

Bisham Life

The Bisham Parish newsletter for
March and April 2021



THE SEASON

Reminiscing about times when the milkman was *really* local; whilst it is raining (or snowing) and field work is not possible

THE RISING WATERS

Keeping you informed when the flood waters rise — sources of information and websites to visit

THE PODCAST

In The Shadow of The Abbey explores “The War Years”, “The Abbey History” and “The Village Stories”

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

The Vicar Writes
Parish Council News
Puzzle Time
March Reflections

THE VICAR WRITES

By the time you read this, many of you will have had your vaccinations, and we will be in the process of coming out of lockdown and other restrictions (I'm trying to be optimistic!). Also, with the flush of Spring, new life will be breaking-out all around with flowers blooming, leaves unfolding, and new-born lambs in the fields.

We will also be celebrating Easter and Jesus' resurrection as he broke out of the tomb, emerging into the world, bringing new life. I wonder if this is a helpful image for us as we go through the process of re-emerging from lockdown. There probably won't be one identifiable day when we can say the crisis is over and the virus defeated, compared to Jesus' splitting open the tomb on Easter Sunday. But we might feel like we are coming out of the isolation and darkness; emerging into the light and freedom of being alive.

Jesus experienced different reactions to his resurrection: some were scared, others triumphant; some ran away, others hugged him close; some shouted the news that he was alive; others couldn't believe it was true. I am sure it will be the same as we come out of COVID restrictions, people need to process what has happened and will react differently and at different speeds. Some will want to hug everyone, others will need time to get used to being close to people again, some will want to party and celebrate, others will be mourning and remembering loved ones they have lost. We will need to be patient and listen to each other as we all readjust. Many have celebrated the increase in community spirit during the crisis, so let's commit to keeping that sense of community by looking out for our friends, family and neighbours and continue to support each other.

When Jesus came out of the tomb he was changed, resurrection was more than resuscitation. His body was transformed. It was still a real body – he could eat and touch, but it was also different – he could enter a locked room and appear in different places. This resurrected body bore the crucifixion scars but was full of new life.

Lockdown-easing may not result in such a dramatic transformation. Wounds of what we experienced will heal and, hopefully, make us stronger, but their scars will always mark us. We may be more robust by looking at our lives differently with a renewed awareness of environmental, social and racial justice issues. Increased appreciation of community and relationships, how technology can be used for good, and may bring about a better balance in our lives.

We cannot go back to where we were before March 2020. We have changed; things are different. We will need to work out what that looks like in our family, work, church and community life. My prayer is that God can work things for the good and enable us to become a better society. I hope too that we will be able to open up the church fully and, as well as worshipping together, our building will be used to offer hospitality to our community to meet together and share as we move forward together.

God bless and take care,

Sarah

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES



Colin Lemmings is now officially the Flood Co-ordinator for Bisham parish. He works alongside Jim Cooke, our Flood Warden. Colin has been very much involved over the past few weeks during the flood Alerts, with extra input from Derek Oliver, who lives by the river, so he has seen each day how the river level has risen or fallen. The Parish Council is grateful to both Colin and Derek for the updates and support they have been giving during the worrying few days when Bisham Brook was rising and gardens were flooding.

As many of you will already know, there was recently a fractured sewage pipe on the corner of the Bisham Abbey land in Temple Lane: The emergency work by Thames Water to repair the fracture necessarily badly damaged the roots of one of the line of fine beech trees, which sadly for safety reasons has had to be felled. We have asked that Thames Water replace the tree with a fairly mature specimen. The environment agency are investigating whether the fracture led to any pollution of Bisham Brook. Remedial work to the brook, reported in an earlier edition of Bisham Life, has paused because of the Covid restrictions, but it will recommence when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

The gate into the Orchard on the main road has now been repaired, as has the surface of the bridge into The Orchard. The wire, which provided a safe walking surface in wet conditions, had become broken and unsafe, and has been replaced.

