

Parish Church of St Peter : Arkley. 1840-2020

ARKLEY CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Online

MAY 2020

**180
years**

arkleyccnews@gmail.com



**Parish Church of
ST PETER : ARKLEY**
180 years: 1840-2020



Part of the Chipping Barnet Team Ministry

St John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet; St Peter, Arkley; St Stephen, Bells Hill; & St Mark, Barnet Vale
113 Barnet Road EN5 ~ www.stpetersarkley.com ~ Instagram @stpetersarkley

MAY 2020

THE CHURCH ITSELF IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

*The Vicar will offer daily prayers on behalf of, and for, all parishioners
and is recording weekly video messages to view online*

*Chipping Barnet's Team Rector is streaming weekday prayers at 11am and
Sunday services at 10am via the "Parish of Chipping Barnet" Facebook page*

If you wish to speak to the Vicar, please call 020 8441 9316

You can keep in touch with us on our website (stpetersarkley.com), Instagram @stpetersarkley and Arkley Church & Community News online (via our website)

To receive direct e-mailshots and video messages, send your address to arkleyccnews@gmail.com (We shall not share this or use it for any other purpose)

Sunday 3 rd May	Easter 3	
Sunday 10 th	Easter 4	
Sunday 17 th	Easter 5 (Rogation Sunday)	
Thursday 21 st	ASCENSION DAY	
Sunday 24 th	Sunday after Ascension	
Sunday 31 st	PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)	
Sunday 28 th June PATRONAL FESTIVAL	6.30pm	FESTAL EVENSONG for St Peter's Day (29 th June) (Preacher: Bishop of Newcastle)
Sunday 5 th July	10am	FAMILY SERVICE followed by Parish Barbecue
Saturday 11th July	Centenary of dedication of Village War Memorial	

Revised 22 April 2020

Cover: St Peter's in May 2018 (Photo: N Dean)

ARKLEY CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Online

MAY 2020

Welcome to this special online issue of your local magazine.



We had to revamp our April issue following the suspension of public worship at St Peter's on 17 March, in line with advice from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Then, the announcement by the Prime Minister on 23 March of a more general "lockdown" meant that we were able to complete only a limited print run and distribution of the magazine. We did, however, post online, via the St Peter's website, a number of articles and features from our April issue and have since added some seasonal features from past years. One advantage of this is that we can make use of colour!

For the time being we shall be publishing online only. This issue has a familiar range of contents, except that, for obvious reasons, we have largely dispensed with our "What's On" section, and have omitted the usual lists of local contacts. The principal contacts at St Peter's, including for safeguarding, are on our website (or, of course, in recent print copies of the *Church & Community News*).

The April/May issue of the *Chipping Barnet Parish Magazine*, the journal of the Team Ministry, was published online only. There is link to the full magazine on the home page of our website.

We hope to back in print before too long. In the meantime, please take care and do send us any material for our June issue by 12 May (arkleyccnews@gmail.com).

Nick Dean

Editor

Secretary, St Peter's District Church Council/Chair, Chipping Barnet Parochial Church Council **A**

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See drop-down menu for articles, grouped by theme, from April 2020 and earlier

PARISH NEWSLETTER

online MAY 2020

REVD NICK WHEELER ~ TEAM VICAR



Instagram



Fr Nick's video message, 19 April

SO what more can I say when, in so many ways, the world around us has changed so much? Can things only get better? Well, we could also be a lot worse off too. Now is a time to exercise what the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatian church (now in modern Turkey) around 50AD, quoting chapter 5 verse 22, about living life in the freedom of the Spirit:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

THESE are practical things that we can do and are part of human nature if we allow them to develop. All are achievable and can be prayed for. Prayer is both talking, but also listening to God. With lockdown and self-isolation, there is space to reflect on our Christian lives and the way we live it.

LET'S be positive and look forward. When Covid-19 ends or we learn to live with it, life will probably be different to what we were accustomed to, but in some ways that may be no bad thing. We have been spoiled and yet in many ways we have

also spoiled so much that was around us. For example, nations have been largely ignoring climate change, but now, with limited travel, the air we breathe is so much cleaner, benefitting both our own health but all of nature around us. The Western countries have been wasting food, throwing away so much, while others in war torn or developing countries are starving. So let's make use of this time to see how we can improve our lives and those around us so that, when we come through this, the world, God's creation will be a better and more sustainable place. Good always prevails over evil. We saw that in the Easter message.

LET me remind you, to uplift you spiritually, that **Ascension Day** (see page 7) is celebrated on **Thursday 21 May**, recalling the day Jesus ascended to heaven, the culmination of His earthly life, but not His life in this world. **Sunday 31 May** is **Pentecost** (page 8), when God sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples to empower and enable them to carry out their mission, which continues today to bring God's kingdom here on earth. This work continues as much today as when the Holy Spirit was first sent to Jesus's disciples.

MY prayers are for all those infected with and affected by Covid-19, those in hospital, in care homes, the NHS staff and for those who have lost their lives in this battle, remembering too their grieving families and friends. My prayers for you are to have courage and trust in God's love for you.

