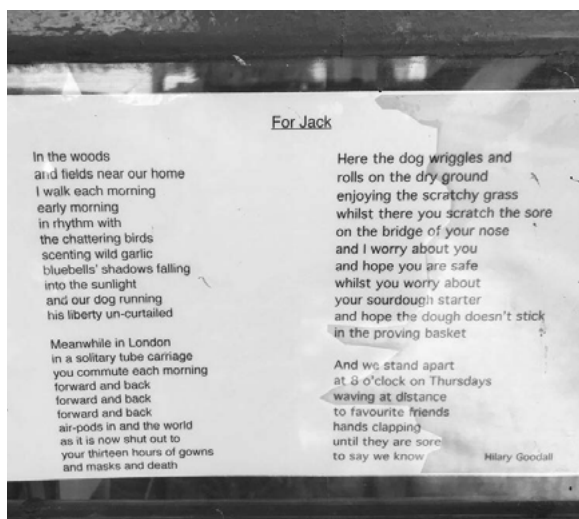
We now reach the climax of this story. Lock Stock & Barrel of Saffron Walden, who would normally produce a new key in ten minutes, are themselves also locked down (there may be a pun there somewhere) so we cannot at present provide a key for the clock minder. Yet ever since lockdown started, many weeks ago, the church clock has kept perfect time. It sometimes gains a bit, but then corrects itself, so overall it has needed no adjustment at all for the first time in living memory.

So who is looking after it ???

John Holford

If anyone has any alternative explanations please let me know and we will report back next month - Ed.

Coming to a Phone Box near you - at Great Chishill





Ali's Dream

Sloping floors, garden deer and lockdown surprises

We can't believe our luck!. We can now walk from our doorstep straight into the beautiful rolling countryside of the Icknield Way Parish (IWP). My dream had always been to live in a house with character, step out of the door and, as a keen walker, walk off into the countryside. My family's recent experience of living in the hamlet of Strethall and Catmere End began in autumn 2018 when, after many years of searching, my dream became a reality. In October 2018 we moved into my ideal property, an old house believed to have been built in 1475 located in the hamlet of Strethall and Catmere End.

My partner Martin and Rosie, our daughter, weren't convinced, they had wanted a modern house and prior to sealing the deal, Martin would wake in the night thinking about how he could resolve an old house's quiriness, including the upstairs sloping floors. Fortunately, he was eventually persuaded by the fact that there would now be room for his model railway!

Whilst there were some drawbacks to the move, the welcoming community and variety of events held here in the IWP made us soon feel very much at home and also quite adventurous. I admit to missing

central heating and instead of walking to school or the local shop, we now must drive. Also, it was difficult for the children to find new friends with no local park to meet in. Occasionally, I felt like the child catcher featured in 'Chitty, Chitty, Bang Bang' in my quest to search out children for mine to play with. This, of course, resolved itself naturally without the use of a net!

Both Rosie and Alfie, our son, have already gained so much from their new experiences here, a highlight of which was the IWP's childrens' Bear Grylls event last year. Alfie can now proudly explain and identify a pellet of owl's vomit (which he kept safely in his pocket) and tells how the owl ate a mouse and then regurgitated the indigestible parts, e.g bones, hair and hence the pellet! Later, Rosie was able to resolve the consequences of a nettle sting by mashing up sticky weed and applying it. A useful skill she too had learned at the same event.

My passion for walking and promoting this activity continues and for the last three years I have led a walking group around different locations each week. I was further inspired last year when I joined the annual parish walk and learned more of the numerous trials and footpaths around our seven villages, all of which I'm planning to encompass in future walking group routes. The night skies in the IWP are also amazing and I have organised some star walks at night.

As a consequence of being able to continue to lead my walking group, I have recently gained the title of "This Girl Can Ambassador" for 'Active Essex' which promotes being active around our local area.

