



THE LONGNOR BENEFICE

Longnor, Quarnford, and Sheen, with Warslow & Elkstones
(including Newtown, Reapsmoor, and Hollinsclough)

April 2021

The Benefice Magazine

40p



Who's Who...

Parish Priest:	The Revd Fr John Baines	01298 83411
Curate:	The Revd Fr David Green	0748 688 9322

Please contact Fr John if you want to arrange a Wedding, a Baptism (also known as a Christening), or a Funeral.

Fr John's Rest Day is Friday & Fr David's Rest Day is Saturday

Licensed Lay Minister:	Janet McNicol	01298 812053
Lic'd Funeral Minister:	Karen Kidd	01298 78849

Safeguarding:	Janet McNicol	01298 812053
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Church Wardens:	Nanette Riley (Longnor)	01298 83314
	David Twigg (Longnor)	01538 373999
	Margaret Clulow (Quarnford)	01538 381896
	Karen Kidd (Quarnford)	01298 78849
	Ann Belfield (Sheen)	01298 84396
	George Grindon (Sheen)	01298 84492
	Rachel Moorcroft (Warslow with Elkstone)	01298 84568
	Reg Meakin (Warslow with Elkstone)	01538 304295

Treasurers:	Nanette Riley (Longnor)	01298 83314
	Glenn Leathley (Quarnford)	
	Christopher Belfield (Sheen)	01298 84809
	John Gilman (Newtown)	01298 83486
	Marjorie Mycock (Reapsmoor)	01298 84585
	Emma Gould (Warslow)	01298 687190
	Reg Meakin (Elkstone)	01538 304295

Magazine Reps:	Nannette Riley (Longnor)	01298 83314
	Post vacant (Quarnford)	
	Joan Gregory (Reapsmoor)	01298 84429
	<i>(if no rep listed for your church/village, please contact the appropriate Church Warden above with magazine enquiries).</i>	

Headteachers:	Anne Collins, St Bartholomew's Longnor	01298 83323
	Janette Mountford-Lees, Hollinsclough	01298 83303
	Judith Ackers, Manifold Academy Warslow	01298 84320

Methodist Minister:	The Revd Andrew Parker, (Hollinsclough)	01298 23556
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As the days lengthen – spirituality for springtime

I am grateful to Jeremy Sylvester, vicar of Darlaston, for reminding me that the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Lencton which was the word for 'spring' and literally meant 'lengthen'. Our lives and that of our crops are governed by the seasons of the sun and as we pass the midwinter solstice around Christmas, the days grow longer until the Spring Equinox, this year March 20th. This is often seen as the first day of Spring which therefore ends with the Summer solstice around June 21st. Personally it makes more sense to follow what is often called a Celtic pattern that sees the shortest and longest days as marking the middle of Winter and the middle of Summer and thus the equinoxes marking the middle of Spring and Autumn. So, for me Spring begins at Candlemas with the snowdrops and first buds and ends on May Day. But whenever you count each season's beginning each has a spiritual character that sets a rhythm to the year that in many ways matches the rhythm of the seasons of our lives.

Spring is the time of new birth and exuberant youth. It emerges from the darkness of winter as a seed aroused from sleep, at first slowly amid the darker days and the cold of winter but like the snowdrops it rears its new life from out of the apparently lifeless sleeping earth. From these small beginnings the days lengthen until at the Equinox we pass from the dark half of the year to the light half and day becomes once again longer than night. The sun rises higher in the sky and its warmth draws closer and new shoots become full blossoms and trees come into leaf. The promise of new life becomes a fullness promising summer and autumn fruitfulness.

E

aster is often near to the Equinox, indeed in the early church there was a belief that the first Easter fell on March the 25th which was in the old Roman calendar also the date of the Equinox. It still is the date of the Annunciation when Gabriel came to Mary with the promise of Jesus' new life to come. These festivals remind us as they come in the springtime that God is the one who brings new life in the times when our lives have entered Winter. For many this year the Covid 19 pandemic will feel like a long winter and this spring is a time of waiting for life to return as the days lengthen towards mid-summer on June 21st. If that winter is one many of us share, there will also be many individual winters, times of lost hope, grief, illness and many other ways that our lives can feel trapped, on hold or deeply dark that we long to emerge from. For those who feel they are in winter the new shoots of spring remind us of God's gift of new life waiting in the tomb, in the earth to rise up. For all of it is time to reflect and ask God what new life God wants to bring in us, and how from small beginnings like seeds sown great things come.