Peace be with you through the grace and mercy of God.

Nick A

Fr Nick has been recording weekly video messages intended for viewing on Sunday mornings. These last about 4 or 5 minutes. You can watch them via a link on the home page of our website (stpetersarkley.com) or on Instagram @ stpetersarkley. Members of our electoral roll with internet access receive an e-mail with a direct link a day or so before. Please let us know if you want to be added to the mail list (arkelyccnews@gmail.com). We shall not share your details or use them for any other purpose.

SAY A LITTLE PRAYER

Gracious God, our Shield and our Defender, our light in times of darkness; guide and protect each us in this time of uncertainty and health emergency; deliver us all from all harm, empower us to love and support one another, protect and sustain our medical services, and let your love strengthen and uphold us all, now and in the days to come. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord we pray, Amen.

Archbishops of Canterbury & York (March 2020)

WORDS IN SEASON

Six people on the 0624. I feel like
a Cardinal in the reign of Pius IX
[1846-78] with a whole carriage for
my exclusive use.

Revd RICHARD COLES

Twitter, 28 March 2020



*Arise, arise, you pretty fair maids,
And take your May bush in,
For if that is gone before tomorrow
morn
You would say we had brought you
none.*

*Oh, the hedges and fields are growing
green,
As green as green can be;
Our heavenly father watereth them
With his heavenly dew so sweet.*

CAMBRIDGESHIRE MAY CAROL
(traditional)

Hail the day that sees him rise,
Alleluia.
to his throne above the skies;
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given,
Enters now the highest heaven.

Lo, the heaven its Lord receives,
Yet he loves the earth he leaves;
Though returning to his throne,
Still he calls mankind his own.

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-88)



With little here to do or see
Of things that in the great world be,
Sweet Daisy! Oft I talk to thee
For thou art worthy,
Thou unassuming Common-place
Of Nature, with that homely face,
And yet with something of a grace
Which Love makes for thee!

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH
(1770-1850)



We should take comfort that, while
we may have more to endure, better
days will return: we will be with our
friends again; we will be with our
families again; we will meet again.

HM THE QUEEN
Broadcast, 5 April 2020

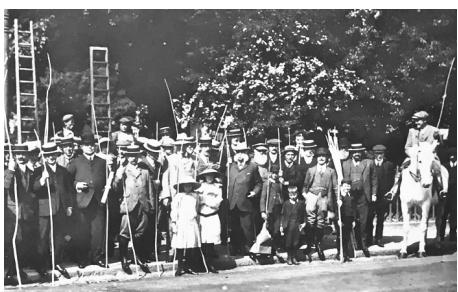
ASCENSION AND ROGATION DAYS

ASCENSION DAY, falling this year on 21 May, commemorates the ascent of Christ from earth to heaven forty days after his Resurrection at Easter. It is always a Thursday (known also as **Holy Thursday**) and is followed ten days later by **Pentecost** (Whit Sunday), marking the descent of the Holy Ghost to the disciples: *see page 8*. The Acts of the Apostles record that, after Christ had told his disciples that “ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you”, they “looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up; and a cloud received him out of their sight” (1:8-9).



IN medieval times, and well into the late 17th century, Ascension Day was marked in many cities, including Oxford and Salisbury, by great processions. The Sunday before Ascension, the fifth after Easter, is **Rogation Sunday**. This is followed by three Rogation days which traditionally were ones of fasting and supplication (from the Latin *rogare*, to ask). By contrast, the rituals on Ascension Day became increasingly elaborate and festive: churches in London were decked with garlands and treats were on hand for those taking part in processions. In the 1670s, the churchwardens of one parish in the capital had almonds, raisins and ribbons ready for children and bottles of wine for adults. This was also the time of year for **beating the bounds** to affirm parish boundaries, a practice that used to be a major occasion in Barnet (*see photograph below*), involving a range of local dignitaries and concluding with a supper that, by custom, had been charged to the rates, but, by the early 20th century, was paid for by those attending it (*see ACC&CN* 5/18). The Rogation days and Ascension Day itself were sometimes referred to as **Gang Days** because parishioners would gang together to beat the bounds. Similarly, the plant, milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), was often referred to as ‘gangflower’ or ‘Rogation’ because it was used to decorate poles for beating the bounds; and groundsell (*Senecio vulgaris*) was called ‘Ascension’ in parts of Norfolk for a similar reason.

ASCENSION Island, the British dependency in the South Atlantic, was so named because it was discovered by the Portuguese on Ascension Day, 21 May 1503. **A**



This article, which has been revised, was published in our May 2017 issue

Above right: Beating the bounds in Barnet, 1911 (Barnet Museum Archive). This was our cover picture in May 2018. The painting by Benvenuto Tisi (1481-1559) appeared on our cover in May 2016.

WHAT IS WHITSUN?

