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# **The Pinnacle**

**A Magazine for the parish of  
Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley**

***The Churches of St Andrew's,  
St John's and St Mary's***

**St John's is a Local Anglican/Methodist Ecumenical Partnership**

**April 2023**

## A Church Directory

<b>Vicar</b>	The Revd Mike Green	07300 171351
<b>Readers</b>	Mr Rod Tickner Mr Kevin Wood	635368 633950
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Mr Robert Hall Mrs Joan McCartney Mrs Janet Wade Mrs Sandie Walton	635549 635736 448379 636501
<b>PCC Vice Chair</b>	Mrs Sandie Walton	636501
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mrs Jill Wright jill@woodchipcomputers.co.uk	634526
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Mrs Janet Wade	448379
<b>Planned Giving &amp; Gift Aid Secretaries</b>	Mrs Brenda Brock (Kildwick) Mrs Janet Wade (Cononley)	633938 448379
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Mrs Geraldine Sands	07427 857495
<b>Parish Team Leaders</b> <i>The Parish Teams are in the process of reorganisation.</i>		
<b>Bell Tower &amp; MiniRingers</b>	Mr Chris Wright	634526
<b>Chuffs</b> <i>Church for the Under Fives</i>	Katherine	07984 688519
<b>CDFC Representatives</b>	Mrs Christine Anderton Miss Glyn Evans	633596 631665
<b>Flower Rota</b>	Mrs June Whitaker (Kildwick)	655320
<b>Music</b>	Mrs Janet Wade (Cononley) Miss Glyn Evans (Kildwick)	448379 631665

Dear Friends

Easter is fast approaching, the commercial bandwagon has been rolling forward since just after Christmas, when I saw creme eggs for sale, but that is what commercialism does. It persuades everyone that the only way to celebrate something is to spend vast amounts of money joining an ever-increasing secular trend, which very few can actually afford.



As Christians, however, what we celebrate at Easter is far beyond monetary value and our celebrations take on a variety of emotions as we travel through Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally that glorious Easter day. However hard we try to understand the Easter story it's almost beyond our comprehension that Jesus, God incarnate, should sacrifice himself to such a cruel death on the cross of Calvary, so that we can come forgiven into the presence of God. As we come before the cross on Good Friday, with hindsight we know the resurrection is only three days away. Jesus' disciples, however, didn't have that insight to the future; at the crucifixion their world fell apart. For them Jesus was dead and all hope for the future was gone. Just imagine Mary's delight when she realised that the gardener she was talking to was actually the risen Lord Jesus. And the joy of the disciples when Jesus appeared to them over the next 40 days. They suddenly had a new prospectus on life; from deep despair they now had hope. The promises Jesus had given them during his earthly ministry were now unfolding and their excitement was plain to see, although until Pentecost the fruits of that excitement would be tempered with their human limitations.

Easter is a special time to reflect on the love of God for His people but what is even more wonderful is that his love is personalised, his love is for you, and that is something to really get excited about. After Jesus was crucified, his disciples felt lost, without a purpose in life and so many people now feel like that as well. Only through the resurrection power of Jesus did the disciples find hope for the future and that same resurrection power is available to us today. There are so many people who are living in fear and oppression without experiencing

the love of another human being. Jesus brings hope into lives full of despair, he renews damaged relationships and he heals broken hearts and he usually does it through the love and obedience of people like you and me. Please remember this Easter those who are in desperate need of the love of Jesus. Please pray that they will find his love and compassion in whatever situation they are in and that as we pray, God will reveal to us how we can help those who are suffering and in need.

This Easter we have a variety of services across the parish to help us reflect on this, the greatest of gifts. From morning prayer at St Andrew's on Holy Tuesday, to a Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion with washing of feet and a watch at the cross at St Mary's, to some time at the cross on Good Friday at St John's, before the great service to celebrate our redemption on Easter Day. We have some time for family fun on Good Friday morning at St John's, and some time for us to reflect in our own time during a self-paced Stations of the Cross at St Andrew's in the afternoon of Good Friday. We will also be putting bits online for those who can't get to one of the churches for whatever reason. We hope we have provided something for everyone.