Many of you are aware of the local online survey of traffic speeds in Bisham Village which has attracted support from many people. Speeding in the village is a problem that the Parish Council has wrestled with over many years, trying to think of a feasible way of reducing speeds. The Parish Council has made contact with the Borough and we would support any good proposal that the Borough might suggest for reducing speeds; it is a difficult problem to solve, since the road through the village is the main A308 road from Maidenhead to Marlow.

During the current lockdown the playground remains open, but if you and your family do take children in to play, please be aware that you must be careful to maintain a safe distance from others, and do not go into the playground if it seems to be busy.

The Parish Council hopes that everyone is staying well and following the current restrictions and we all hope that as Spring approaches, we can look forward to better days.

Mandy Robson Brown

[editors note: there is more information on flood measures below]

THE SEASON — SPRING (& A BIT OF HISTORY)



It's raining again and with over 100mm of rain recorded in January, it is no wonder that flood waters are appearing at Temple and no doubt other susceptible areas along the Thames valley. Our farmland is saturated and so any thoughts of any land work must be put on hold until the days are drier and indeed warmer. We have oats and field beans to sow, when conditions improve. Where unaffected, our autumn sown crops of wheat and oilseed rape are looking well with the annual dreaded pigeon onslaught on the rape yet to begin.

In the hope that it might interest you, I would like to look back in time to when the Randall family with seven children were living at Woodside Farm, now known as Shepherds Standing, Pinkneys Green and my great great grandmother was the landlady of the Bull at Bisham and is buried in the churchyard. Hyde Farm formed part of the Bisham Abbey Estate and tenanted to our family. My father first came to Hyde Farm in the early 1930's as a 17yr old teenager with a housekeeper living in the Lodge in its original 'two up and two down' mode. His father charged him with running the 300 acre farm, including a 70 cow dairy herd with the further responsibility of retailing the milk produced to the Maidenhead area. This was achieved using ponies and milk floats (as illustrated). My parents were married in 1936 and with the advent of the 2nd World War, the farmhouse was used to house evacuees out of London. By 1946, three children had arrived and with the war over, we were pleased to move to the farmhouse.



The war effort demanded farmers to produce as much food as possible to feed the nation and so maximising our available acreage, we were rewarded with a bumper harvest in 1946. The aerial photograph depicts twenty-one corn ricks, made up of sheaves of wheat, oats and barley. The ricks were all thatched to protect the grain from the elements and crowned with a corn dolly and were strategically placed to accommodate a threshing machine between each pair of ricks. We were unaware of the photograph until two years later, it appeared in the Farmers Weekly magazine and so were able to trace its origins. In fact, with the advent of the common use of the combine harvester, our 1946 harvest ricks were never going to be repeated again.



My grandfather bought Temple Farm in 1942, where a second dairy herd was established to augment the Hyde Farm production, for the expanding retail business. This continued until 1956 when the operation required considerable capital expenditure, such as replacing the ponies and carts with motorised delivery vans and more modern dairy machinery. It was then decided to give up retailing but just continue milk production for the wholesale market. By 1973, the facilities at both farms restricted any individual expansion so we developed a new, modern set-up at Temple Farm to accommodate both herds, totalling 200 including followers as the youngstock are known. This decision released all the land at Hyde Farm to arable production.

I will continue to bring this up to date in a future edition of *Bisham Life*.

Alan Randall, 10th February 2021

PETER ANTHONY LAND (1927 - 2021)



Peter was a charming man who will be well known to many of you as a keen sportsman and a positive, energetic doer who got things done. Peter died on 4th February 2021 aged 94 after a short illness. He generously spent time to share his story with me over the past 2 years.

Peter and Dorothy initially came to Marlow in 1959 from Derby. He was one of the early commuters to London from

M Maidenhead station, driving through Bisham from Marlow. He remembered the roads kept clear and clean and free of snow, by Will Dormer, the lengthsman. With a growing family, they wanted a bigger house and one morning Peter spotted a plot of land for sale in Bisham and called Dorothy to go to Lawrence Son and Laird and buy it – he wanted the third furthest away from the bridge – closest to the village. He had to raise the money by 11am! He did not know, until the digging started, that it had previously been the bottle dump for the Wethered Brewery. When the bottle style changed they had dumped the old ones on the field that Peter had bought to build his house.