WHIT SUNDAY, or **Pentecost**, on 31 May this year, is the seventh Sunday (and fifty days) after Easter. It is ten days after **Ascension Day** (see page 7), when Christ ascended from Earth to Heaven. Whitsun marks the descent of the **Holy Ghost** to the disciples, as described in chapter 2 (*v* 1-4) of the Acts of the Apostles:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting ... And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

PENTECOST was an ancient Jewish festival on the fiftieth day after the second day of the Passover. It marked the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai, *pentecoste* being Greek for fiftieth. ‘Pentecost’ is still widely applied to the Christian celebration of the coming of the Holy Ghost, or Spirit, but, because this became a great season for baptism and those offering themselves wore

white, the name “Whitsun” became established in English. Later, Whitsun was associated also with “white” weddings, a tradition observed by **Philip Larkin** (1922-85) in his poem, *Whitsun Weddings* (1964), in which a rail journey from Hull is enlivened by wedding parties bidding farewell at each station to newly-married couples. In medieval times, Whitsun often afforded a break from the toils of the land, a practice maintained in parts of industry well into the 20th century (as “wakes weeks”).

GIVEN the calendar link to Easter, Whitsun has always been a movable feast (see *AC&CN* 3/16). It can be as early as 10 May or as late as 13 June. In 1871 **Whit Monday** became a Bank Holiday, but, in the 1960s, this was replaced in England by a holiday on the last Monday in May. Even now, some

people refer to this loosely as ‘Whitsun’, although, on the most recent occasion, in 2012, that the last Monday in May was also Whit Monday, the holiday was deferred by a week to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee (the last time that a Bank Holiday was rescheduled until that for VE Day, on 8 May this year). **A**

This article, now slightly revised, appeared in our May 2016 issue

The photograph of Pentecostal candles was taken at St Peter's in June 2017 (N Dean)

VE DAY, 8 MAY 1945

The present period of lockdown will last at least until 7 May. The following day, Friday 8th, is a Bank Holiday (moved from Monday 4th) to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe in the Second World War. It is likely to be decidedly quieter than in 1945. Following her recollections last June of life as a wartime evacuee in Buckinghamshire, where her two elder sisters worked at Bletchley Park, the secret code-breaking centre, **MONICA SHELBOURN**, who has been an Arkley resident for the past 30 years, reflects on the end of the war.

WHEN the war ended in May 1945, I was still living in Bletchley, to where I had been evacuated at the age of 5 in September 1939. I was with my two elder sisters, Mimi, aged 12, and Joan, aged 16. Initially our mother continued to live in our house in Islington. My father was in the ARP (Air Raid Patrol). He had to visit houses and other buildings to make sure their blinds were closed, so that German 'planes, which were constantly over London, could see no lights to guide them to drop bombs.

ON VE Day, 8 May 1945, we had a street party. We played games and there was dancing. Long tables were laden with ice creams and jellies, cakes and sandwiches, which we consumed with relish. We did not have all these goodies during the war as food was rationed. Clothes and furniture were also rationed. We had to have coupons to buy them. Food rationing did not end until 1954.



Monica Shelbourn (left) with sister Mimi in 2011

WHEN war ended, the men came home to resume family life and their jobs. I remember that, at my local school, the teachers increased in number. Looking back at my life during the war, being in the country was very different to London, with freedom to roam

and play in the fresh air, to cycle round the fields, and to see animals. It was not an unhappy time as I had my sisters and mother, who joined us after twelve months. I think being an evacuee, which I saw as an adventure, made me into a stronger person. **A**



Well Road, Barnet on VJ (Victory in Japan) Day, August 1945

(with thanks to Dave Kotula)

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OUR WORD OF THE MONTH *online*

37. furlough

“‘Furlough’ is the new ‘prorogation’, isn’t it? A word most of us had never heard before a week or so ago, which is now suddenly part of our everyday vocabulary.”

RACHEL CUNLIFFE (City AM), Twitter, 30 March 2020

“City have confirmed that they will not furlough non-playing staff.”
Sunday Times, 12 April 2020

Big events or crises often throw up a number of words that quickly enter the language and, for a while, seem to be everywhere. This happened from 2016-19 with ‘Brexit’ (*‘Our Word’ 4, 4/16 & online*), a process whose vocabulary tended to dominate this column last year. So it had been also with the present *coronavirus* pandemic. ‘Coronavirus’ itself, a generic term, was coined in 1968 and entered the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 2008. This April the *OED* has published a special supplement which incorporates terms that have become familiar in the past few months, such as *COVID-19* (the name given to the present virus in January), *elbow bump*, *flatten the curve*, *PPE (personal protective equipment)*, *self-isolate* and *social distancing*. It is extraordinary to think that ‘self-partnered’, our word in February (*OW34/online*), led to a discussion of ‘self-’ words, but that *self-isolate*, the obvious current example, was, in mid-January, nowhere on the radar.

