

Up The Wreake!

April 2021

The Upper Wreake Community Magazine



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Up the Wreake!

The magazine provides an open forum for contributions on all aspects of life in the Upper Wreake villages and beyond. Opinions expressed in it are not necessarily the view of the trustees or the editor.

Copy for inclusion in any particular month's issue should reach the editor before 15th of the preceding month.

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A note from the Editors

Happy Easter to Everyone and what a beautiful day it is. The sunshine always makes everything feel so much better and brightens everything. What plans does everyone have now we are able to meet up with more people outside? By our next magazine in May, we will be getting close to hospitality being able to open again what are you looking forward to being able to do again?

Let's hope that everyone follows the rules as we slowly come out of this lockdown so that we are able to continue moving forwards.



Sue & Melissa Boyden

Up the Wreake Book Club



Let me know your views on these books, have you already read them or are you just reading them now? We will run this feature while we are in lockdown so we can all share what we are reading. Let me know what you are reading?

Email: sueboyden@msn.com

The Librarian by Salley Vickers



Set in 1958, Part one of the novel follows Sylvia Blackwell the new children's librarian as she arrives in a small rural community. Written in the first person, we share her difficulties as she battles to create a welcoming, well stocked library from a dull section of the small adult one.

Endeavouring to engage the younger children, she interests the primary school Headmaster and the other teachers, so that she soon has a project set up requiring the children to use the library. She makes other friends too in the district, including her neighbour's children. The latter she encourages to be adventurous in their reading and even provides 11+ English coaching for a girl in 4B, not expected to gain a Grammar School place. There is also an unsuitable love affair, which helps to retain the reader's interest.

Clearly for Salley Vickers, this book is something of a crusade. She was helped to enjoy books by a librarian called Miss Blackwell when she was young, and who she feels helped her on the road to becoming a writer.

There's even a list of books at the end which she hopes all children will have access to.

Part I is clearly very well researched, and the moral issues such as the narrow-minded clique who run the community and the evils of the 11+, form the context for the plot. There is excellent continuity too in the many cultural elements included: the formality and banality of a cocktail party, the clothes people wore and what they ate, and the sweets the children have.

Part I is in fact most of the book with Part II almost acting as an addendum. It follows some of the children from Part I who are now Grandparents, and I did enjoy finding out what had happened to the children we met previously.

Part II is written in a very different style to Part I, which I found to be irritatingly pedantic as if it was written for a children's audience. Part II has a brisker adult style, far more like Miss Garnett's *Angel* which is the only other Salley Vickers book I've read, and thoroughly enjoyed.

Julie Phillips.

Sunday 4th April

"He is not here... He has RISEN!"

Acts 10:34-43 / Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 / 1 Cor 15:1-11 / Mark 16:1-8 ... [click to read](#)



0600 Sunrise Service @ Rotherby Lane Burial Ground
0800 Communion @ Ragdale All Saints

10.15 for **10.30am** on **Sunday 4th April 2021**

Easter Day! | ZOOM Worship

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"Hosanna!" ... "Crucify!" ... "He is RISEN!"

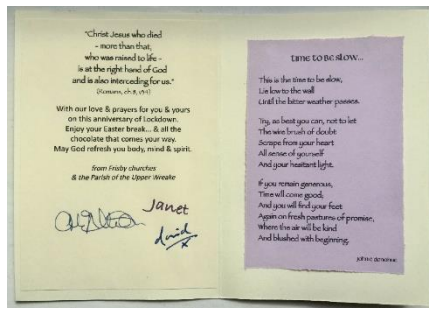
From cheering crowds to baying hordes to gob-smacked individuals. From a humble donkey to a punishing cross to a quiet garden. From palm branches to thorn crown to folded grave clothes. From Pilate to Mary to Peter. From purple to black to gold. Our journey along the Via Dolorosa, the way of sorrow, continues.

From the rough hewn throne of a cross, Christ the King looks at the world and no-one escapes his judgement. Those who betray him; those who execute him; those who love him; those who ignore him. He judges us all. From the cross the pronouncement is made, and the judgement is final. And that judgement is... FORGIVENESS! *"Forgive them father, for they know not what they are doing."*

An eternally valid statement. From his cross, Christ loves the betrayer, the violent, the God killer in all of us, and despite our protests, he will not even lift a finger to condemn those who put him up there. Because it is, finally, a God unlike us - a God who enters our human existence and suffers our insults with only love and forgiveness - who can save us from ourselves.