As this is the last magazine that Chris will be producing for us, I wanted to put on record a big THANK YOU. Most people won't have realised quite how much time is needed to put together such a fabulous publication. Thank you from us all.

So, as I hold each of you in prayer, I wish you a very Happy Easter.

God bless,

*Reverend Mike*



## FLAPJACK FRIDAY

Flapjack Friday will be taking a break during the Easter Holidays - but expect to see it return at the beginning of term! School starts on 18th April

## The Lectionary for April

2nd April	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Isaiah 50.4-9a, Psalm 31.9-16 Philippians 2.5-11, Matthew 26.14 – 27.66 or Matthew 27.11-54
9th April	<b>Easter Day</b>	Acts 10.34-43 or Jeremiah 31.1-6 Psalm 118.1-2,14-24 Colossians 3.1-4 or Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10
16th April	The Second Sunday of Easter	Exodus 14.10-end; 15.20,21 or Acts 2.14a,22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1.3-9 or Acts 2.14a,22-32 John 20.19-31
23rd April	The Third Sunday of Easter	Zephaniah 3.14-end or Acts 2.14a,36-41 Psalm 116.1-3,10-17 1 Peter 1.17-23 or Acts 2.14a,36-41 Luke 24.13-35
30th April	The Fourth Sunday of Easter	Genesis 7 or Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2.19-25 or Acts 2.42-47 John 10.1-10

On the Sundays of Easter, the passage from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.



### Events at St Andrew's Church

A trawl through Mike's weekly letters has gleaned the following information about events in the next couple of months:

- Sunday 14th May at 5:00pm    Leeds Baroque Choir and Consort
- Saturday 20th May at 7:30pm    Fairest Isle, a concert by Masterworks Chorale. Tickets are £15 each
- Saturday 10th June    A concert by Ad Hoc Baroque
- Sunday 18th June at 4:30pm    Choral Evensong with Bradford Cathedral Boys Choir.

# History, Technology and Change

## *A personal journey*

I wrote, last month, a little about some of my early printing and publishing days. It all started around 65 years ago when my older bro took a big step-up from the regular John Bull rubber type and bought an “Adana” printing press. We printed letterheads and made labels for the industrial quantities of marmalade and other preserves that Mother produced in aid of the church spire fund. All of the individual lead letters were set in a galley and carefully flattened and levelled so that each one printed. Nowadays, you hear the inexperienced talk about “leading” – as in “going first” when referring to the space between the lines. Those who grew up in those days know that this is “leding” – because it refers to the thin strips of lead that we slipped in to make space between the rows of letters.

Following John to secondary school, I soon joined the College Press. Never a very senior member, my work was often at the small press in the cricket pavilion where we slaved over score cards that were out of date when the next ball was bowled. Among today’s technology with instant statistics and analysis streamed across the bottom of the screen, now it seems to have been a very strange way to spend a summer’s afternoon! I was, however, somewhat involved in a very posh printing job where we produced just a few hundred copies of an anthology of poems written about the school by Old Boy, John Betjeman. These were all manually typeset and printed on hand-made paper before being professionally hand bound. John still has his copy but I wasn’t of the rank even to be able to bid for one.

A vivid memory of that time was a trip to The Times. (*It was a posh school - News of the World wouldn’t have done!*) This all was some 20 years or more before Mr Murdoch moved from Fleet Street to Wapping and my abiding impression was that of noise. No individual bits of type here; each page was cast in a single sheet of lead, wrapped round a huge drum and revolved at a frightening pace. The paper literally came hot off the press – too hot to touch. This was a noisy and dangerous environment. Today you wouldn’t allow men near it; let alone us schoolboys. When I left school, I had visited not only what would prove to be the death-throes of a dying hot-metal printing industry but also some of the first seeds of a far greater revolution. On another occasion we went to a place near Milton Keynes. We weren’t looking at their famous code-breaking but they did have a real, live computer. It occupied a whole building and was full of the large cabinets and whirring spools of magnetic tape so beloved of the cartoons. The Bletchley Park computer was directly involved in that move from Fleet Street to Wapping.

