

**GREAT  
CANFIELD  
NEWSLETTER**



**WINTER  
2021**

## CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER 2021 TO FEBRUARY 2022

### Services in St Mary the Virgin, Great Canfield

Date	Day	Time and Service Format	Officiant
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent 2	11.00am BCP Morning Prayer	Rev Gary Fleming
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent 4	11.00am Carol and Toy Service	Rev Gary Fleming
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve	11.30pm Midnight Communion	Rev Tim Goodbody & Rev Gary Fleming
2 <sup>nd</sup> January <b>2022</b>	Epiphany	11.00am BCP Morning Prayer	Rev Gary Fleming
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Epiphany 2	11.00am Baptism & Morning Worship	Rev Robert Stone
6 <sup>th</sup> February	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Before Lent	11.00am BCP Morning Prayer	Local Team
20 <sup>th</sup> February	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Before Lent	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	Rev Tim Goodbody

Mid-week services via Zoom every Wednesday @ 11.00am, led by Rev'd Robert Stone. The 10 churches also meet on Zoom for prayer meetings and Home Groups.

Please see the six parishes website, [www.thesixparishes.org.uk](http://www.thesixparishes.org.uk) for the links you need to join our online services and events, all welcome.

### Special Days - Joint Services

Date	Day	Time	Church Location	Officiant
26 <sup>th</sup> December	St Stephen's Day	10.00am	Leaden Roding	Rev Tim Goodbody
30 <sup>th</sup> January	10 Churches Group Worship	11.00am	Leaden Roding	Rev Robert Stone & Rev Gary Fleming

Please note a number of services take place across the group of 10 churches every week at both 9.30am and 11.00am with a 4.00pm or 4.30pm evening service during the winter months. You are welcome to attend any of the services that suit. Details of service times are displayed on the church notice boards and on the church website, [www.thesixparishes.org.uk](http://www.thesixparishes.org.uk).



## ST MARY THE VIRGIN GREAT CANFIELD

Dear Friends

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah wrote about something incredible to a people that were wondering what the future might hold:

Isaiah 7 verse 14 “the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.”

At a first glance this could just be pointing to the birth of a boy with a strange name, but what is incredible is that the name “Immanuel” means “God with us”. The early church saw this ancient text and realised that this wasn’t just a prophecy for the people of Isaiah’s time it pointed to an incredible promise that God was making to the whole world.

The true meaning of Christmas is that God became Immanuel, With us, sharing our humanity, offering hope beyond our failings and expressing solidarity with all of us.

What do you need most when things are tough? The best thing is someone strong and sure alongside you, telling you that this isn’t the end, and perhaps it is a new beginning, and when things get really bad they pitch in and lend you their strength and courage. Saving us from all that drags us down. Have I mentioned that the name “Jesus” means “God saves”

Jesus did just that, opening up a whole new way to be acceptable to God, and see that we are so very special in the heart of God the Father.

That he entrusted himself to fallible human parents and went through so many of the things all of us do is incredible. He not only is with us, God became one of us. He even promised that through his Holy Spirit he would be with us until the end of time.

What the best present you will get this Christmas? Indeed every Christmas?

Well, let me point you to a sign from the Lord. The young woman had her child, and he is God with us.

May God bless you this Christmas,  
Rev’d Robert Stone



# ST MARY THE VIRGIN GREAT CANFIELD CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT



Where **DID** those last three months go? As I type this I can see report no. 6 staring me in the face. My first response has been to panic. Could easily put "no change from last time", but that is very much a defeatist attitude, so here goes.....

## Worship

The country is rolling ever closer to a full vaccination process. I don't suppose we will ever reach 100%. There will always be those few who don't trust the evidence of science, the rule of Law, etc. and they are entitled to their freedom of choice. Trouble is, their freedom of choice may have a detrimental effect on others freedom, health etc. This leaves us with the difficult situation where public expectation will be at odds with itself. Enforce Social distancing and ruin someone's wedding. Relax strategies and weaken a layer of protection. We have to review on a case-by-case basis.