Furlough (*fur-low*) is not a new word, but came into vogue recently because of the implications of the coronavirus lockdown for business. In the 18th century, Dr Johnson defined it as “a temporary dismission from military service” and cited its Dutch origin (*verlof*). As such, it probably entered English at the time of William III, of the Dutch House of Orange, who was offered the English crown jointly with his Stuart wife Mary II in 1689. In the 1950s, a church near Arkley used to list in its magazine the missionaries it supported and where (mostly in colonial Africa and Asia) they were based. Those who were back home for a while were shown as being **on furlough**. Roget’s *Thesaurus* lists ‘furlough’ under the broad heading of ‘leisure’, grouping it with words like ‘time off’, ‘vacation’, ‘leave’ (*løf* in Dutch) and ‘sabbatical year’.

Thirty years ago, *Collins Dictionary*, in addition to its prime definition of ‘furlough’ as leave of absence from military duty, cited it as a verb used in the United States: “a temporary laying off of employees, usually because there is insufficient work to occupy them”. Even so, as *City AM*’s comment editor, herself **furloughed** for the duration, remarked on 30 March, ‘furlough’ is the new ‘prorogation’, the latter encountered by many only last autumn when the government sought to prorogue (in effect, suspend) Parliament (*OW32, 10/19 & online*). By 2 April, BBC radio’s *Today* was reporting, without the need for explanation, that a top football club had “furloughed their non-playing staff” (quite a story in itself!) **A**

Church Notices 14

There are dangers of churching from home as a curate [in] Eastbourne discovered yesterday. Streaming a live broadcast of the rosary on Facebook, he was interrupted during the luminous mysteries by a naked flatmate entering the room behind him and then, very rapidly, leaving when he realised he was on camera. I suppose this is what John's Gospel means by "bare witness".¹ ... **Hi Saint, You have just signed in on a new computer!**² ...

(1) *The Times* Diary, Good Friday, 10 April 2020

(2) advisory message from Google to St Peter's, 27 March 2020

MEMO TO DCC SECRETARIES

"In July 1988, when asked by Sue Lawley on *Desert Island Discs* how he wrote the Cabinet minutes, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster* [*1927-3 April 2020*] replied that he followed the advice of an irreverent predecessor who had suggested: you don't write down what they said, nor what they thought they'd said; you write down they would have said if they'd thought about what they were saying. Wise, indeed powerful, guidance for all minute takers.

Letter, *The Times*, 8 April 2020

*Sir Robert, Lord Armstrong was Cabinet Secretary 1979-87 & Head of the Home Civil Service



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SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION online

43: WINSTON CHUTCHILL

Sir WINSTON CHURCHILL (1874-1965) became Prime Minister 80 years ago on 10 May 1940, eight months after the start of the Second World War, and led the nation to victory in Europe on 8 May 1945. His second premiership (1951-5) saw the accession in 1952 of ...

LIONEL, 3rd Lord TENNYSON (1889-1951), England cricket captain in 1921 and second son of the poet, who, with a group of Old Etonian friends at a house party c1908, pushed into the River Thames a guest who looked over-dressed in a frock coat and top hat ...

Queen ELIZABETH II (born 1926), who, in a broadcast on 5 April, during the current pandemic, recalled her and her sister Princess Margaret's first radio broadcast (to evacuees during the BBC's *Children's Hour*) on 13 October 1940, four days after the birth in Liverpool of ...

JANE ASHER (born 1946), actress, writer and cake guru, with whose family McCartney lived for four years. Her brother Peter was then in the pop duo Peter & Gordon. Their father Richard was a physician who identified Munchausen syndrome and mother Margaret, a professor of oboe who had taught Beatles' producer Sir George Martin, was distantly related to ...

JOHN WINSTON LENNON (1940-80), rhythm guitarist of the Beatles, the band that transformed pop music in the 1960s. His second forename was in honour of the Prime Minister. The Beatles' disbandment was announced 50 years ago, on 10 April 1970 and Lennon was killed by a gunman in New York 40 years ago, in December 1980. He and ...

Sir PAUL McCARTNEY (born 1942) founded the Beatles as the Quarrymen in 1957 and became accomplished songwriters. Prior to marrying photographer Linda Eastman in 1969, McCartney had been linked with, among others, folk singer Julie Felix, who died on 22 March, aged 81, and ...



Churchwardens' Report : May

HERE we are in a very strange pattern of life. We hope that you are able to seek some comfort from the slower pace of things, but it is of concern to us all that we are unable to go about our daily lives as we used to. We can only do as we are told to protect others and pray that this pandemic will be overcome and that we may return to some normality. Until such time, stay safe to keep well.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help, support or just a chat. We offer prayers of thanks and protection to all key workers, in the NHS and other essential roles.