Revd Steve Hollinghurst is the diocese's Evangelism Enabler with an environmental focus





Looking for Lizards

April is one of the best times of year to search for reptiles such as lizards as they are getting active in the spring but need to bask a lot to warm up and so can be quite easy to spot. Reptiles are **poikilothermic**, meaning that their internal temperature varies, depending on the weather, as opposed to **homeothermic** animals like us, who can maintain a nearly constant internal temperature. These characteristics used to be called cold or warm blooded. In the spring reptiles need to be warmed in order to be active, but later in the year, when the weather is hotter, they do not need to come out into the open where predators might find them and may actually need to shelter to cool down.

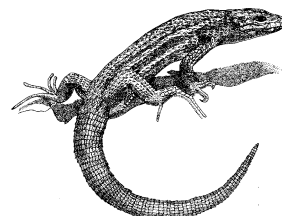
Churchyards can be brilliant for all reptiles because they contain a mixture of warm places to bask such as stones and short grass, which are usually close to places where they can shelter such as gaps and cracks within stone walls, long and tussocky grass, uneven ground with holes and also larger gaps within the joints of monuments such as chest tombs. Churchyards are also rich in invertebrate food, in part due to the absence of chemicals such as pesticides.

When searching for lizards look several metres ahead of where you are walking, going slowly and quietly. Reptiles can pick up vibrations from sudden movement and are aware of shadows falling on them. Search on flat stones and south-facing banks of short grass, close to good hiding places. First light is the best time, when they are cold and need the warmth of the sun. Lift flat stones and pieces of wood to search for slowworms (a lizard without legs), who often 'bask' underneath something that will transmit heat. Roofing felt is a favourite and you can put half metre squares of this out if you want to search for slowworms. Give them a few weeks to discover the felt squares then peep under them at the start and end of the day. Please let us know if you spot any of these fascinating reptiles in your churchyard.

All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk, www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20%

members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code Lich19



From the Curatage

As I write this (in mid-March), I've just finished reading an article saying it's a little over a year to the day when Matt Hancock, the health secretary, told people that all 'unnecessary social contact' should cease. A few days after that, an announcement from the Prime Minister effectively placed our nation into the first of the Coronavirus lockdowns.

We've had to learn to live differently over the past year, but I want to think about how it is that social contact can be considered unnecessary. As Lennon and McCartney would put it, "All you need is love". And of course, spending time with loved ones and physical touch are ways that love is expressed and received. I don't think social contact is unnecessary. It's just that we can survive without it for a while.

Several years ago, Gary Chapman, a marriage counsellor, wrote a series of books on 'the Five Love Languages'. He identified these love languages as words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time, and physical touch. In his view, some people find one or more of these as the primary way they experience love from others. And all of them have been in some way curtailed for us over the past year. If your way of experiencing love is strongly tied to words of affirmation from others, your ability to feel you are loved may not have been quite so obviously

denied as with someone whose sense of feeling loved is strongly linked to physical touch (especially if they live alone). It is apparently rare for someone to feel that all these 'love languages' convey a sense of being loved in equal ways. We react differently - and hence some will be feeling more deprived of love than others.

According to St John's Gospel, Jesus said that there was no greater kind of love than laying down one's 'life' for one's friends. We might think immediately of the cross or acts of heroism where one person dies to save another, a literal giving up of life. In the original language, however, the word we translate as life is 'psyche'. Psyche has something of a different meaning to just life. We might sometimes think of it being linked to the mind or the soul. It's where we get words like 'psychology' from.

Actually, if you think about it, most of us have effectively laid down something of our psyche, perhaps something of our mental well-being, in the past year in order to protect everyone around us. You might well miss hugs or handshakes, those aspects of gentle touch that convey something of love, friendship, affection.