## Lych Gate

We have now received the analysis from the Church Architect. Suffice to say some of the three tenders were lacking in detail or presentation. We have now resolved the situation and can now submit our Faculty application. We were unable to apply for a faculty before because we could not, in this case, assess the likely cost with any confidence. Also, we now need to raise the funds to carry out the repairs. We can at least project an "order of cost". It is impossible to be precise in these circumstances as we may well find further deterioration to the structure as work progresses, however we are still anticipating a figure of around £10,000. This will include fees.

## Toilet/kitchen

No further progress.

## Services.

On 17th October we held our Harvest Festival service led by Rev. Tim Goodbody. As usual Margaret Stevenson made a wonderful harvest loaf, complete with her trademark Harvest Mouse, which was shared between the congregation (and Tim).

We also had a choir! Despite being depleted by sickness, self-isolation etc. six of the children from the Play Group forming the Great Canfield Pop-up Mini-Choir delighted us all with two special songs. We hope they will return, full strength, to perform again soon. We have a Carol Service planned for 19th December. You never know.....

## Events

Sadly, the planned Classic Car event (in aid of the Lych Gate Appeal) had to be cancelled at the last minute when the Donald family went down with Covid. Thankfully, they have all fully recovered.

The profits from the refreshments at the Fireworks display have been donated to this appeal in its stead and comes to over £550. Thank you to to all the organisers, servers, consumers and the Donalds.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."**[Romans 15:13]**

May God keep you all safe and well.

David Turner  
**Churchwarden**  
**01279-870620**  
[hartview2@gmail.com](mailto:hartview2@gmail.com)

November 2021





**Please join us for an evening of  
Christmas loveliness**

Three Sisters Farm, a small local business that supplies dried flowers and pampas grass have offered to host a decorative wreath making workshop. The wreath will be made from a blend of Pampas Grass, Eucalyptus, White Ruscus and Copper Ruscus featuring a Hessian ribbon on a 25cm Rattan wreath base. No plastic in sight!

The cost is £42 per person  
includes all supplies, tuition, fizz and nibbles

Great Canfield Village Hall  
on Wednesday 8th December at 7:30pm

Please contact Claire Knight to book your place  
on 07967 838421 or by email, [claireinoz100@hotmail.com](mailto:claireinoz100@hotmail.com)

We hope you can join us

# GREAT CANFIELD VILLAGE HALL

## Fireworks Night

Thank you to everyone who came to the fireworks night. I am sure that you will all agree that the fireworks display was spectacular and as enjoyable as previous years. We were very lucky with the weather this year with only a bit of wind to deal with. The bonfire was fantastic and helped to warm up everyone as they enjoyed the lovely food and drinks on offer.

Thanks again to all the volunteers for helping to organise such a great event. Special thanks to Chris Easter and his team for putting on a fantastic and safe fireworks display. Thanks to all the marshals' who helped at the car parks and the gates. Huge thanks to the cricket club for hosting the event and providing a great bar as usual.

This year the food was organised by volunteers from the church and all proceeds from the sale of food and hot drinks went towards the fund to renovate the Lychgate. £560 was raised towards this fund.

## Hall for hire

The hall is a great asset for our community and is available to hire for all types of events. The hall committee is run by a group of volunteers and we are always looking for new members that can offer support and ideas. If you are interested in joining the village hall committee to help run events for the benefit of the local community then please send an email to [jason.asser@tts.eu.com](mailto:jason.asser@tts.eu.com) with your contact information.



## CRICKET CLUB

This report has come a week too early. If you are wondering why this year after at least a 10 year hiatus. Canfield Cricket Club is having an awards dinner. In days long gone they were evenings of great notoriety but disappeared through lack of organisation. Thankfully its returned but as I said sadly too early for this magazine.

Other brief news the tour to France in 2022 is all up and running we are off to Nantes as well we are hoping to do a Beer Festival to coincide with Cricket Week next year.... Watch this space.

But in the meantime have a great Christmas and if you want to find an enjoyable way to keep fit in 2022. Why not join Canfield Cricket Club. We cater for all abilities and there's always a beer and bar-be-que in the offering.