Maureen (020 8449 5874)

& Sharon (stpetersarkleycw@gmail.com) A

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



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OF FLOUR)



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(SHARED ON SOCIAL MEDIA)



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GARDEN EASTER
EGG HUNT



CLERGY DRESSING
UP AS SOME
KIND OF RABBIT



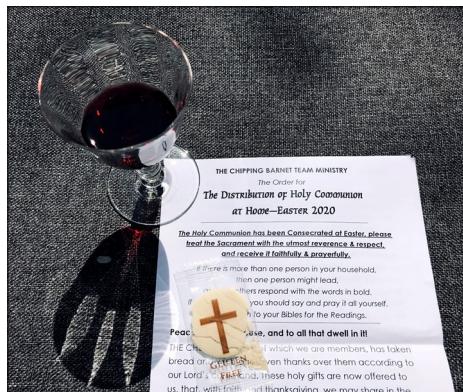
OOH - PASTA!
EASTER SUNDAY
LUNCH

This CartoonChurch.com cartoon, a view by Dave Walker of Holy Week and Easter under present constraints, appeared in the *Church Times* on 10 April

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Left: Acting Team Rector, Fr Tristan Chapman, leading streamed prayers on Facebook, 26 March

Below: Easter Communion at home



***"The buildings are a gift and treasure, but they are not the Church.
The Church is the people of God assembled."***

Most Revd Dr JUSTIN WELBY, Andrew Marr Show (BBC1), Easter Day 2020

WHEN the doors of St Peter's and other churches closed in March, there was a unity of view and purpose that the Church itself was not closing. It remained, in the words of the Beatles' song, "here, there and everywhere". Within a few days the Chipping Barnet Team Ministry was streaming weekday prayers (*Monday to Friday at 11am*) and Sunday services (*10am*) via Facebook ("Parish of Chipping Barnet"); and, from the vicarage in Arkley, Fr Nick Wheeler recorded weekly video messages (*see page 5*). At Easter many of our congregation shared in Holy Communion at home with wafers that had been blessed and distributed by post. As Fr Nick had emphasised in early March, when the sharing of wine from a common chalice had been suspended, Anglican teaching is that receiving one element of the sacrament is enough for it to be taken in full (*see 'Safe & Sound', posted online 4/20*). However, many of us did take a symbolic sip of wine at home with our wafer. The opportunities of virtual ministry were quickly embraced by many in the Church of England: as the *Church Times*' headline above a thoughtful piece by Canon Mark Collinson put it, "Like it or not, online services are here to stay ... Once the lockdown has ended, it will be necessary to find ways of combining the physical and the virtual" (17 April). However, Canon Collison urged some caution: "Is it enough if the sacraments are visible in 1920x1080 pixels depending on bandwidths? I think not". And a few weeks earlier, the Revd Angela Tilby had been quite sceptical: "Live streaming is a poor substitute for the real thing, which, I think, is exactly what it should be." (27 March). Even so, there is no doubt that the efforts, in present circumstances, of our own clergy in Barnet and Arkley have been much appreciated. Lockdown has been more bearable as a result. **A**

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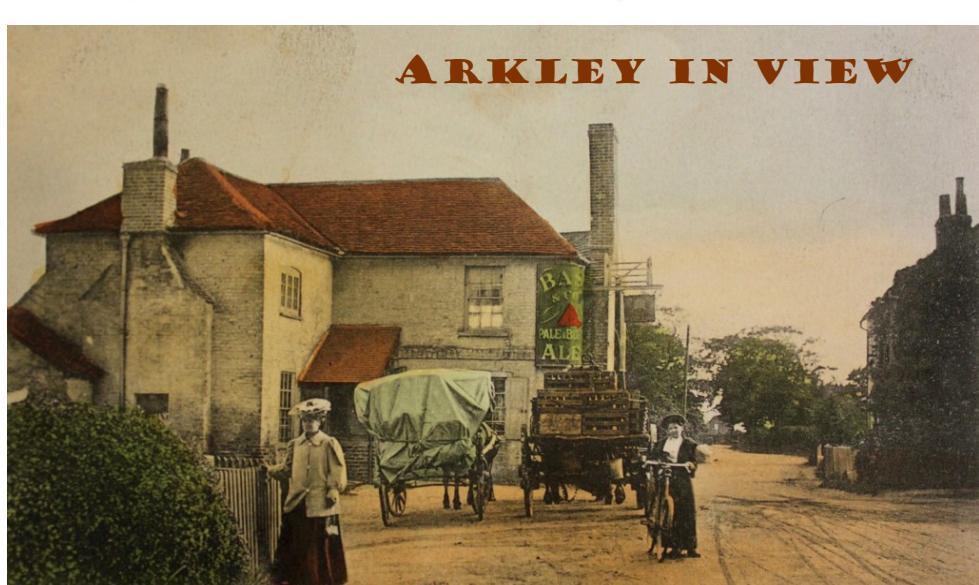
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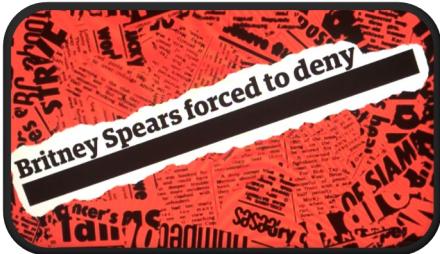


ARKLEY IN VIEW



This tinted early 20th century view of the Bell public house (now the Gate) appeared in monochrome in our April 2017 issue. The red triangular trademark for Bass ales was the first such mark to be registered in Britain, in 1876. (Barnet Museum Archive)

THREE MORE TIMES



HELEN LEWIS:
... Jesus three times on the night
of the Last Supper.