That was a move that involved riots and strikes. It involved the loss of an army of hugely skilled composers and foundrymen; of editors and sub-editors. A whole industry died over a period of just a few years.

My own printing life navigated altogether calmer waters. After school there was little need of printing till teaching brought the need for work sheets and exam papers. Strangely, it was a rotary system that I found, though one very different from the mighty Times drums. But the Banda machine, with its wax masters broke new ground – it could print multicoloured sheets! But even the days of the mighty Banda were numbered. Microcomputers were appearing.

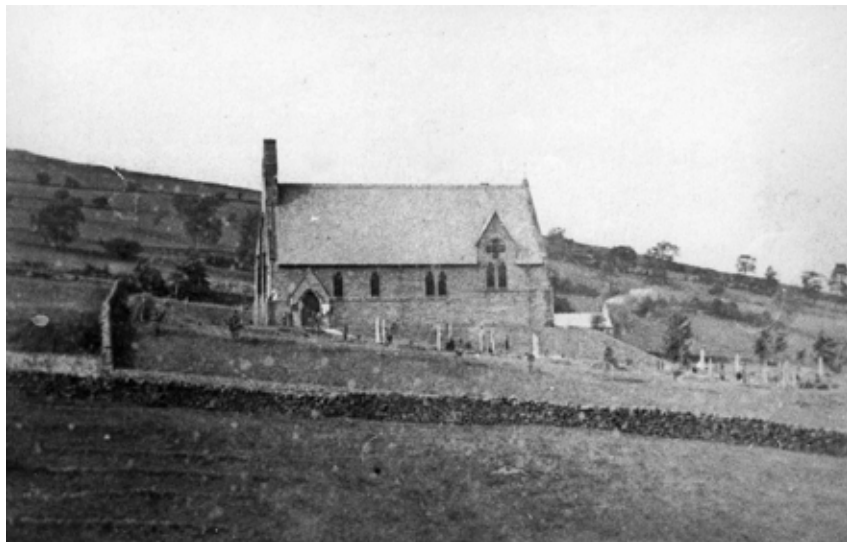
I had left teaching before the “BBC B” computer appeared. Hopelessly underpowered compared to the big machines, they were still quicker, simply because they were available. A “Beeb” on your desk could, in 30 minutes, do a 20 second job for a mainframe that you could only book in this time next week. They were pricey. My first cost the equivalent of some £1,600 but, connected with a dot-matrix printer (“Shriek; Shriek!”) produced the masters for my first parish magazine in 1982. I have been editing a parish magazine, almost without a break, ever since.

Technology has changed. In 40 years, it would have done! We have moved from making paper masters for a commercial printer to sending it in digital format over that new thing called “the Internet”. Printing technology has grown so we can now print multiple copies in house, incidentally creating more redundancies as outdated jobbing printers struggle to survive. On from black and white, past the crude colouring of the Banda, we can now print full colour pages in better quality than some photos. On my own journey, much of my learning has been from observation of those better than me, though there has been professional teaching on the way. That teaching is two-way. For some years I taught a module at Church House in Westminster on “How to Make a Magazine”. Sadly the book that went with it is long out of print.

And so now, we reach the end of what has been quite a long road. I’ll still be designing and printing material for other organisations but this is probably the last parish magazine I’ll edit. I can’t say that I have loved every moment of it but I still get a buzz and a deep sense of satisfaction to know that, with the help of a whole crowd of others, I have produced something that some folk seem to value. But, unlike the journalists of Fleet Street, it is time not to riot but to recognise that technology and change are always with us and that it is time to stand aside for newer and younger ideas.

*Chris Wright*

## **Trevor Hodgson, St. John's Church and the history of Cononley.**



Twenty-five years ago, I was seeking to publish a guide to the history of Cononley. So began a friendship with Trevor Hodgson, who had already collected and researched a considerable collection of photographs, documents and other sources. Together we produced two books (followed by three more, in which I drew, in part, on our joint research and his support).