I think we do, at a deep level, need to give and receive love. It's a little like how we need food. We can abstain from food for quite a long time and survive. In extreme cases (such as on hunger strike), people have survived for between one and two months without food (by no means recommended). Ultimately though, food is needed. And I think love is needed too. And like we have favourite foods that we miss when we can't have them, we have preferred expressions of love that we may miss.

The government have given us an indication, if all goes to plan, of how long it may take for many of the restrictions we have been under to be lifted. Once again, we will be able to spend time with friends and family who don't live with us. In time we will be able to hold one another again. For some of us these moments will be especially important.

As churches we also intend to have taken our first steps out of lockdown again by the beginning of April, and to have started returning to our physical buildings for services. For many people physical elements are important in their prayer and worship. Perhaps to kneel. Perhaps to sing. Perhaps to hold hands together in prayer. Perhaps to raise them. Perhaps to receive the elements of bread and wine at Holy Communion, believing that in a mysterious way we receive something of Christ as we receive these physical things. And so with water at baptism, believing that there is a mysterious, yet real, effect that occurs, which goes beyond mere symbolism. During Holy Week we intend to have opened our Church buildings for on-site services again - and taking those first steps back towards being able to give and receive those things we need but perhaps can manage without for a while.

The Easter Story tells us of Jesus' life being restored after it had been lost. Tentative steps were taken towards physical touch with his friends. We read of Jesus telling Mary Magdalene 'do not hold on to me' as she recognised him. Later we come to read of Jesus' disciple Thomas being told that he is welcome to hold on to Jesus, to touch his scars.

Easter is a time of new beginnings. As it happens, we will have to wait another week or two after Easter before some further social restrictions are lifted. But for Jesus first disciples, Easter was just a beginning. The appearances of Jesus after his resurrection took place over several weeks. Soon they would be able to walk outside together with him, share a meal with him, eventually touch him. And so this Easter, let's hold on to the hope, and look forward to being able to do those things with our loved ones again.

Happy Easter,

Fr David

High Days and Holy Days for April

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 2 Hugh of Grenoble
- 3 Richard of Chichester
- 5 Vincent Ferrer
- 4 EASTER
- 12 Zeno of Verona
- 13 Carpus, Papyrus and Agathonice – martyrs of the Early Church
- 19 Alphege
- 21 Anselm
- 23 St George
- 26 Mark - disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel
- 27 Tertullian
- 27 Zita
- 28 Peter Chanel
- 29 Catherine of Siena

19th April: **Alphege – the archbishop taken captive by Danes**

Alphege is the saint for anyone who refuses to let others suffer on their behalf.

His is a tale of courage and self-sacrifice, with some details that are still poignant, even down 1000 years of history.

Alphege began like many other leading churchmen of his time; born of a noble family, with a good education, he decided to become a monk. Alphege joined the Benedictine Abbey at Deerhurst in Gloucestershire, and then became a hermit at Bath, before becoming Abbot of Bath. From there, he was appointed to be Bishop of Winchester, where he was loved for his frugal lifestyle and great generosity towards others.

In 954 King Ethelred the Unready sent Alphege as a peace envoy to the Danes, seeking some relief from the constant Viking raids against England. Alphege secured a time of peace, and in 1006 was made the 29th Archbishop of Canterbury.

But the Viking raids increased again, until the south of England was largely overrun. In 1012 they surrounded Canterbury, and with the help of a treacherous archdeacon, Elfmaer, captured and imprisoned Alphege. A vast sum was demanded by his captors, so much that it would have ruined the people of Canterbury. And so Alphege refused to be ransomed.

This infuriated the Danes, who wanted the gold of Canterbury, not the Archbishop. After seven months of ill-treating him, one night they got very drunk and began pelting him with ox-bones from their feast, until in a frenzy they hacked him to death with an axe.

Alphege was mourned as a national hero and venerated as a martyr: he had given his life in order to protect his people from harm.