Have I Got News for You (BBC1)
3 April 2020

MALA C&CNPROP XXXV

*"It's a great boost for the Premiership
to recruit players of his ilk."*

Talk Sport

FOLLOW MY LEADER

*"I can't believe we spent all that time in
school learning "i before e except
after c" only for Keir Starmer to
become leader of the Labour Party"*

BETH DESMOND
Twitter, 6 April 2020



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by lockdown**

The UK art and antiques trade premises are now temporary.

THE current pandemic has had major implications for the art and antiques industry. All fairs, including North London's biggest collectors' event at Alexandra Place in early May, have been cancelled, as have the flagship events of London's summer season at Olympia and the Royal Hospital, Chelsea (Masterpiece). The restrictions announced by the government on 23 March (and extended at least until 7 May) came during the season of Spring fairs and have, of course, affected also museums and galleries, including some major exhibitions that were in progress (Tutankhamen at the Saatchi Gallery, Aubrey Beardsley at Tate Britain) or had only just opened (Titian at the National Gallery, Andy Warhol at Tate Modern, Cecil Beaton at the National Portrait Gallery). The contents of some of these, including Tutankhamen and Warhol, were displayed online. Other exhibitions planned for the summer, such as the V&A's for the bicentenary of Sir John Tenniel, illustrator of 'Alice in Wonderland' (see 'The Collect' 9, 9/16), must be doubt. We plan to reflect on some of these events (or non-events) later this year. Meanwhile, many dealers have turned wholly to internet sales, while the leading trade journal, the Antiques Trade Gazette, alternated between print and digital issues in April. A number of auctions have been very successful: for example, one of 450 lots from the Birmingham Assay Office realised about £750,000 on 26 March at a nine-hour sale (with only a 15-minute break).



39: SYMBOLS FROM NATURE in art

KATHARINE OF ARAGON (1485-1536), the first wife of King Henry VIII, is buried in **Peterborough Cathedral**. The separation of the English Church from Rome arose from Henry's wish to divorce Katherine and marry Anne Boleyn. Katherine's tomb (fig 1) is still an object of pilgrimage and is almost always adorned, in one form or another, with her symbol, a **pomegranate**.

This fruit has been cultivated in the Mediterranean since ancient times. With sometimes more than 1,000 seeds, it has long been associated symbolically with fertility. Katherine chose it for her badge (above) and it can be seen also in certain art of the time: for example, a woodcut depicting the wedding of Henry and Katherine in 1509 shows the couple below their respective symbols, Henry's being a Tudor rose. In our Christmas review (Update 7, 12/19-1/20), we discussed **Dante Gabriel Rossetti's** painting, **Proserpine** (1874) (fig 2), for which the model was **Jane Morris**, wife of William, the designer and writer. In Roman mythology, Proserpine, goddess of fer-



(1) Tomb of Katharine of Aragon, Peterborough Cathedral (N Dean, February 2020) (2) Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Prosperpine* (1874); (3) Titian, *Madonna of the Rabbit* (1430)

tility, was imprisoned by Pluto, the god of the Underworld. Rossetti shows her clutching a ‘forbidden’ pomegranate, probably an allusion to his own relationship with Jane, with whom he was love, and the mores of mid-Victorian England.

ANY **May Day** celebrations this year will be very muted. At their medieval height, when such festivities were a mix of pagan and Christian, these often involved veneration of the **Virgin Mary**. The May Queen, whose crowning was a focal point, was often thought to represent Mary, and Mary was a cult figure for the folk hero **Robin Hood**, who, with his merry men, was re-created for Henry VIII and Queen Katharine on May Day 1515 (AC&CN 5/18 & online). It is no coincidence that the object of Robin’s affection was called **Maid Marian** (*Six Degrees of Separation*, 5/16 & online). Among animals associated symbolically with Mary are snails and rabbits. Early Christians thought slow-moving **snails** represented the sin of laziness, but, during the Renaissance, they came symbolise the Virgin Birth because their means of reproduction remained a mystery. They appeared often in religious paintings, such as *The Annunciation* (c1470) by **Francesco del Cossa**, in which a snail (fig 4) slithers towards Mary from the Archangel Gabriel (*Six Degrees of Separation*, 3/20 & online), who has brought her news that miraculously she will give birth to Jesus. **Rabbits** and **hares**, the subject of The Collect in March 2016, were described by us then as having



long been associated with the folklore of Easter and the fertility of spring ... *The Hare and the Tortoise*, the fable of complacency attributed to Aesop, dates from when the hare was widely thought to be hermaphrodite (able to reproduce as both male and female). This belief later encouraged a symbolic association with the Virgin Mary that found its way into early manuscripts and carvings (for example, a woodcut of the Holy Family by Albrecht Dürer in 1498).