On the cross, we find a self-emptying God who pursues you & me and saves you & me with *"relentless, terrifying love and who ultimately will enter the grave and the very stench of death in order to say, even here, even here I will not be without you."* Hosanna in the highest indeed! God is with you this blessed Holy Week. God is with his world this blessed Holy Week. We need it this year...

rev'd david harknett



Dragonflies, Chicks, Ribbons, Candles & Voices...

Dragonflies adorned hand-made cards that went to each member of staff at Frisby Primary School, from the Headteacher Stuart to the caretaker Ian. They included a scripture and message from our Parish, signed by Simon, Pru, Janet, Crystal & David. Along with John O'Donohue's poem whose last line speaks of a time "blushed with beginning".



Chicks (206 of them!) adorned the side altar at Hoby All Saints, each produced by church & WI members. They were hand-delivered to each of the children in Hoby and each household. The bonus of course is that they each hold a crème egg! Revd Crystal wrote an Easter message explaining the story of the Easter Chick, the Easter eggs and the symbolism of new life. Other villages have multiplied this idea to a greater or lesser extent, taking the opportunity to connect community & church.



Ribbons take us back to the National Day of Reflection on 23rd March, when all 6 villages marked the anniversary of Lockdown. Parishioners were invited to tie a ribbon to the church gate in memory of a loss or lost loved one; to come together in prayer symbolising "You are never alone"; to mark a Minute's Silence.



Candles were lit in Hoby All Saints to remember Paul Simms, Ivy Woodford & Audrey Gatward. While in our Sunday Zoom Worship, and then promoted on village social media, we heard **voices** from our local community.



REFLECT - Debbie Bird spoke of her father Roger's death.

CONNECT - Clare Highton spoke of the Blue Bell's busyness & blessing.

HOPE - Stuart Northedge spoke of the primary school's future activity.

April

I have to say I have been very busy through March planting seeds, sorting seeds out for direct sow in April/May and doing a job that has taken hubby and me hours and hours of work along with a few swear words, we are now the proud owners of a 10 x 12 foot greenhouse, how many plants can I grow in that 😊. I do have to admit I dropped one of the shaped pieces of glass so I'm just waiting for a new one then it will be draught free. The tables are in and the salad trough plus 12 bags of compost so I'm ready to go, just 1 thing missing and that's an electric supply for the kettle 😊.

The allotment will be seeing more of me this month, since the flood I have not been down much as other thing took over, but we'll soon be back on it.

April is the month I plant potatoes; March seems a bit early as there is still frosts and that can slow if not halt their growth.

Get the weeds out and keep on top of them with your newly sharpened hoe. Get your planting beds raked over so you can get direct to sow seeds in.

So many jobs so little time, I do have to say the one thing that gets in my way of getting all my jobs done is going to work but I love my work so it's all good, I'll just have to start going to the allotment in the evening with a flask of course.

Have a wonderful time in your garden and on your plot.



Vida Gregory



St Peters

Kirby Bellars Cleaning Rota

For March and April 2021

| Rotas | April 2021 |
|----------------------|--|
| Flower Rota | 4th & 11th April Mrs J Charles 18th & 25th April Mrs G Dowell |
| Cleaning Rota | April Gay Dowell, Wendy Roulston, Carolyn Figgitt |

The readings for Easter Day and the SWF Ramble and pictures
Happy Easter,
Vic.

Dear All,

The Readings for this coming Sunday, EASTER DAY, the SWF ramble and the pictures. Please share these with your friends and colleagues. Last week there was much sadness and also preparation for this coming Holy Week, looking forward to Easter itself.

A week today was the National Day of Reflection. The church was prepared for a short service of prayers, with a minute's silence at Noon and then the bell was to be rung.

15 people attended the service, including the widow of the first person in Hoby who died of COVID-19 in the pandemic. We prayed for the three who lost their lives to the virus, we thanked God that we had known them, and we grieved their loss. We sat in silence as we thought of loved ones and friends we see no more and identified with the more than 126,000 people who have died of COVID-19 I then went and rang our tenor bell 'Old Tom' He was half muffled and he rang out to the village to help us all at that moment connect with each other not just in Hoby, or the Upper Wreake or SWF but across all of the UK.