Message for P.C.C. Secretaries

From the 2020 Church Representation Rules:

- 1) The PCC must prepare two lists of the Electoral Roll members, one with names and addresses for internal use, and the other without any addresses for public use.
- 2) Immediately following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) the PCC secretary must confirm his/her name and address and the number on the Electoral Roll, to the Deanery Secretary.
- 3) 2020 was the year in which parish representatives to the Deanery Synod were elected for a three year term. IF there have been any changes these details should also be given to me.

Thank you,

Janet McNicol - Deanery Secretary janetmcnicol@yahoo.co.uk

The Olive Tree Project

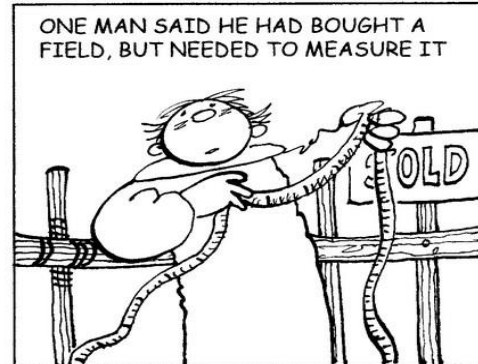
Since 1967 Palestinian farmers have seen hundreds of thousands of their olive trees uprooted as a result of the Israeli occupation. By sponsoring an Olive Tree, you can help "Embrace the Middle East" plant new trees in Palestine and be part of a peaceful and productive response to this

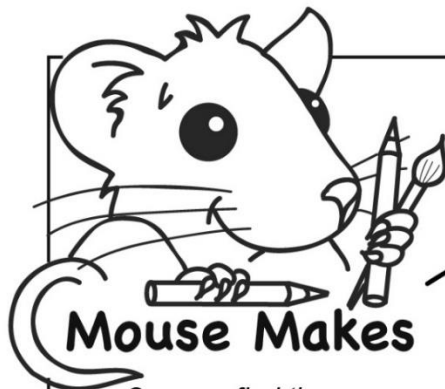
injustice. Help the Palestinian people maintain their ancient ties to the land and preserve their livelihood.

Sponsor a tree for £15 at <http://www.embraceme.org/olivetreeproject>

You will receive one registration card for each tree you sponsor. The person who registers the tree will then receive a Planting Certificate along with the story of the farmer on whose land the sapling has been planted.

A great Easter Gift ??????





Mouse Makes

Can you find these names of **Jesus** in the word search?

SON OF GOD

Matthew 3:16-17



KING OF KINGS

Revelation 17:14

PROPHET

Luke 24:19



PRIEST

1 Timothy 2:5

ROCK

1 Corinthians 10:4

LORD

1 Corinthians 1:9

AMEN

Revelation 3:14

LIFE

John 11:25-27

MESSIAH

John 1:41

SHEPHERD

John 10:11

LIGHT

John 8:12



WORD

John 1:1-50



BREAD

John 6:35

CREATOR

1 John 1:3

CHRIST

Matthew 16:16

SAVIOUR

John 3:16-17

HOLY ONE

Mark 1:24

VINE

John 15:5



DOOR

John 10:9



WAY

John 14:6

LAMB

John 1:29



V L I F E W D
D I A L A R O C K
C M H M O M S R E H C
H E O B R E A D O O R
R S L W D N V I N E E
I S Y A P R I E S T A
S I O Y P R O P H E T
T A N J E S U S T D O
S H E P H E R D E B R
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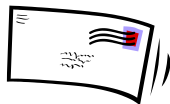
General Benefice News

Local Police Number

Our new NON emergency no. is 101. (The old 0300 123 44 55 is still working BUT we are encouraging people to use 101). The system recognises where you are calling from whether mobile or landline and will give you options for the nearest Police Service.

101 For all non-emergency calls

Used Postage Stamps



Please consider saving these as they are valuable to the charities who rely on this income. Remember to leave a margin of envelope round each stamp.