Trevor served St. John's Church in a multitude of ways for upwards of 50 years: including as a member of the PCC, as Vicar's Warden, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the PCC 1971-78, and latterly as Honorary Auditor. He studied the history of St. John's Church and the various local Non-Conformist Chapels and collected something like a 1000 items relating to them, including some 200 photographs of the buildings and, more importantly, of the people associated with them. Trevor developed a relationship with the archivist of Christ Church, Oxford which produced information on the creation of an Anglican church in Cononley. In 2012 I visited the archive in Oxford to examine and photograph Christ Church's Kildwick material on both St. Andrew's and St John's Churches, so increasing our joint collection.

For those who would like to see more about the history of Cononley there is a 'Village History' section on the Cononley Parish Council website [www.cononleypc.org.uk](http://www.cononleypc.org.uk) which contains accessible versions of our books:



***'The History of Cononley: an Airedale village' and 'Cononley: Photographs of an Airedale Village'.***

The website also includes a selection of photographs and documents (some relating to the church), as well as historic maps together with Trevor Hodgson's notebooks recording the flora of Cononley over many years.



Trevor Hodgson's original research notes have been placed permanently in Skipton Public Library (enquiries via the reference library on the 2nd floor). Topics covered include the history of St. John's Church, of the Methodist Chapels, Cononley shops, businesses and many individual farms and houses. The collection also includes Trevor Hodgson's files of newspaper cuttings covering 200 years but which, in particular, recorded every local reference to Cononley for some 35 years from the mid-1970s onwards. Additionally, there are two large albums containing hundreds of copies of Cononley photographs (including many of families, groups and occasions). Trevor's unique collection of original prints of earlier photographs of

Cononley (before 1950) has been placed in the North Yorkshire Record Office at Northallerton.



***David Gulliver***

Photographs:

**St. John's Church.** *The church photographed from the other side of Nethergill about 1875.*

**St. John's Church.** *The interior of the church about 1897 showing the, then new, screen and lectern. Note that the church walls were elaborately decorated in the 19thc.*

**J.T.C. Fawcett,** *Vicar of Kildwick when St. John's planned and built. Revd Fawcett died in 1867.*

# Prayers for April

Triumphant Jesus, You raised Lazarus from dead, saying  
"Unbind him, let him go free."

You too were bound and laid to rest in a cold tomb, freshened by myrrh  
and aloes. Unbind us so that we may also go free.

In sorrow we left you as the dead Jesus and in wonder  
you returned to us as the Risen Christ.

Untied from the strips of linen, you offered us a new-found freedom.  
Raise us from the coldness of the tomb in which we are trapped.

With this freedom we are empowered to make choices  
about our lifestyle and attitudes,  
But our human frailty prevents us from being courageous  
by taking those first vital steps.  
Release us from the self-imposed exile of our prejudices. Amen.

Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us	may your dawn beckon.
When fear paralyses us	may your touch release us.
When grief torments us	may your peace enfold us.
When memories haunt us	may your presence heal us.
When justice fails us	may your anger ignite us.
When apathy stagnates us	may your challenge renew us.
When courage leaves us	may your spirit inspire us.
When despair grips us	may your hope restore us.
And when death threatens us	may your resurrection light lead us.
Amen	

How wonderful, Lord Jesus, you came back  
You suffered death but conquered it  
You laid in the tomb but on the third day You rose again  
O joyful day, Lord Jesus, when you returned  
You are the resurrection, our hope and our life  
O glorious and victorious Redeemer help us not to be afraid of death  
For we must pass through it to see you face to face  
And on the last day we will rise again. For you said so  
Let us rejoice and praise you our blessed and triumphant Lord  
On this happy, joyful feast. Amen

## Good Morning and Cononley calling

. . . as far as I know all is well here in the village!