In **Titian’s** painting of 1530, *The Madonna of the Rabbit* (fig 3), Mary is holding in her left hand a white rabbit, which represents both fertility and her purity. **A**

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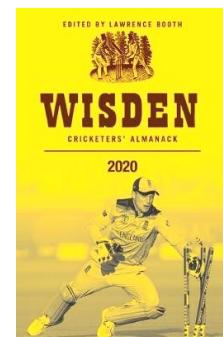
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JUST THINK ... In May we usually reflect on the start of the English cricket season, but this year there is no season upon which to reflect. The editor of this year's *Playfair Cricket Annual* re-wrote his foreword on 16 March, noting, in respect of the coronavirus, that "things are expected to get worse before they get better, so I fear that the fixture lists at the back of the book could prove to be a case of wishful thinking". Another sign of just how quickly the virus took hold is that nowhere in the 1,536 pages of the 157th edition of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, published on 9 April, could we find a reference to the impending crisis. However, as a grateful reader told the *Times*: "at a stroke, self-isolation has become much more tolerable ... [reviving] memories of a thrilling summer last year. But how big will next year's *Wisden* be?" As collectors will know, *Wisden* was about half its usual size during the Second World War; but even then, although there were no first-class games, cricket continued in various forms—services and schools matches, for example.

So, what of last summer? As we recorded at the time, it was dominated by England's dramatic World Cup victory (the winning moment shown on the cover of *Wisden*) and a remarkable comeback to draw the Ashes test series against Australia (*see 'Just Think', AC&CN 9/19, 10/19 & online*). Both were associated with Ben Stokes, *Wisden*'s 'Leading Cricketer in the World' of 2019, in much the same way that Sir Ian Botham is linked indelibly to England's famous Ashes triumph in 1981. But another man whose finest moment came in 1981 was future England captain R G D (Bob) Willis, whose bowling figures of 8–43 in Australia's second innings of 111 at Headingly secured an improbable English win as surely as Botham's heroics with both bat and ball. After Willis died on 4 December 2019, aged 70, the *Times*' obituary noted his addition, by deed poll, of Dylan as a third forename, not just because of his passion for the music of Bob Dylan, but because he thought, 50 years ago, that three initials might be more likely to attract the interest of the test selectors. England team-mate Paul Allott revealed in *Wisden* that his friend's devotion to Dylan (which he shared) was matched by that for the German composer Richard Wagner (which he didn't)—these two virtually to the exclusion of all other music. Allott recounted also that, during a tour of Australia, Willis's accreditation pass mistakenly bore the name 'Bruce Willis': "Bob would have been the last person to think of himself as an all-action hero, but it described my old friend better than he ever knew". Another to pass away last year was Hampshire batsman Lieutenant-Commander John Manners, DSO, who, at 105, had been the oldest living first-class cricketer and believed by *Wisden* to have been the sole survivor of the first-class game before the Second World War. The ultimate amateur, he only ever owned one set of pads. Then, in March, we lost "the other" Tony Lewis—not the former England and Glamorgan captain, now 81, but, at 78, the statistician who, with Frank Duckworth, devised the 'Duckworth/Lewis' method for calculating the outcome of one-day games affected by the weather. The *Times* diarist described the two as "the Lennon and McCartney of cricket data analysis", a comparison to the Beatles all the more apt because in 1962 Duckworth had lodged with John Lennon's aunt Mimi "while her nephew was playing for some band at Liverpool's Cavern Club" (*see page 13*). **A**



THE LOCKDOWN GARDEN

AFTER a relentlessly wet start to the year, the fine weather that followed the imposition of restrictions on movement on 23 March couldn't have come at a better time for those with gardens. Many have remarked on the progress that has been possible without the usual pressures of fitting gardening around other commitments!

Visits to the Royal Horticultural Society's website are five times higher than a year ago, while the daily period of permitted exercise has provided opportunities for Arkley residents to explore footpaths and green spaces that, in other circumstances, they might not have done. As Agronomes put it in *Country Life*, "What good fortune for us that it's April and not November. How much worse it would have been if lockdown had happened as winter began to bite ... gloomy weather and celebrating Christmas on FaceTime."



That's the plus side, but there are negative considerations. Gardens have recently been depicted by some as a symbol of social inequality:

"it's all very well for middle class people with gardens to criticise others for sunbathing in the park ..." And, while lots of private gardens have undoubtedly thrived recently, the horticultural industry as a whole has suffered mightily. The closure of **garden centres** (which many want reversed, at least for the sale of plants and seeds) has involved massive waste of stock at the busiest time of the retail year—Easter is roughly the equivalent of Christmas for garden centres (even though they are not permitted to open on Easter Day itself: see *AC&CN* 4/19). The major **flower shows** have all been cancelled—Chelsea, for example, for the first time since the Second World War, postponement being impractical because plants have to be ready at exactly the right time. The **National Garden Scheme**, which in April and May alone raises about £ $\frac{3}{4}$ million for charity, is also unable to operate. But, with support from Mary Berry, Alan Titchmarsh and other celebrities, garden owners within the scheme have been encouraged to film virtual tours and invite donations from online visitors.