Teddies for Tragedies



Please keep up the good work.
Janet McNicol
Tel: 01298 812053

Peak District National Park Authority – Local Access Forum

If you have any issues relating to footpaths or bridleways, please contact ALISON TURNER (Reapsmoor) on 01298 687424 or email ally.turner14@btinternet.com

Paid box adverts at £2/month (£20/year) to be in all editions of the Benefice Newsletter

Payment for all adverts should please be sent to Longnor Vicarage, Gauleage Lane, Longnor, Buxton, SK17 0PA
Cheques made payable to Longnor PCC.
Payment by BACS
Bank: RBS
Acc No.: 12096717 ,
Sort Code: 16-15-15,
As reference could you put your ad name in please.

Deadline for the Magazine

All material should be delivered to the editor by 22nd of the month for the next month's edition. Please send to:
Denise Eassom
Meadowside, Newtown, Longnor, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 0NE
Telephone 01298 83611 or email denise@countrycushions.com

We are able to send the magazine by email. If anyone would like to change or to subscribe, please let me know.

Thank you to Father David for extra items plus puzzles. The answers to the crossword and the Sudoku solution are on page 14

Please continue to look out for each other and stay safe everyone. We look forward to a little more freedom to coincide with the beauty of the month of April-naturewise, weatherwise and gardenwise! However, we must continue to follow the rules and not put anyone at risk.

Longnor

Birthday memories of a very dear Dad John Riley
24th March.

In loving memory of a loving Mum, Dorothy Riley
24th April

From Christine and Brian.

The funeral of sisters Karen and Alison Nadin led
by Father John Baines took place on Monday
22nd February.

Karen passed away on Tuesday 2nd February
aged 56yrs and Alison died on Sunday 7th
February aged 54yrs. Both sisters worked in the
hospitality industry until due to ill health they
returned home to Longnor where they were cared
for chiefly by their Father. Enjoying a love of
animals, the donations from their funeral were
given to the RSPCA.

Following the service Karen and Alison were
buried together in the Church yard.

Our thoughts are with Alan and the family after
such a sad and very difficult time, so soon after
the death of their Mother Pam.

The funeral of Keith Melland led by Father John
Baines took place on Thursday 25th Feb.

Keith passed away at Ashgate Hospice on
Monday 8th February after his battle with cancer.
Running his own motor repair business and with
a passion for motorbikes, he had a successful
racing career that took him all over the country
and parts of Europe. He took a great pride in
representing the UK.

A good friend to many this was reflected in the
number of motor bikes forming a convoy to
Church in front of the hearse and the large
number of people waiting outside to pay their
respects.

Our thoughts are with his wife of 41yrs, Jan, his
children Helen, Paul, Hanna, Rachel, Rebecca,
stepson Dave and all their families.

Thank you to the family and friends of the late
John Belfield for the very generous donation of
£1000 to Church funds.

We are very grateful for the extremely generous
donation received in memory of Betty Kempster
and Maureen Greenwood

From Rachel, Richard and Eloise Kempster.

Congratulations to Andy and Lizzie on the safe
arrival of Eadie Olivia Storer- a welcome sister for
Sophie.

The funeral of Henry Graham "Tim" Melland, led
by Father John Baines took place on Thursday
18th March.

Tim passed away suddenly on Tuesday 2nd
March just three weeks after the death of his son
Keith. Dear brother of John and the late Dorothy
and Mavis, Tim grew up at Street farm where his
love of animals and farming began. Going to a
local dance he met Tess it was love at first sight.
Settling at Old Crossing Cottage, Hurdlow, they
went on to have three children, Keith, Linda and
Kenneth. Sadly, Linda died at the young age of
19.

After the marriage of Keith to Jan, Tim and Tess
were blessed with their grandchildren, Helen,
Paul, Hanna, Rachel and Becky.

Keeping active, shopping, walking along the track
and visiting his nephews and nieces were all part
of Tim's life.

Following the service Tim was laid to rest with his
daughter Linda.

Our thoughts are with Tess, Kenneth and all the
family at this sad time.

Loving birthday memories for April of Mavis
Storer 20th, Elizabeth Simpson 21st, Mona Riley
29th

From Les, Nannette and family.

Thank you for the following Easter donations:
From Bob Smith and Mary and David Gerrard in
memory of loved ones.