At long last Spring definitely seems to be with us – the Curlews are back and the Blackbird has chosen an excellent nesting site in our garden – but fingers crossed the Magpies don't find it. I know they all have to live but I prefer it if they limit their diet to road kill!

I love hearing the Curlews when I'm walking round Stochard and this week I even saw a Hare – real bonus; it was on its own so no boxing going on.

The very best place that I have seen Hares is in North Norfolk and on early morning walks, there seemed to be loads of them – running along with their almost ungainly gait!

I spoke last time of the Primroses peeping through. Well, now they are fully out on the sunny banks. Some have crossed with garden Primula and are rather exotic looking but I prefer the true pale lemony, yellow ones.

As well as walking our beautiful inland scenery, we are just back from Sandsend, north of Whitby and so I can tell you that all is well there – I didn't see any evidence of seabirds in distress; I think that must be further north.

Beach walking is very different from my usual uphill strolls – strolls because I'm a steady (slow) walker now. In many ways walking on sand is harder – it works different muscles. The beach between Sandsend and Whitby is an endless stream of dog walkers – all sizes and breeds of dogs and fortunately my dog is a peaceful soul!

I do love the sea and generally find it very calming – Crab sandwiches are good too!

So hey ho – onwards to new adventures and huge thanks to Chris Wright for his excellent work on the magazine!



*Sorry to have squeezed the April Prayers onto one page. . .*

Space constraints meant that the alternative would have been to have added an extra sheet of paper (four pages) – and then padding it all out with material gleaned elsewhere. I have **always** tried to avoid padding!

## Cononley W.I.



We had renowned Interior Designer Debbie Butler from Edinburgh Weavers come and do a workshop with us at our March meeting. Debbie recounted the fascinating story about how the original founder of Edinburgh Weavers championed the Arts & Craft movement with a number of their designs now permanently on display in the V&A Museum in London. The Savoy, Claridges, Fortnum & Mason and the Tate Gallery are just a few of its clients. We received some top tips about interior designing in our own homes and then had the opportunity to create a “mood board” which was enthusiastically taken on by everyone. It was certainly a lovely, fun, informative evening and we welcomed 3 new members to our growing membership.

Our Programme Secretary, Cheryl Green, has been working hard on securing speakers for the next 12 months. The programme calendar is now ready and we’ve a fascinating, eclectic mix of speakers lined up – certainly something for everyone. So, if you want to find out more about Bee Keeping, Swimming the Channel, Watercolour painting, Instagram or Belly Dancing (yes, you read that correctly!) then we’d love to see you! There’s lots of other interesting topics lined up too...

We meet on the first Thursday of every month and our next meeting is Thursday 6th April – 7:30pm Cononley Village Institute. If you’d like to come along, you’ll be sure of a warm welcome. If you don’t want to walk in on your own, then please don’t hesitate to give me or Elaine a ring – we’ll happily walk in with you and make sure you’re looked after.

Julie Cawood – President – Mob: 07802 807815

Elaine Shoesmith – Secretary/Treasurer – Mob: 07584 210473

*Julie Cawood  
President*

## Thank you

A huge “thank you” to all those who have helped and supported me during my years in the editorial office. Even though my tenure has been shorter than some, there are still too many contributors, correspondents, copywriters, proofreaders, critics, printers, collators and staplers to mention by name. Whether there is a future for a traditional parish mag in today’s world is for others to determine, but you have all played a crucial part in what has been. Thank you.

*Chris Wright*

# Running a Community Cinema

All over the North, in villages and towns, in village halls, community centres and churches, people come together for a social evening watching a film together. So what is involved in running a community cinema?

For over 5 years, on one Sunday a month an audience of local residents have come together to the Cononley Village Institute to watch a film, enjoy some refreshment, have an ice cream and of course socialise. We first joined Cine North, a charitable organisation which supports over 60 community cinemas. It loans out the full equipment needed, projector, screen and speakers, suggests good films and obtains the licences and discs to show them.