The first picture shows the candles which remained lit all day for those who came for private prayer to see, burning brightly in the dusk of the day. Paul, Ivy and Audrey you remain in our hearts and in our prayers.



Later that same day we saw over 200 knitted Easter Chicks arrive at church. They were placed on the South Aisle altar where in a short service Revd Crystal blessed them all and sent them on their way! They were then packed and have over the last few days been delivered around the village. Along with Plants

and Easter Cards there has been much activity over the last few days and a great opportunity to see people we have not seen face to face for along time The WI knitted more Easter chicks than was required, we needed one to be given to each house in the village and one to each child. The extra chicks have been delivered to some of our friends in SWF and we send these to you wishing you a very happy Easter time. The objective of this exercise was to bring some pleasure and to share the Easter message with everyone. The second picture shows all the chicks arranged on the altar before the service started.



Picture three tells us that Easter is nearly with us. We have a new paschal candle this year and with the 2021 transfer on it. Currently by the font as Easter arrives it will move to the front of the church and remain there until Pentecost after which it will return to the font. As Good Friday approaches and the church altars have been stripped we then look forward to the resurrection on the third day. When in church the other evening and before locking up the sun was shining

brightly through the West windows. I have seen sunlight through our



windows touch many different parts of the church through the year as the sun changes its position in the sky, but my next picture sees the sun shining on to a grave stone to the side of the north aisle altar. I had not seen this before. It gave me an opportunity to reread the grave stone. It is for Elizabeth Henton, she died on September 12th 1734 at the age of just 9 weeks. She was the daughter of William and Hannah. What terrible grief for the family, a grief we can

connect with, although almost three hundred years ago, it is as if it could be now as we identify with that tragedy. Maybe the sun broke through the cloud at that moment for Elizabeth to be remembered, as within a few minutes the sun had gone, and that part of the church was dark again.



My last picture is one for spring. This Forsythia is at Barn Farm, full of colour and easy to see as I come through the gate into the home paddock when walking up to the farm from the village. With yesterday being such a lovely warm day, it was great to see it in the bright sunshine.

I hope you have all enjoyed your new found freedoms which started yesterday, and I hope we continue the roadmap to further relaxation of the guidance

currently in place.

The City of Leicester ended its lockdown along with the rest of us. It has been in continual lockdown until now, which is more than a year.

A significant moment for the City and we celebrate that major step forward with them in solidarity.
Keep safe and well,
Vic.



Brooksby Church News

Building works

We currently have three ongoing projects at St Michaels.

Bell

It is many years since the 1749 bell received any serious attention and it is not possible to ring it at present. A recent survey by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough indicated that the following work is necessary to preserve the bell and restore it to good working order.

- resetting the striking mechanism
- replacing the bearings
- replacing the headstock
- tuning the bell
- turning the bell so that the clapper strikes on unworn areas of the sound bow installing ball bearing chime pulleys and smooth turned floor bosses.

Why now?

Over the past 14 years much work has been carried out on the church including stonework repairs to the spire and tower, replacing rainwater goods, restoring almost all the windows, restoring the memorials associated with the Villiers family and Admiral Beatty, rewiring the building and installing new lighting, heating and sound system.

The wish is now to restore this ancient bell which is an important part of the church's heritage so that it may continue to call the faithful to divine service as it has done for over 270 years.

Louvres in the Lucarnes

To prevent the ingress of water into the lucarnes of the spire during rainstorms and the consequent rotting of the wooden floorboards in the tower and other damage. During the restoration works on the spire in 2007/2008, we were advised that louvres were not essential and there was little risk of the ingress of rainwater. In any event the rainwater that might blow in would soon dry up on the floor where the bell is situated. Subsequently we have found this not to be the case and rain has run through two floors to the ground floor vestry. Currently there are waterproof sheets on the upper two floors and water has to be gathered from them after a storm.

Why now?

The weather patterns in England are changing in that there are more frequent rain and wind storms leading to much more ingress in the lucarnes of the spire. The situation is much worse than it was in 2008 and significant amounts of rainwater are blowing in more frequently. This is leading to rotting of the floor boards which is a danger to people using the tower. In addition, last winter the water made its way down through the tower to the vestry, causing damage to items stored there.