***For Sale for Longnor Church funds
Gardener's Delight Tomato Plants £1
each Will deliver in the Longnor area.
Janet McNicol Tel: 01298 812053***

Quarnford

This month has been a very quiet month at St
Paul's.

It is hoped that soon we will be starting services
again in Easter week and hope to see you all
soon.

It is nice to see the daffodils coming out to cheer
us all up a little and a sign of spring and hopefully
some warmer weather for us all to enjoy.

Flash Village Hall is available for hire
Suitable for Parties, concerts, Club meetings etc
Hire rate is £8.50 / hour (minimum 2 hours)
To book the hall contact:
Sue on 07773881761
or email: flashvillagehall@outlook.com

Sheen

FUNERAL – Father David Green conducted the funeral service of the late Lena Simpson which took place on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at St Luke's Sheen. Thank you to the family and friends who have left donations in her memory to St Luke's.

DONATION – We have received a donation from Roger Pegg and one Anon donation in the memory of Mrs Mann.

BRASS CLEANING – Ann

CHURCH OPENING TIMES -St Luke's is closed at present following government guidelines. But hopefully it will not be for long.

CHURCH YARD -To help the volunteers who maintain the church yard, we have decided to implement the policy that Lichfield Diocesan adopt of the keeping all graves level.

BABY BOOM – Congratulations to Mark Birch and Harriet Onn on the birth of their daughter Lucy Rose on 17 February 2021, Andy Storer and Lizzie Sherratt on the birth of their daughter Eadie Oliva born 26 February 2021 and Dan Wood and Carla Critchlow on the birth of their son Zack Charles born on 19 March 2021

PLEASE STAY SAFE AND GOD BLESS

Newtown

We would like to wish everyone a happy easter and hope that they are all keeping well. We look forward to opening the Church when the present restrictions are finally lifted. We would like to thank Fr. John and Fr. David for hard work during this lockdown especially for the Zoom services which have kept us all in touch.

Thank you to Sharon, Tim and Monty for their generous donation to Church funds

Reapsmoor

Many thanks to the Simpson family for their very generous donation to Reapsmoor Church, in memory of dear Lena, who we recently lost.

Hollinsclough

Hollinsclough CE Academy

It's lovely to see all our lovely children back in school again, and hear their laughter in the playground. All the staff have really missed them all, and couldn't wait for their return. We also had two new children to welcome.

We spent the first week back just letting the children reform friendship groups. We celebrated World Book Day and together, and wrote out our own school story. We had a Forest School morning, where the children whittled sticks and toasted marshmallows on our fire-pit, and we ended the week with lots of Mothering Sunday activities, after which the children were more than ready to get back to 'normal' school routines the following week. Although we still have lots of fun activities planned, especially around Easter.

Luckily, most of our children have worked really hard during lockdown, and attended live lessons streamed by our teachers on Google Classroom, so, hopefully, catch-up will be fairly straightforward. I am very grateful for all the hard work the staff here at Hollinsclough have put in during lock-down, to ensure that no child was left behind. It really has paid dividends.

We just hope, as does everyone, that we have no more lockdowns!

If you need any information about Hollinsclough, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Warslow

As Lent progresses, we look to the hope of Easter..... lets not just think of the chocolate eggs and instead look at the symbolism of the egg and the new birth and hope that Christ has given each one of us, who listens and turns to him.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of two well-known and lovely ladies:

Ivy Peach, Tony's dear Mum, Sue's Mother in Law, Darren, Gavin and Matt's Nan, and Sandra's Aunty;
and Wilma Barlow, Darren's dear Mum, Liz's Mother in Law and Oliver and Josh's Nan. We think of their grieving families and offer them our sincere condolences, and we wish them comfort at this difficult time. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

We will be holding a Palm Sunday Service on Sunday 28th March 2021 at 11 a.m.

Please contact the Vicar if you want to take part in Zoom Services.

If anyone wants to talk to somebody in confidence or just for a chat, because they are lonely or anxious, please contact a member of the church team. We all need each other, never more than now in these uncertain and challenging times.