## POPPY APPEAL 2021

This year we collected £374 for the British Legion, up from £247 last year. Again, Covid prevented door to door visits. Many thanks to all who supported this important cause: to those who visited our stations in Green Street and Bacon End on Saturday 30th October, to Ashfields Country Kitchen and the Cricket Club for enabling poppy collections on their premises, and to all who spread the word.

## NEWS FROM GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met in September, October and November, the minutes and other items of interest can be viewed on the village website.

### Village Litter Pick

Thank you to those residents who helped with the village litter pick at the end of October, once again the response from volunteers allowed the whole parish to be covered. Special thanks to Martha Clarke, pictured, who delved into the undergrowth to search out those hidden cans!



The Parish Council is very grateful to the many residents who pick up litter regularly when they are out and about. If you spot any fly-tipping this can be reported directly to Uttlesford using the link below, or via the Clerk. <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5793/Fly-tipping>

### Parish Cllr Resignation and Vacancy

During November Chris Easter resigned as a parish councillor after 8 years of continual service. Chris's immense knowledge of the parish, its history, and its land will be greatly missed on the council.

At the time of writing the process for filling the vacancy has only just begun. As Chris's resignation is in the four-year term during which councillor's serve, the process is known as a 'casual vacancy'. It begins with a 20 day period, 17<sup>th</sup> November to 7<sup>th</sup> December when the parish has the opportunity to call an election if more than 10 electorate request this via Uttlesford, please see the website and notice boards for the official notice. If an election is not required the process of filling the vacancy falls to the parish council to co-opt.

There is no legislation setting out the process for parish councils in co-opting, however the parish council will follow the guidance and best practice set out by National Association of Local Councils whereby details of the process will be published on the website and notice boards and circulated to residents on the email database. The process and decisions around co-opting take place in public at parish council meetings.

A person co-opted to fill a casual vacancy on a Parish Council must fulfil the same criteria as a person being formally nominated at an election. The criteria are

- On the relevant day and thereafter they continue to be on the electoral register for the parish, or
- During the whole of the twelve months before that day they have owned or tenanted land or premises in the parish, or
- During the whole of the twelve months before that day their principal or only place of work has been in the parish, or
- During the whole of the twelve months before that day they have resided in the parish or within three miles of it.

The person should also not be disqualified for election under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972.

If you have any questions about the procedure for co-option, eligibility to serve or the roles and responsibilities of a parish councillor please contact the clerk.

## **Uttlesford Local Plan**



The process for the Local Plan continues and during the last quarter the parish council has responded to Uttlesford technical assessment of sites put forward in the call for sites. This was a fact verification exercise and not an opportunity to make general comments on the suitability of a site. The consultation on the Local Plan is expected in Spring 2022.

The Parish Council is keeping in touch with the collaborative group formed by the parishes of Hatfield Heath, Hatfield Broad Oak, Little Hallingbury and Great Hallingbury who are concerned with Hatfield Garden Village, a proposal for the construction of 6,500 houses, plus commercial and industrial areas put forward in the call for sites. Residents can keep up to date with news of this group via their website, <https://www.usaq.co.uk/> At this stage the parish council has made a decision not to join the group, however to continue to monitor.

## **Highways Update**

County Cllr Barker, Cllr Mackley and the Highways Liaison Officer met in the parish in early October to discuss various highway issues, these included failure in parts of Green Street resurfacing, shallow laying of Gigaclear cabling which prevent 'grips' being made, poor surface on Cuckoos Lane beyond Ashfields which has since been reported as a PRow issue. During the discussions the Highways Liaison Officer suggested it may be possible to reduce the 60mph speed limit at Bacon End to 30mph. If successful this would result in Bacon End not being identified as a faster route to the A120 by sat navs. Applications have been unsuccessful in the past, however it was agreed this should be re-submitted as a request to the Highways Panel for 2022/23 along with a request for signage for single track lanes.

Uttlesford has confirmed it will not be possible to get a Traffic Regulation Order to stop vehicles turning right out of the former Banana depot and through the villages, however the parish council has been advised contracts with tenants will include a clause requiring them not to use this route, should this not be followed Uttlesford will take action.