It was easy to start the first showing: order a film which might be popular, put up posters, publicise in village newsletter and sell tickets through the village shop. We decided to have a bar and to have ice creams, served on a tray in the interval, to get the sociable cinema atmosphere. Come the big day of our first film we collected a car full of equipment from a nearby venue, remembered how to put it all together and then set up the hall. The first showing worked with an audience of 44, so we were up and running.

Then we started monthly showings and getting a routine. Key to it was getting volunteers to help set up the hall, run the bar, sell tickets and meet and greet on the door, sell ice cream and make teas and coffees. After eighteen months, when we had developed a regular audience, the Institute invested in our own equipment, a great relief from having to collect and deliver it. There are costs, mainly the film licence for a public showing (£120 per film) but ticket sales and refreshment profits mean that every year the Cinema Club has made between £500 to £700 for the Institute's funds.

By far the hardest part is deciding which films to show. Do we just show "feel good" films? Do we show films set in the USA? Do we show foreign films? And what about Cert 15 films with the risk of violence, sex and drug taking? We ask for ideas but it is still a hard decision. We have shown a mixture, interspersing "light" films with more thought provoking or difficult films. An eclectic mix as one of our regulars referred to it!

Cononley Cinema Club is now a fixture on the village scene with audiences varying from 25 to a recent record breaking 54 depending on the film, the weather, time of year or who knows what!

*Richard Woolf*

*Follow Cononley Cinema club and Cine North on Facebook or go to <https://www.cononleyinstitute.co.uk/cinema-club> and <https://www.edenarts.co.uk/projects/cinenorth>*

## Notes from the Bell Tower

In a new initiative, we are publishing our plans for the month ahead on the church notice boards so you can see what's in store. (And, maybe, go away for the day!!)

Our permitted "extra" ringing for April is to be an attempt at a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles in celebration of the Golden Wedding of our second-oldest ringer (and his wife, of course!)



This, in a way, is at the other end of the scale from March's quarter, rung, not for septuagenarians but for Erin's 12th birthday. Not only a birthday compliment but also a magnificent performance by Erin herself as she rang (almost faultlessly!) for the 48 minutes of her first ever attempt at ringing a quarter.

There are two weddings for which the brides have requested bells. The first is on 15th April (a day after the quarter peal attempt) and the second on 29th. Between the quarter peal attempt and the wedding, for technical reasons, the clock chimes will be silenced.

### Plans for May

are still under discussion, though we will be ringing both on the day of the Coronation and as part of the Big Parish Picnic. That is the day we are planning another "Ringing for All", as we did to celebrate Armistice Day. Everybody will be welcome to come. They will, with the help of an expert, have the opportunity to ring a real church bell; to experience the weight and power of these, some of the biggest and loudest of all musical instruments. Last time, some 70 people took the opportunity and, like then, each ringer will be awarded a certificate to record that they joined with others to **Ring for the King**. (We will even be catering for some of our smaller visitors as we have a little dummy bell that works just like the big ones!)

The details of all the ringing arrangements for this weekend are still under discussion, not just with the church authorities but with the organisers of the Kildwick and Farnhill Big Picnic so that we can coordinate everything.

Sunday 14th is a day designated as "Bell Sunday". Plans for that went on hold when we heard that a concert has been booked for the afternoon. An early plan is to follow up our open ringing on Coronation Sunday with the opportunity to come and watch some "serious" ringing for yourselves.

We're in the very early stages of planning but an embryo idea is to attempt a longer piece of ringing (maybe as much as a quarter peal) on **Sunday May 21st**. What is very different is that, instead of the usual locked doors to avoid distractions, we will ring with the doors opened wide so that you can pop in and watch as the ringers concentrate their way through the complexities of ringing.

None of that is certain. Whatever we do will be advertised with posters and emails, Facebook and notice boards – so keep an eye open!

It is not all about headlines – and certainly not all about dramatic successes! The day-to-day development of the band is a far more significant part of our life as a band. The Kildwick Ringers are a group that is still growing; steadily gaining in experience, in confidence and in numbers.