Peter persevered and moved his young family to Bisham into newly built South Riding in 1963. He was delighted to find that the vicar, Revd Ben Farrer, was someone he knew and liked from the army. Peter had trained at Sandhurst and served as an army officer, returning to finish his accountancy articles after fighting the Japanese, this proved to be worth the initial hardship. Peter became involved with the newly created Sports Council when Bisham Abbey was sold to the nation in 1961. He was influential in bringing national hockey to Bisham, raising money for the first 2 pitches and he started the golf club at the abbey – making the course work around the 3 football pitches. Peter became Chief Executive of the local health authority and one of the highlights was hosting a visit by Princess Diana to the Marlow Cottage hospital in Marlow in 1991. Dorothy served as a Bisham Parish councillor for many years and Peter enjoyed being introduced as her husband. Peter liked living in Bisham very much and felt that he had made a good choice of location as all his children chose to stay in the locality.

It is hoped to hold a memorial service for Peter, however plans cannot yet be formalised. If you would like to make a donation c/o Arnolds Funeral Directors, the charities Peter supported were Helen and Douglas House, the children's hospice and League of Friends of Marlow Hospital, supporting the Cottage Hospital.

Sheila Featherstone-Clark

THE RISING WATERS

Bisham Parish Council is currently updating its local Flood Plan. A new Flood Coordinator and Flood Marshalls have been appointed situated at or near the main flood risk areas of the village — Marlow Bridge area and Quarry Wood Road, The Slipway and All Saints' church area, The Green, Orchard and Stream, and Temple Mill Island. It is planned to establish a new flood hub in the village, to work with the RBWM flood committee, local adjoining Parish Councils and the Emergency Services to help manage floods and flood risk. Up to date water levels and flood information will appear on the Parish Council's web site: <http://www.bishamparishcouncil.org.uk/flooding-information/> currently this information is limited.

The Council plans this initiative to be widened to cover other emergency situations in the future.

Colin Lemmings

IN THE SHADOW OF THE ABBEY - PODCAST

I have written previously about my research into the history of Bisham village. During the lockdown I have learnt a new skill; podcasting. I have adapted my writing to make short podcasts initially from the War Years section (1918 – 1924) which are based on the Bisham Parish Reports. I am gradually adding more episodes on the Abbey History and the Village Stories. If you would like to listen it is available via Podcast Addict, Spotify and TuneIn or <https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1566221.rss>. If you have questions or memories, please email me on intheshadowoftheabbey@gmail.com.

Sheila Featherstone-Clark

MARCH REFLECTIONS

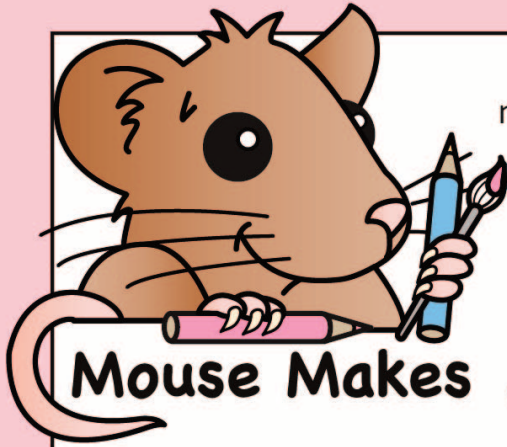
The quality of the articles in this edition presented me with a bit of a juggling act: not quite enough to add an extra 4 pages (1 extra page of printing); too many to fit in the usual 8 pages.

In the end, the sudoku is gone and my words of wisdom (*cough, splutter*) in this section are much shorter.

It is March, so I have to mention St Cuthbert as my home county town, Kirkcudbright, is named after him. He lived in interesting times when the celtic and roman christian traditions were often at odds. He was present at the Synod of Whitby in 664 when the date of Easter was a "hot topic".