## **Other Planning News**

The appeal against Uttlesford's refusal for 5 homes on land adjacent to Sandhurst, Hope End was dismissed by the planning inspector in September. The inspector concluded 'the proposed development would be awkwardly out of kilter with the development pattern and character of the area' and 'would not be sustainably located in terms of reliance on the private car..

The Uttlesford planning committee approved the application to replace four existing static homes at Canfield Drive with four detached houses and to add a further traveller's plot to the site, the parish council spoke in objection to this application. At the time of writing an application is pending for the replacement of a further static home on the same site with a detached house.

## **Other News and Meetings**

A decision has been taken not to put the parish council notice board back at Hope End as most residents receive information electronically and via the website. If you are not currently on the parish council email mailing list and would like to be, please contact the Clerk. This mailing list is used to forward information from village groups and by the parish council to share meeting information.

Future meetings of Great Canfield Parish Council will continue on the second Monday of the month at 8pm in the village hall.

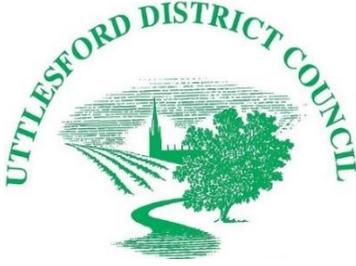
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Parish Council agenda and minutes are available on the village website

[www.greatcanfield.org.uk/parish-council.html](http://www.greatcanfield.org.uk/parish-council.html)



## **News from Geof and Neil, Uttlesford District Cllrs**

### **Ward Surgeries**

The date for the December ward surgery held in the Dukes Head PH in Hatfield Broad Oak is 17 December between 14:00 and 16:00 hours (2 until 4). These sessions take place monthly, dates for 2022 have not been confirmed, please check parish websites, Facebook, and notice boards for further information.

### **Community Green Projects**

During the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Uttlesford were focussing on the steps that can be taken locally to help fight climate change and reduce our carbon footprint.

With the conference now closed, it is a time for the call to action – with neighbours, families and friends being encouraged to set up their own local community green projects.

Uttlesford have some popular suggestions on their website, from building bird boxes to planting diverse species. Want to get involved or set up your own community green project? Find out more at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/community-green-project](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/community-green-project).

### **Taking action on single-use plastic**

The Chair's Charter is a new scheme aimed at encouraging residents, businesses, schools, and other organisations to take small, practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint and single-use plastics waste. The Charter was adopted as part of our commitment to taking positive action on the climate crisis. Residents are asked to make their own pledges, stating what actions they would like to take to tackle these issues. Actions can be big or small, with plenty of room for creativity! You can get involved in the project – let us know the actions you have taken to reduce plastic waste. Get in touch by emailing [wasteaware@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:wasteaware@uttlesford.gov.uk) or share on the Uttlesford Facebook page.

### **Additional Restrictions Grant**

The Additional Restrictions Grant has re-opened for businesses that have been and continue to be impacted by the coronavirus restrictions, regardless of whether they pay business rates. Business must provide evidence of ongoing, fixed business-related costs and demonstrate that they continue to suffer a significant fall in income due to the Covid-19 crisis.

### **Essex Business Adaptation Fund**

Essex County Council's Business Adaptation Grant scheme is offering up to £5,000 to help businesses adapt and prevent further spread of Covid-19. Local businesses are asked to demonstrate how a grant would enable them to become more Covid-19 secure and ensure the health and safety of staff and customers. Adaptations could include investing in ecommerce facilities, moving to a digital platform, supporting employees to work from home, or purchasing ventilation equipment for their premises.

### **Check-in @ Stansted Wednesday 1 December**

Check-in @ Stansted is a business exhibition brought to you by the Stansted Airport Chamber of Commerce. The aim is to connect businesses together. The day presents a fantastic experience for businesses of all sizes to enjoy and is held on site at London Stansted Airport, attracting all types of organisations from across the region.

Why not GOOGLE Check-in @ Stansted to find out more.

[cllrdriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk) or [cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk)

## FINDING HELP AND SUPPORT THIS WINTER



Health services come under extra pressure in the winter - so it can be a good idea to consider other routes to help.

[www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk) is a website you can use search and identify local services and make a self-referral - this means you get the support you need more quickly. The website is easy

to use – look for services by entering key words into the search area.