Adapting to the Covid lockdown has had it's challenges for us. The first week of Rosie's on- line schooling was fraught with highs and lows. As a family, we are not particularly computer savvy, so it felt like an

amazing achievement when Rosie managed to submit her first piece of work. We have needed to devise ways to maintain Alfie's interest in schooling, resorting to repeating his 'times tables' on the trampoline (with each jump, he answers a sum) and we even developed an 'equivalent fractions' family board game! Martin and I are learning fast,





I now know what a ‘cache’ is! One of the silver linings of the Covid lockdown has been the incredible community support we have enjoyed. Concerned that Alfie would not be able to hold a birthday party or receive many birthday cards, I asked, through our villages’ WhatsApp support group, for people to put a birthday notice/banner in their window or garden for Alfie to see on his birthday walk. The response was amazing and Alfie discovered much to his surprise 22 birthday banners displayed around Strethall and Catmere End. Happy

birthday songs played out and people shouted out birthday wishes from their windows. It made his and our day. These are now known locally as ‘Birthday banner walks’ and more have followed and enjoyed by Olly (aged 10) who said ‘it was the best birthday ever’. Freya and Cameron (aged 14) also experienced the birthday banner walk and noted that ‘people were so kind’.

Our ‘birthday banner walk’ tradition appears now to have spread to Littlebury. So, our continuing adventure in the IWP has not just been about finding a house of character with amazing walks but more than ever at this time, being grateful for such an amazing community.

Ali Gray

The walks Ali mentions are normally held on Tuesday and Friday mornings and Wednesday evenings. She can be contacted at ali1@yahoo.co.uk - Ed.

Times like these

For many of us life changed almost beyond recognition from the minute we found ourselves in lockdown. It is how we have adapted to deal with the new challenges of working from home, teaching our children, keeping mentally and physically well that I have found fascinating.

As a family we have been extremely lucky throughout this period and we feel that we have been given the gift of time. Simon is enjoying the freedom of not being sucked into the time vortex of a 3 hour commute and, although he is working a normal day, we can now have breakfast and dinner together as a family. It has also meant that he has had time to start learning woodwork. As a result we have a new outdoor table and plans for new kitchen counters. This I could get used to.

I have had to learn to teach my children of 4, 8 and 11, a role which mostly consists of dealing with being simultaneously summoned for help by all three. It has been an immersion into a part of my childrens' world that I normally only catch glimpses of at the weekend assisting with homework. Now I have to explain fronted adverbials, modal verbs and ensure pieces of writing include prepositional phrases and co-ordinating conjunctions. The other day someone said "you were taught these things at school, you just happened to be talking" in which case, for grammar, I must have been talking for an entire term. However, I now have a greater appreciation for apostrophes and commas and I have thoroughly enjoyed learning alongside my children. I am still working on learning patience and my apologies must be sent to our neighbours for when it all becomes too much and we practice our statements of discontent with each other!

What I have most enjoyed, apart from more family time, is hearing about the other new talents and skills that our community and particularly the children have embraced; the sourdough competitions, cake baking for Beavers, running for the NHS, walking distances as part of a group, Lego building, TikTok dances and vegetable growing. As usual for our community, everyone has shared their successes with others; gluts of plants are left in bus shelters for others, bags of elusive flour are ordered in bulk and repackaged into manageable sizes and general knowledge has been shared by friends via quizzes on Zoom. Apparently humans have a biological plasticity that allows us to swiftly adapt to changing environments and stresses and these last few weeks feel like an excellent demonstration of this trait. At a time when the world seems more frightening and less predictable, we have embraced our families, friends and community and our time together. In the words of the delightful Dave Grohl, "it's times like these we learn to live again"

Islay Dring

VE Day 1945 - an interview

At the time, I [Carolyn Hughes] was living in a big house in the country with my mummy, auntie, sister, and cousin. My father worked in the air force so I didn't see him often. He was too old to fly so he worked on ground patrol. When they announced the end of the war we were so excited because the war was so sad and worrying because we thought the Germans might invade and take us over. We had to black out our windows at night so no light showed out of the house. There was lots of rationing and it was difficult to get food. But we were quite lucky in the country because we could just go out and shoot a rabbit or something so we would eat rabbit stew a lot.