For a band to survive and thrive, it is essential to recruit at least some new learners every year. In our "training camp", we currently have a group of four, ranging from primary age, through teenage to an age it would be indelicate to enquire. They are all doing every bit as well as anyone could hope. The young tend to learn fast though sometimes sheer size has an effect. Those of more mature years take a more measured pace through the maze. Alongside Erin's enormous certificate to show she is now a full member of the Yorkshire Association, we will soon be presenting a number of "Level One" certificates of the ART scheme to show that our learners can safely handle a church bell that's, maybe, 15 times as heavy as they are.

The regular troops are, without exception, all forging ahead too. While it is great (and too easy) to focus on those individual highlights, the quarter peals and so on, it is the steady progress of the whole band that is important. Only a few months ago, our change ringing repertoire consisted of one basic "method". We are now increasing the numbers of methods as well as the numbers of bells we can ring them on.

We are truly in exciting times!

This will be the last news from the tower. I hope that the ringers continue to grow, both in skills and numbers. Though you won't read a report, do keep an ear open. You'll soon hear how we are doing!

*Chris Wright*

## News from SBTI

*"SBTI" is the Shokai Bible Training Institute, now renamed Shokai Theological College. I spent a day there, 20 years ago and saw the remarkable work happening there, training new priests to minister to an ever-growing population of Sudanese Christians. It is a very particular joy to see that its role is more officially recognised in its new title.*

*Andy Wheeler has been hugely influential in the development of the church in Sudan and South Sudan. A delightful man, he first went to Sudan with CMS and has written some major (and very readable!) texts on Sudanese church history and on theological training. He has recently written:*

Dear friends

This is about the first opportunity I have had to write - the pace has been full on. And though it is not yet high summer, the temperatures have been rising and are now in the high 30s!

I arrived on the Saturday morning and on Monday morning we began the Conference / Workshop on the future of theological and other training in the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). We met in the newly completed conference hall next to the cathedral. About 45 people - all the bishops, representatives from the 5 dioceses, and people involved in the national Church and various teaching and training programmes, plus a small number of partners from abroad. Notably from PTEE (Program for Theological Education by Extension) in Jordan who are supporting our TEE, as well as CASSS (Church Association for Sudan and South Sudan), Leeds Diocese, and Archbishop Paul Yugusuk from South Sudan. Great Sudanese food, plenty of tea and coffee and time to chat and catch up.

I had anticipated doing some of the facilitation, but the expectation turned out to be that I would facilitate the process throughout – which was demanding, all day for four days, working between both English and Arabic, and trying to discern the emerging convictions and themes. A short break now is very welcome! There was a very positive spirit, collaborative and at times quite imaginative, seeking to move the ECS to a place where learning and growing is deeply woven into the Church's life, with the purpose of preparing all God's people for ministry (the Ephesians 4 vision.) We were helped by the striking progress of the TEE programme in all 5 dioceses over the previous year, which provided a model of how adult distance learning methods can change lives and renew community and witness. A key agreement was to establish at each diocesan centre a multi-purpose training centre to resource such learning through the



parishes and churches. New ideas and hopeful development plans were also made for SBTI, the Church's Bible School (in a lively and very hot ceremony yesterday).

I won't provide a detailed description of all that emerged from the workshop here. We will urgently now be constructing a Strategic Action Plan to carry this forward (which you are welcome to see once the Church has received it). After the workshop concluded Makki and I immediately shifted gear into a training workshop for new tutors for the TEE Programme. That continues after the weekend, and then we go by bus up the Blue Nile to Wad Medani to do another one there, allowing the programme to spread into some of the further towns in the Province.

Home, inshallah on 7th March. I will try to write once more before then.

Much love - and my deep thanks for your encouragement and prayer

*Andy Wheeler*

## **April Prayers for Sudan**

2/4/23 Pray for all who work to provide theological education through TEE programmes of distance learning in every diocese of the Province.

9/4/23 On Easter Sunday join in your hearts and minds with Sudanese Christians as together we celebrate the joy of Easter.

Pray for our fellow Christians throughout Sudan and give thanks for the wealth of faith, hope and joy our link enables us to share.