For example typing in 'COLD' will bring up all the local organisations that provide cold weather support, including help to apply for winter benefits and home improvement grants, plus energy efficiency advice, information on oil clubs, switching suppliers and handyman services.

The website can also be used to access fall prevention services, community transport options, money advice, mental health services, heart health checks, carer support, child and family wellbeing services, support for long term health conditions, including cancer, weight management services, drugs, and alcohol programmes and more.

If you use a mobile device, you may prefer to download the 'Frontline Public' app from the App Store or google play. Alternatively, if you don't have access to the internet at home, you can get online for free at your local library, (ask staff to help you), or call Healthwatch on 0300 500 1895 for details of services in your local area.

### UTTLESFORD CITIZENS ADVICE

### PRESS RELEASE



Help to pay your fuel bills this winter

If you were born on or before 26<sup>th</sup> September 1955 and you get the State Pension or another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit) you may be eligible for a winter fuel payment of between £100 and £300 to help you pay your fuel bills. Most payments are made automatically in November or December. If you think you are eligible and have not received your money by 14 January 2022, contact the Winter Fuel Payment Centre on 0800 731 0160

If you do not qualify for Winter Fuel Payment, you may still be able to get a [Cold Weather Payment](#) if you claim certain benefits and the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees celsius or below over 7 consecutive days between November and March. This is paid automatically – you do not need to apply.

You could also get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2021 to 2022 under the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill. You are eligible if you receive the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit and should receive a letter from your supplier by December 2021. You may also qualify for the discount if you are on a low income and meet your energy supplier's criteria for the scheme. As the number of discounts suppliers can give is limited you should check with your supplier as early as possible to see if you're eligible and how to apply.

If you are not sure how to claim or are worried about paying your fuel bills, the team of energy specialists at Uttlesford Citizens Advice can help. Call them on 01799 618858 for benefit checks, the warm home discount scheme and help with fuel debt, as well as information on joining oil clubs, energy efficiency, affordable warmth and home improvement grants and the priority services register.

If you feel you can do without your winter fuel payment, perhaps consider donating it to help others in this area who are struggling. During cold weather many elderly people are faced with the stark choice of fuel or food, and lower temperatures increase the risk of health problems such as heart attacks, strokes and bronchitis. Uttlesford Citizens Advice uses donations to help people save money on heating costs, including access to help with insulation, understand what financial help is available and manage any fuel-related debts. Donate via their website or call 01799 618840.

Uttlesford Citizens Advice. Barnards Yard, CB11 4EB

T: 01799 618840

W: [uttlesfordca.org.uk](http://uttlesfordca.org.uk)

E: [help@uttlesfordca.org.uk](mailto:help@uttlesfordca.org.uk)

## REDPOLL CATTLE



As Autumn has crept in and we start to get shorter days. It comes to the time to bring the cattle indoors for the Winter. I do this to protect the meadows as much as anything. You have probably noticed that they flood quite badly after heavy rain!! When they are indoors it does give me the opportunity to get them checked over. Most importantly to see if the bull has done his job with the cows. The vet can give an idea of how old the unborn calf is and then I can do may sums (a cow is pregnant 9 months). Ideally I hope that they are all due at a similar time. But it doesn't always work like that! As well as this. I am going to get them all checked for disease. As mentioned previously dog pooch can be a very bad problem but there are one or two others to check. If I get the all clear it means I can sell the young girls as breeding stock with a clear conscience and also a bit of a premium (fingers crossed).

During the Summer I entered the Redpoll Cattle Herd competition for the East of England. This is where the judges come to your farm as opposed to going to a show and wandering around a ring. Much to my amazement I received 3 awards.

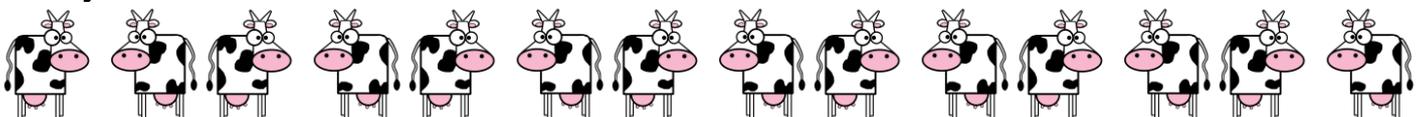
Best Junior Cow – Reserve

Best Senior Cow – Highly Commended and finally Best Pure Bred Steer highly commended. So something must be going right!!