St Cuthbert travelled far and wide spreading christianity to many a remote village in Scotland and Northern England. He also seems to have travelled just as much after his death and that is what took him to Kirkcudbright — his coffin rested there after it was taken from Lindisfarne in order to escape the invading Danes who had their eyes on the relics of a prolific miracle performer. From Kirkcudbright, his relics went to Chester-le-Street.

Stewart F-C, editor and church warden



Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?
Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL
Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH
Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL
Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY
2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN
Genesis 29:32

GAD
Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL
1 Samuel 1:20

OBED
Matthew 1:5

ISAAC
Genesis 21:3

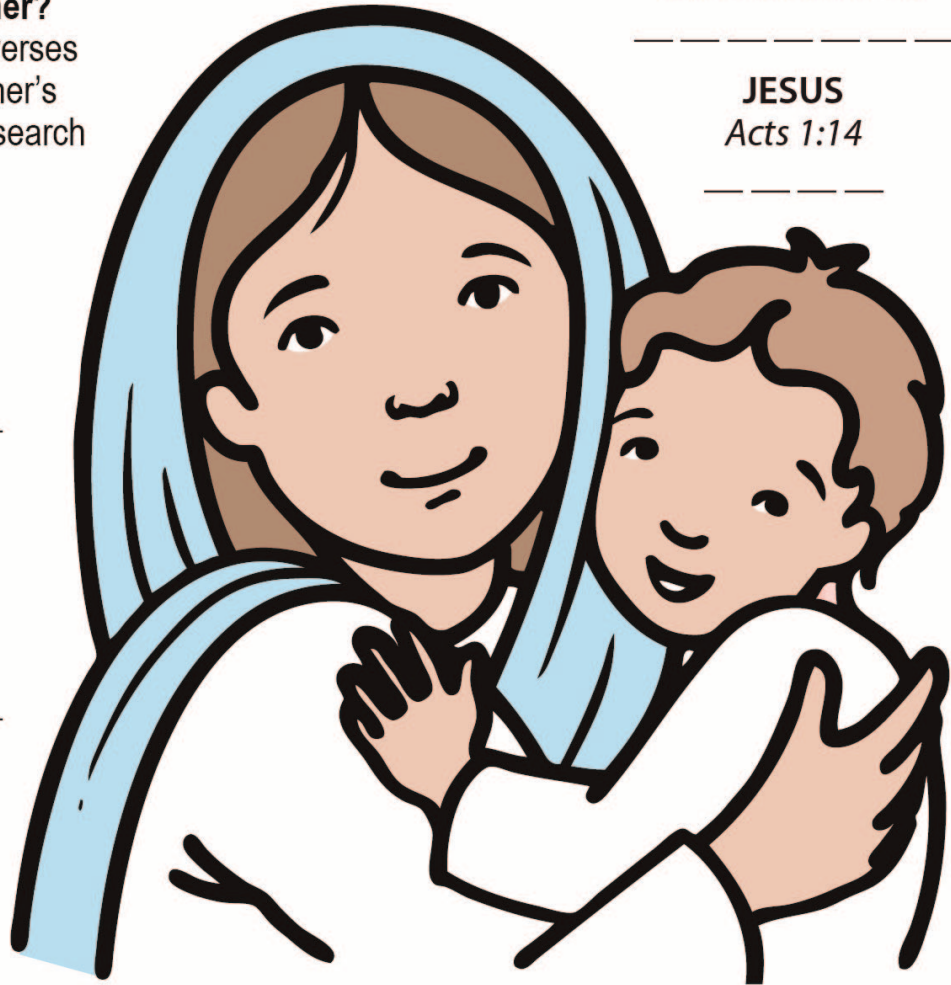
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14



R	A	C	H	E	L	M	A	R	Y	A	V	Z
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	H	E	V	I
B	Z	D	R	E	B	V	S	U	A	U	O	L
E	T	M	U	M	L	E	A	H	N	N	L	P
K	M	O	T	H	E	R	R	T	N	I	E	A
A	I	S	H	H	A	G	A	R	A	C	G	H
H	S	T	A	B	A	T	H	S	H	E	B	A

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?