When Winston Churchill announced the end of the war it was just amazing, we couldn't believe it. It was so exciting. We had a gardener who used to look after the pony and there wasn't enough petrol so you couldn't use the car very much. We also had a pony and trap so my mummy who had never done it before because the gardener always did it for her harnessed up the pony and trap. And off we went me, my mummy, auntie and cousin got in and we went from one village to the next. In every village flags were waving people were singing and shouting waving and clapping and we went on one village to the next and the poor old pony named Beauty did a good job carrying us along. Suddenly my mummy said, "ooh, I don't know where we are I'm not sure where we are", so that was a bit worrying anyway we got home it was nearly dark when we got home it must have been very late. I must have been about seven back then. I remember my mummy saying now we'll be able to have bananas. I'd never had a banana before because special fruits from other countries. It was during the war woman started to wear trousers that was because lots of woman had to do the men's jobs working in farms whilst they fought in the war. And they didn't have big machinery then so it was a lot of work and it was called the women's land army and they wore trousers because that was more convenient for that sort of thing. Sometimes they interview the poor sad people in the concentration camps. And I seem to remember someone translated the news for them because some of them had secret radios hidden in their homes. The war ended really quickly after Winston Churchill announced it. But it just ended in Europe some countries in the far East still had wars going on. But it had been pretty nasty in Europe lots of people were killed and lots of bombs hit it was very nasty. The army's killed each other and many civilians that means ordinary people were hit by bombs so we were quite lucky living in the country so no friends were killed near us with the bombs.

My family [John Hughes] lived in North London, planes came over and bombed

factories and things. No, I wasn't evacuated I don't know why but what we had in the flat in which we lived in was something called an Anderson shelter presumably someone called Anderson made it and anyway we had this metal shelter under the stairs. And when there was an air raid when the Germans had bombs to drop in the surrounding area we had to go into the Anderson shelter. My mother was very lucky because she was doing some work in the factory to help with the war effort. And the Germans dropped a lot of incendiary bombs on the factory and it was when she wasn't on duty that evening, fortunately. So she was alright but my father worked in the ambulance work. My father had a leg injury as a young boy on a motorcycle and had a bad leg injury so he had a bit of a limp so he couldn't go into the forces to fight so the job he had in the war was to help the ambulance patients by carrying stretchers and things he was known as the stretcher bearer. So that was a good thing after the air raids he was needed. There was a lot of mess to clear up in the streets of London and I remember going out into the street in the morning to collect broken piece of bombs. Shrapnel was the name of the stuff lying around in the streets. I was very spoilt at the time. I did go to the Kindergarten and was taught some things there All I remember in the Kindergarten was falling off a desk which was rather stupid of me to of climbed on it and I think I fractured an arm, I had to go to the hospital. We had a brick built shelter nearby and I was lifted up on top of the shelter and asked to sing. I can't remember what I sang. There were a lot of people there. I do remember being dressed up for the occasion but what I wore I don't know. We didn't have fancy puddings and stuff like that then. I think it was just singing and dancing mostly. There was a lovely lady who sang very popular songs back then. Her name was Vera Lynn. I didn't go to school then and when I did start going to school my Auntie had to ride me there on the back of her bike. We didn't go every day because it was 2 or 3 miles to get to school and there wasn't enough petrol to go in the car. I didn't really go to school much until I was eight I was so behind when I started. That wasn't very good. I think my father took me to school on his bike. And we set off one morning and someone opened their window and shouted down: Where are you going Tom? [Tom was the name of John's father] and he was taking me to school but he didn't realise it was victory in Japan day. Which is forgotten by many people!

Sophie Drake - age 9

*Sophie and Luella interviewing
their Grandparents for a home
schooling project*



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Dear Diary

8 May 1945, age 8 years 6 months

I am so happy they've announced the end of World War II in Europe! Luckily, during all the air raids, we weren't hit because we live in the peaceful countryside. We were scared when we heard the planes going over and bombs going off far away in the distance. Every night we had to put up special blackout curtains but now we can take them down as the war is over! Maybe soon we can get nicer food - we've had to eat rabbits that the gardener shot as we couldn't get much meat to eat! Two days later Mum gave me a banana which I'd never tasted before because you couldn't get them during the war. As soon as I bit the banana I thought never to eat one of those again. It was horrible! But my Mum kept saying I should try it one more time as she thinks they are delicious!

As soon as we heard the news that the war was over Mummy rushed outside and harnessed up our pony, Beauty, to the trap (which she had never done herself before!). I hopped in with my little sister, my auntie, cousins and my Mum (we all lived together during the war, as my Dad is still away with the RAF), and straight away we got going through all the villages around to celebrate. In each village everyone was out waving flags, shouting, cheering, clapping, singing and dancing. It was the happiest day since 1939!