This year I am not selling Beer at Christmas as I can't seem to get a butcher at the moment although I do have a few roasting joints in the freezer, if your interested.

Please give me a call if you would like to know anymore. As well in the New Year I am having a website and social media page developed so keep an eye out.

Many thanks Jonathan



**GREAT CANFIELD TODDLER GROUP**



**We meet fortnightly from 10:00 -12:00  
At Great Canfield Village Hall**

**Christmas Party to be held on**



**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Please RSVP by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**Our first date in 2022 to be Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

**New Mums and little ones very welcome**

**Charging £3.00 per family**

**If you wish to find out more, please look on our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/canfieldslittleones](http://www.facebook.com/canfieldslittleones)**

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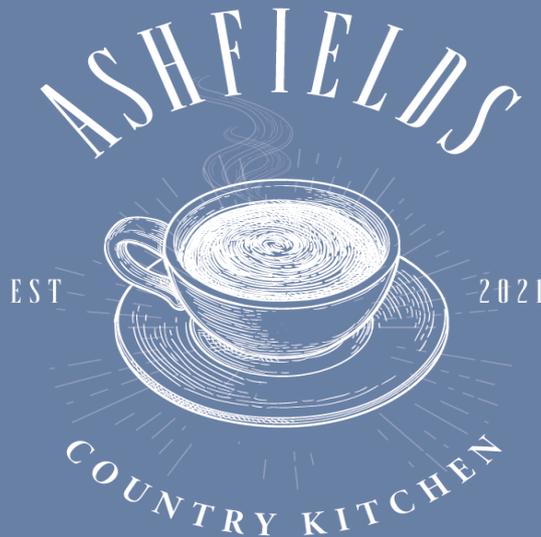
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**BOOKING NOW**

Martyn Lockwood came to our October Meeting and gave a talk entitled “Arsenic, the inheritance powder”. Martyn is a local man, an ex-policeman who is interested in local history. We were surprised to learn that small amounts of arsenic are found in much of our food e.g.: rice, sea food, poultry and dairy products. Arsenic is also used in some forms of cancer care. Martyn gave examples of murders, some local, mostly by women, where arsenic was used. At the end of his talk, he opened up the meeting for any questions members might have.

Brian Carline entertained us with his talk “Soil, Sweat and Tears” for our November Meeting. He gave his personal experiences of a lifelong commitment to gardening. He brought various gardening tools for us to identify and his plants for prizes went down a treat with the members, who were very competitive to answer his questions regarding the use of these tools.

Future Meetings to be held in the WI Hall:

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2 pm “Ways with Wrapping” – Dorothy O’Grady

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2 pm Mountaineering Stories – Climbing Mount Blanc –Luke Lawrence

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2 pm Making an Easter Card – Rita Foster

For further information, please call Margaret on 01371 872206

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## The North Wind (1805)

The north wind doth blow,  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will the robin do then, Poor thing?  
He’ll sit in a barn,  
And keep himself warm,  
And hide his head under his wing, Poor thing!

The north wind doth blow,  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will the swallow do then, Poor thing?  
Oh, do you not know  
That he’s off long ago,  
To a country where he will find spring, Poor thing!

The north wind doth blow,  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will the dormouse do then, Poor thing?  
Roll’d up like a ball  
In his nest snug and small  
He’ll sleep till warm weather comes in, Poor thing!

The north wind doth blow,  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will the honey-bee do then, Poor thing?  
In his hive he will stay  
Till the cold is away  
And then he’ll come out in the spring, Poor thing!

The north wind doth blow,  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will the children do then, Poor things?  
When lessons are done  
They will skip, jump and run,  
Until they have made themselves warm, Poor things!