I pray that through patience and obedience, we work together to get through this crippling situation and we learn that it is the basic things that are important and necessary in life – love and compassion for our fellow man. God bless all of you.



The Farming Life Centre supports rural life in the Peak District, working with farmers and their families to help create more robust

businesses and communities.

Our services are aimed at improving wellbeing and resilience and all our support is free of charge, impartial and confidential.

What services do we offer?

Social and health groups and projects:

- Rural Social Group
- Rural Befriending Service
- Macmillan Rural Health Outreach Service
- Walking for Health

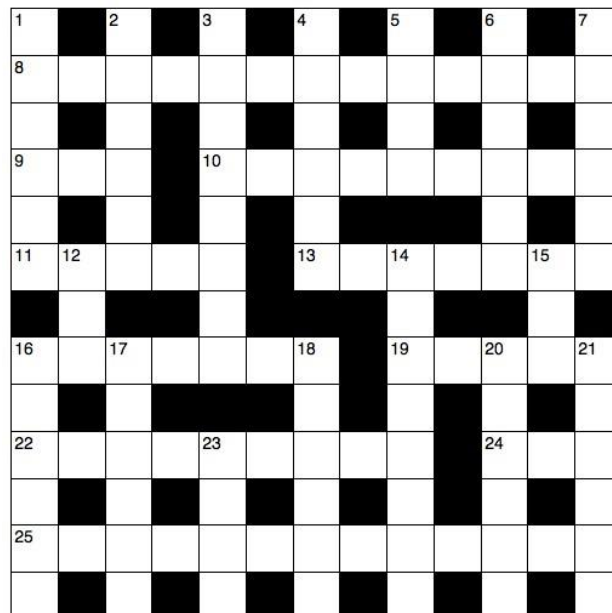
Practical business support:

- Basic bookkeeping advice
- Grant application trouble shooting
- Guidance on livestock record keeping
- Advice on preparing for audits (e.g. Farm Assurance)
- Targeted workshops and forums
- Signposting to support agencies

To find out more about any of our services call us on 01629 810903 or email: info@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk. Visit our

website at thefarminglifecentre.org.uk to keep up to date with the latest news from The Farming Life Centre.

You can follow The Farming Life Centre on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



Crossword clues

ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
13 Muslim holy month (7)
16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
24 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)

- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

Sudoku Grid

				5	7		3	
3			2					
	8	5						
1				6	2	3		7
		3				5		
6		7	5	3				4
						7	4	
					8			3
	4		6	1				

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Flower of the month **APRIL** **PRIMROSE** *Primula vulgaris*

Our native primrose, sometimes known as the woodland primrose

"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the

turtledove is heard in our land" Song of Solomon 2:12

A cheerful sign of Spring, the primrose is one of the first woodland blooms and is an important nectar source for butterflies, especially the Brimstone and Small Tortoiseshell. Primroses have a delicate perfume.

The distinctive pure yellow flowers, from deep yellow to the palest cream (and occasionally pale pink) are a joy to find. The flowers grow naturally into the form of a posy and for generations they were picked as presents and decorations for churches, especially at Easter. They are a symbol of resurrection because they have just risen again from the earth after a severe winter and are a sign of summer's promise. They are also said to be a symbol of safety, protection, and eternal love.

On Good Friday they were used in the making of 'Pace' or 'Pasche' egg, ready for Pasche egging on Easter Monday when the eggs were rolled down a hillside.

Primrose Day is on 19th April. This is when primrose flowers are placed on Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli's statue in front of Westminster Abbey, and also on his grave in Buckinghamshire. They were his favourite flower and Queen Victoria regularly sent him bunches from Windsor and Osborne. After his death in 1881, the botanist Sir George Birdwood suggested inaugurating a Primrose Day, and the custom remains.

Primrose were picked in huge numbers and sent to London hospitals and markets. In Victorian times it was the custom to plant them on the graves of small children.

Nowadays, the picking of wild flowers is frowned upon. The population of primroses has drastically reduced and they are now protected by law. It is illegal to dig them up from the wild.