16/4/23 Pray for projects undertaken by Christians in the Diocese of Wad Medani and that the shops they have built are successful and able to provide funds to help church work.

23/4/23 Pray for Archbishop Ezekiel, his relationship with government departments and his role throughout the Province of Sudan and within the Anglican Communion.

30/4/23 Pray for the nation of Sudan, for a stable and acceptable government which can lead to economic recovery for the benefit of all, particularly for the poorest and most disadvantaged. This has been a suggested subject for our prayers for many months, and something it is easy to lose sight of among all the problems we hear of in national and international news. Please do not tire but continue to pray and hope and trust for better times.

## The Birds in your Garden

### Magpies



It's probably fair to say that Magpies are the least popular of all the birds which visit our gardens. Pigeons could be a close second for some, but that's for another day.

This might be because Magpies are not afraid of stepping out into open garden spaces, often making a bit of a mess of the lawn, and having an almost arrogant, forthright method of strutting around.

Or it may be the Magpie's reputation for eating young birds, which has earned it such a level of unpopularity. There is a widespread belief that they are partly responsible for the decline in songbird numbers, but it is misplaced. A long-term study by the British Trust for Ornithology found no evidence at all that Magpies were responsible for

this decline. They do eat young birds – as do most corvids– but not to the point that they adversely affect long-term population trends. This myth has unfortunately been popularised on social media, and is one which needs to be corrected.

At a distance, or on a dull day, Magpies appear to be black and white, but look closely and you'll notice that they are indeed beautiful birds. Their upper parts are blue and dark green with a striking sheen, which contrasts with a white breast. Their tails have a gradated green gloss, observable only from certain angles.

To some, another reason for disliking them (and other corvids to be fair) is their habit of ripping up lawns. They are looking for the chafer beetle, an invasive pest imported from Europe. The chafer beetle's life cycle takes a year, of which nine months are spent as grubs feeding on your lawn. Over

winter, from August to May they feast on the fibrous roots while waiting to pupate to adult beetles, at which point they mate and start the cycle all over again. Given that they are invasive and can do serious damage to lawns, the question of how to eradicate corvid damage might be a moot point, since they are really doing you a service by dining on the invasive grubs. If your lawn has been vandalised, you may feel more strongly though!

In the spring, large numbers of Magpies often gather to resolve territorial conflicts and social standing. These gatherings, called parliaments, probably gave rise to the many nursery rhymes and poems about Magpies. I can never remember the full verse though.....

One for sorrow, two for joy;  
Three for a girl, four for a boy;  
Five for silver, six for gold;  
Seven for a secret, never to be told;  
Eight for a wish, nine for a kiss;  
Ten for a bird that's best to miss



Until the mid-19th century, Magpies were very common in Britain and were popular with farmers because they ate harmful insects and rodents. But from then until the First World War, a change of opinion and heavy persecution by gamekeepers caused their numbers to plummet.

There being fewer gamekeepers active since the last war, Magpie numbers increased again. Their numbers trebled between the 70s and the late 90s, since when their numbers have become more stable. Urban and suburban Magpies increased much faster than rural populations, probably because in towns they are not persecuted, there is more food available, and as they will nest close to people, their nests are protected from other corvids.

Although BTO figures show that Magpies numbers are stable, maybe subjectively, I have the feeling that there are more around than there used to be. This could just be a local or short-term phenomenon, they being hard to ignore with their aggravating caws and continual squabbling.

*If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website ([www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)). If you know of an organisation no more than 30 miles from York which would like a talk on garden birds, contact Mike Gray via [gbwmike@gmail.com](mailto:gbwmike@gmail.com).*

# The Back Page



"Yes" cried the stranger, "I am the Greek you forgot as soon as you left college!"

## **Deadlines**

*The contributor's dream...*

*As this is the final edition of the Pinnacle in its present form, there is no deadline to meet! You will have to wait, agog, to hear from any new editor who will let you know those four precious "W"s:*

*Who, What, When and Where*