Last year at St Peter's, as shown on the cover of our April issue, the altar was decorated at **Easter** with white lilies in memory of loved ones. With services suspended and the church itself closed, we were unable repeat this, and we missed also the Easter garden that Ruth Page constructs for us every year (though she did one at home). Our intention this year had been to display a number of small gardens created by younger members of our congregation from kits distributed a few months ago. One of these, by **William Stevens**, is shown above; and those who saw Fr Nick's Easter video message may have spotted a seasonal arrangement on the window sill of the vicarage. **A**

Bumper lockdown QUIZ

Answers at foot of right hand column

1. What is the capital of Turkey?
 2. Who is the new Deputy Leader of the Labour Party?
 3. Among those who sadly passed away in the first half of April, who (a) played Pussy Galore in the James Bond film *Goldfinger*; (b) was the first British driver to win the British Grand Prix; (c) was on TV in *At Last the 1948 Show* and *The Goodies* and on radio in *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*?
 4. What drink is blended from white rum, pineapple juice and coconut cream?
 5. How many of the 32 pieces on a chessboard can move over occupied squares?
 6. Whose record *Into the Groove* was featured in the 1985 film *Desperately Seeking Susan*?
 7. Who married Thomas Seymour, her late husband's former brother-in-law, in 1547?
 8. On Easter Day this year, the London Underground carried approximately how many passengers, the smallest number on any operating day since the 19th century: (a) 129,000 (b) 94,000 (c) 64,000?
 9. In the verse by A A Milne, who was commonly known as Jim?
 10. Which actress, who won an Oscar for *Darling* in 1965, was 80 on 14 April?
 11. Which part of the British Isles was liberated from German occupation on 9 May 1945?
 12. Nacre is better known as what?
 13. Which wood is the main constituent of plywood?
 14. Who was the first gymnast to perform a backward somersault on the parallel bars?
 15. At maximum speed, which can run faster, a rabbit or a fox?

80 YEARS AGO ...

8 May 1940 Government led by Neville Chamberlain won a confidence vote in the House of Commons following concerns about the conduct of the Second World War and in particular the campaign in Norway, but a substantially reduced majority raised doubts about its survival

10 Chamberlain resigned as Prime Minister following the German invasion of the Low Countries and was succeeded by **Winston Churchill** (see page 13) **27**
Evacuation began of British and other allied forces from the beaches around **Dunkirk** on the French coast. By 4 June over 338,000 troops had been rescued.



AND THE FORECAST ...

A May wet was never kind yet

Fine on Holy Thursday [21 May], wet on Whit-Monday

Whitsuntide [31 May] rain, blessing for wine

Richard Inwards (1893) *Weather Lore*

QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Ankara 2. Angela Rayner
3. (a) Honor Blackman (b) Sir Stirling Moss (c)
Tim Brooke-Taylor 4. Phia Colada 5. 4 (the
knights) 6. Madonna 7. Katherine Parr (widow
of Henry VIII) 8. (c) 9. James Morrison 10.
Julie Christie 11. Channel Islands 12. mother
of pearl 13. birch 14. Olga Korbut 15. rabbit

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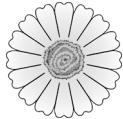
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DIARY DATES

MAY 2020



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: FRI 8TH MAY (VE DAY) & MON 25TH MAY

*** the arSKley ***

SUNRISE/SUNSET: 1ST MAY: 5.32/8.25; 31ST: 4.50/9.09

FULL MOON (SUPERMOON): THURS 7TH MAY @ 10.45am



April's supermoon, viewed locally during Holy Week. The small blue sphere appears to be a trick of the lens—the blue planet Neptune is not visible from Earth! (Photo: N Dean)

On the night of 7/8 April this year's **Paschal full moon**, the one that determines the date of Easter (12 April), was a '**supermoon**', the biggest of 2020. With clear skies above Arkley and reduced pollution during the lockdown, it shone with unusual brightness (*left*), as did Venus (the 'Evening Star'). April's full moon is known also as a 'pink' moon, after the pink wild phlox (*Phlox subulata*) that flowers in North America in early spring. The term 'supermoon' was coined in the 1970s, but, lacking precise definition, did not commend itself to all astronomers. In practice, it is applied these days when the full moon is within 90% of its perigee, or nearest distance to the Earth. In April the moon was about 223,000 miles (357 km) away, compared to an average distance of about 239,000 miles (384 km). May's full moon is also a supermoon, the third in a row.

~ Looking ahead ~

BARNET MEDIEVAL FAIR rescheduled from 30th-31st May to 19th-20th September

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FOURPENCE

This was our cover exactly 55 years ago. 1965 was the 60th anniversary of the creation (in 1905) of the parish of Arkley, although the church itself dates from 1840. The Revd Tom Gould was Vicar from 1946 to 1977.