To find that delicate yellow in woods, at the bottom of hedgerows or in grassland is wonderful! The Manifold Valley is a good place to look, a sheltered spot on the Longnor to Flash road, and although 'enclosed', Sheen churchyard is another source of primroses.

Shakespeare twice spoke of the 'primrose path' as the way of dalliance that led to perdition.

"Oh, to see again such abundance of primroses growing everywhere" (author unknown)

J.Mc

Crossword answers

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in *Three Down, Nine Across*, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).

Sudoku Solution

9	6	4	1	5	7	2	3	8
3	7	1	2	8	6	4	5	9
2	8	5	3	9	4	1	7	6
1	5	8	4	6	2	3	9	7
4	9	3	8	7	1	5	6	2
6	2	7	5	3	9	8	1	4
8	3	6	9	2	5	7	4	1
5	1	9	7	4	8	6	2	3
7	4	2	6	1	3	9	8	5

Easter brownie bites

Ingredients

175g butter, chopped

150g dark chocolate

250g light brown soft sugar

85g self-raising flour

50g cocoa powder

3 large eggs, beaten

100g milk chocolate chips

24 mini chocolate eggs, plus extra to decorate

Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line 24 holes of a mini muffin tray with paper cases. Put the butter, dark chocolate and sugar in a pan and heat it very gently, stirring all the time until the butter and chocolate have melted. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for a few mins.

STEP 2

Meanwhile, sift the flour, cocoa and a good pinch of salt into a large bowl. Stir in the warm, melted chocolate mixture and the beaten eggs, then add half the chocolate chips and mix until just combined.

STEP 3

Divide the mixture between the cases and place a mini egg into the middle of each muffin, pushing down gently. Bake for 12-15 mins until cooked but still gooey in the centre – they will continue cooking a little as they cool down. Leave to cool for 10 mins in the tin before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

STEP 4

Melt the rest of the chocolate chips in short bursts in the microwave, or in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, stirring frequently. Leave to cool until it is quite thick, then dot a small amount on each cake and stick on some more mini eggs

I'll be trying this one!!!

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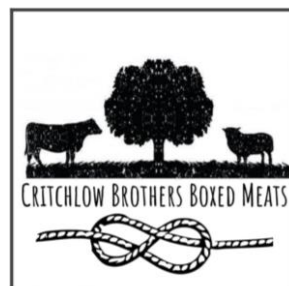
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Staffordshire Moorlands

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Services in April 2021

Note: At the time of writing, we plan to resume services in our church buildings for Holy Week, beginning at 10 am in Warslow on Palm Sunday. This is still subject to our risk-assessed ability to meet guidelines from the Government and the Church of England relating to Covid-19. If we are unable to meet in our church buildings, we will revert to Rota B. If this occurs we will place a notice on our website (www.thelongnorbenefice.org/coronavirus) and those registered to attend will be informed.

Rota A – If we are able to hold in-place services

Date	Time	Service	Place	to confirm the service will take place and book please contact
Thursday 1 st April	6:30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	Quarnford	Margaret Clulow 01538 381896
Friday 2 nd April	3pm	Good Friday Service	Longnor	Nanette Riley 01298 83314
Sunday 4 th April	11am	Easter Day Holy Communion	Sheen	Ann Belfield 01298 84396
Sunday 11 th April	11am	Holy Communion	Elkstones	Reg Meakin 01538 304295
Sunday 18 th April	11am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Quarnford	Margaret Clulow 01538 381896
Sunday 25 th April	11am	Holy Communion	Longnor	Nanette Riley 01298 83314
Sunday 2 nd May	11am	Holy Communion	Sheen	Ann Belfield 01298 84396

Rota B – If we are not able to hold in-place services

Date	Time	Service	Place
1 st April to 2 nd May		As Rota A – but Sunday Morning Services at 11am. Other services with times as stated in Rota A.	

Whichever rota is used: Each Thursday 10am Morning Prayer on Zoom and each Sunday 6:30pm Evening Prayer on Zoom will take place as usual (email longnorvicarage@gmail.com for Zoom invite).