Stonework Repairs

The 2019 QI report drew attention to the fact that some of the stonework is in poor condition and in need of reconstruction. The mortar in some of the stonework is becoming weathered in places and other parts of the stonework are loose. Also there are limestone blocks in the upper gables where the joints are opening.

Why now?

Where the stonework is in poor condition, the rainwater is seeping through the gaps leading to further deterioration. The loose stonework is also a hazard particularly in bad weather. These items were drawn to our attention in the 2014 QI but at that time were deemed to be more of an advisory nature. Now they are more serious and urgent.

The total cost of these projects is in the region of £50,000. We are currently applying for grants and have already met with some success, for which we are extremely grateful. Like many organisations we were unable to hold any fundraising events in 2020 & this situation is likely to continue for sometime yet. However, we are holding a Raffle in aid of the Bell restoration and also to celebrate the 800th anniversary of St Michael's in 2020. We should very much appreciate your support in purchasing tickets, by either contacting Jeanne or Malcolm, details at the end of this article or, when we see you out and about over the next few months.

Lockdown commemoration

Like many other we observed the minutes silence at St Michael's. Prayers were said and purple ribbons tied to the handrails.



Easter

Like others in the Parish we have been busy knitting chicks to distribute to the children at Brooksby, together with a plant & a card for the adults.



Weddings

We are looking forward to welcoming wedding couples starting on April 17th. It has been a very difficult time for all these couples, with many date changes and rearrangements of guest numbers and so on. We wish them all a wonderful day and a long and happy marriage.

Looking forward

The wonderful season of Spring is here. There are many little lambs skipping around the Brooksby fields, the spring bulbs are in flower and the leaves are starting to burst on the trees. As one walks around our beautiful parish you can also hear the birdsong and see the beginning of nest building in some places. A season of hope for us all.



And finally, we welcome Presley Clark Thurman to Brooksby village and wish him and proud parents Jade and Clark, much happiness and laughter as they start this new chapter in their family life.

Jeanne Knowles and Malcolm Britton
Churchwardens

jeanneknowles@icloud.com 07796 235444
malcolmbritton1946@gmail.com 01664 234490

Easter

Members of All Saints Church, Hoby together with the WI have been knitting chicks made with love & care over the past few weeks as a gift to share the message of Easter with you.

A day or so before the chick is ready to be hatched it moves inside the egg so its head is near the large end of the egg where there is more space for air.

Then, perhaps the most exciting part, the chick begins to peck at the inside of the shell using its egg tooth. The egg tooth is a tiny, very sharp cutting tool at the tip of its beak.

The chick pecks at the shell thousands of times until, finally, the shell cracks and the chick is able to come out into the world. A few days after the chick has hatched, the egg tooth disappears.

When it is about time for the chick to be hatched it pushes its head through a thin skin inside the egg and it begins to breathe.

Chicks are a symbol of Easter and baby chicks remind us that Easter is about new life.

The Bible tells us that after Jesus died he was given new life and rose up to be with God. "He is not here, but has risen." (Mark 16:5-7)

Each one of us, as we accept God's love, is given new life. This new life helps us become a better, more loving person. It is like coming out of a shell and experiencing all the exciting, beautiful things in God's world with a new found love, awe and wonder.

The chocolate egg reminds us that new life is possible for anyone.



**Please post all copy for the April 2021 edition of Up The
Wreake! To
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**While the magazine isn't being printed the copy, deadline is
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1. Hearts
2. Hair of the dog
3. Kidney
4. Iris
5. Skeleton Key
6. Tongue in cheek
7. Headstrong
8. See eye to eye
9. Backgammon
10. Chest of drawers

11. Eyesore
12. Appendix
13. Toe the line
14. Mouth
15. Lip
16. Colon
17. Skinflint
18. At arm's length
19. Hip
20. Rib



CODEWORD

Match the letters to the numbers to solve the crossword.

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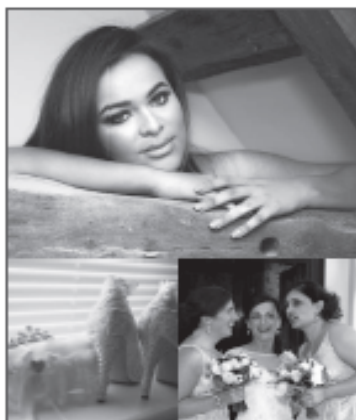
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