We rode on for hours and hours enjoying all the celebrations. Suddenly my Mummy said 'I don't know where we are, I don't think I know the way home!' We eventually found our way but it was late and nearly dark!

We heard about the King and Queen and Mr. Churchill going onto the balcony at Buckingham Palace to wave at all the crowds of people celebrating. This very day will be known as known as VE Day from now on - Victory in Europe!

Luella Drake - age 9

*A home schooling project
creating an imagined diary
entry from an interview with
her grandmother - Ed.*



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Lockdown

Over the last year I have been very unwell. Neighbours and friends have been amazing, showing their care through cooking lovely meals, leaving eggs on the doorstep, including us in their online shopping lists and lots of support from the IWP Prayer Group. Butchers orders along with fruit & veg have also been taken care of.

One Saturday afternoon we were trying to decide what to have for our evening meal, it was almost too much trouble to muster up the energy to go out to the freezer to find something quick and easy to eat. On opening the backdoor I found on our doorstep a Cottage Pie still warm and a beautiful Game Pie. So, not only had our Saturday evening meal been solved but also our Sunday lunch. It was surely a miracle - such wonderful friends.

Lockdown has not been a problem for me. I have become quite used to it. Looking out of my window I see families happily going for walks, ramblers with their maps and picnics enjoying our beautiful countryside and its views. Normally our lives can be too busy to take in God's wonderful creation, how does that poem go..."What is this life if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare"? (*Leisure* see p23 - Ed.)

Most of us are blessed with beautiful gardens. I am also blessed with a husband that keeps ours looking neat and tidy. We sit in it and drink tea, mulling over all the good times. For the VE day celebrations we sat in our grotto suitably decorated with flags and bunting eating fish and chips with a bottle of bubbly.

Of course we miss seeing our loved ones. For me, not being able to see my 98 year old uncle who lives alone and looks after himself, my children and grandchildren who keep in touch on most days, what would we do without mobile phones?

During this Lockdown we have been given time to think about the important things in life, our homes, our loved ones and our friends. My best friend has called everyday sitting in the garden, with me shouting from the conservatory, even on chilly days.

The love of our Lord Jesus has surrounded us all everyday during this difficult time. Every new day is a blessing, our Lord and Saviour makes it special not just for me but also for you too. **Janet Crouch**

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Leisure

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?

No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began:

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?

W. H. Davies

Lockdown revelation

Down, deep and in.
Internal packing well within.
Something solid, something real.
Where? How? Touch will reveal.
Unexpected. Feeling the smile,
The Kingdom of Heaven, here,
All the while!

Anon



Hay Making in June

*Women Land
Army (circa
1939-45).*

*Lower right
from WWI.*

*(Note: Women at
work - watched
by man!)*



Parish Contacts – *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

Rector: Reverend Dr Anand Sodadasi (*free day – Monday*)

The Rectory, 1 Hall Lane, Great Chishill, Royston, Herts SG8 8SG

Tel: 838703 Email: anandsodadasi@hotmail.co.uk

Church Office – Parish Administrator: Andrea Quigley

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 1pm - Church Office, Crawley End, Chrishall, Royston, Herts SG8 8QL Tel: 837272 Email: iwp.parishoffice@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Mrs Shailaja Sodadasi Email: shailajanand@hotmail.co.uk

Licensed Lay Preacher: Jon Wayper Tel: 01799 732045

Email: jwayper@hotmail.com

Parish Church Warden: Viv Rogers Tel: 837185 Email: vj8@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Church Deputy Warden:

Mel Chandler Tel: 838289 Email: mel.chandler81@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Judith Brett Email: iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com

District Wardens:

Chrishall – David Wilkinson 837303

Elmdon – John Holford 838286

Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick 837353

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Children's and Youth Work: Contact office – 837272 or Anand 838703

Treasurer: Laurence Brett Tel: 838167 Email: laurencebrett@icloud.com

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Tower Bell Ringing: For all towers please contact the church office 837272

Chrishall Primary School: Head Teacher Tracey Bratley Tel: 838592

Village Web Magazine Editorial Team:

Editor: Tim Handyside - iwp.webeditor@gmail.com

Advertising : Angela Bucksey - clerk.heydonpc@gmail.com

Parish Office 837272 - iwp.parishoffice@gmail.com

Marcus West 838294

Mel Chandler 838289



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Icknield Way Villages

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M. Hughes