## BOOK CLUB



### **“The Captive Queen – a novel of Eleanor of Aquitaine” by Alison Weir**

The book we discussed at our August meeting was The Captive Queen. This was a book which seemed to divide opinion. Some loved it some hated it! However it did provoke a lot of discussion.

It was a fictional account of Eleanor of Aquitaine who was, at the start of the book married to King Louis VII of France. When she meets Henry of Anjou – the future King Henry II of England there is an instant sexual attraction. She subsequently divorces Louis and marries Henry. This is the beginning of the Plantagenet Dynasty.

Some found the rather descriptive passages off putting and viewed the book as not being quite what had been expected. Alison Weir has written a non-fiction book about Eleanor – and she obviously decided that his version was going to be more imaginative and racier!

Much of the novel takes place after Eleanor, having helped her sons to rebel against their father, is imprisoned by a furious Henry. She was imprisoned for 16 years – only being released after Henry. Altogether a very interesting life and the book reflected this.

### **“The Testament of Mary” by Colm Toibin**

The next book we read and discussed at our September meeting was “The testament of Mary” by Colm Toibin. Another controversial choice! This is the imagined story of Mary after the Crucifixion of her son. Jesus is never named in the book. He is always referred to as “the One who was here”. This was originally written as a stage play, and it was a very short novel. Mary was living in Ephesus and one of the disciples was writing his gospel – we assume this was John. This book caused a lot of discussion – Colm Toibin is a divisive writer – as a lapsed Catholic some of his views are very controversial. Not our most popular choice!

### **Our next read was “The Last Runaway” by Tracy Chevalier**

This is the story of Honor Bright who was a young Quaker woman living in Dorset in the 1850’s. She travels to America with her sister Grace who was engaged to marry a man who had emigrated earlier. They have a horrendous crossing and Honor is very seasick. Unfortunately, Grace dies of yellow fever and Honor has no option but to travel on to her sister’s fiance Adam.

The story involves Quilt making, at which Honor is an expert, Quakerism and slavery – so a quite involved story. We had a lot of discussion of these subjects. On the whole we enjoyed this book, but some thought the characters were rather shallow, and unsympathetic. A revealing view of American in the 1850s – the title refers to not only Honor escaping her life in England but the runaway slaves in America who route to Canada passed through Ohio, where Honor ended up.

Philippa Green

01279 870202

[philippagreen1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:philippagreen1@yahoo.co.uk)



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## GREAT CANFIELD CARPET BOWLS CLUB



Bad news. Alexa and I have split up! Unresolvable differences. That's the trouble with electronic smarta\*\*\*s. You just can't reason with them. She said she knew I was talking to another AI. I said I could talk to whomsoever I wished. She said "Ok, talk to this 'Siri', whoever SHE is". Then she ruptured a PCB. She's ok now, but it took a lot of work on her motherboard.

They said it was her BIOS. I knew that all along.

Now, where was I? Oh, yes. Carpet Bowls. Well, things continue to feel much more like the old days. It has been so good for all of our mental states (except yours truly, see above). We have progressed beyond just 8 players. We were up to 15 last week. Still keeping our dedicated bowls. Even more Sanitiser. Forget tidal. Now it's a Tsunami (giant waves). We have also returned to the refreshment routine. Yes, the traditional Rock Bunfight has returned. Oh, the joys of it all. Can be a bit worrying, though. If you remember it was a rock bun that did for Ernie when one caught him underneath the 'art. (*side note: Must do a Risk Assessment*). We have a new lady member, Jan (not new as in newborn, just...Well you know what I mean).

"H" is back! Yes, we have positive proof that he didn't get manhandled at the end of LoD. What's more, he seems to be bowling better. Much better. I suppose now everyone thinks 'H' is but a thing of the past after season 6, he can approach life in a far more relaxed manner.

There are rumours of a season 7. There are always rumours. If the rumours prove to be true, then we can expect "H"s form to go through the floor. He may vanish again. Watch this space.

I will keep you informed (Far more reliable than Google spoilers).

Now the nights are drawing in Doug also seems more relaxed. He's stopped dodging from shadow to shadow. Last week after refreshments he said "Must fly. Think I need another bite". Wonder what he meant? He has requested jam doughnuts.

Since we have returned, I have noticed the balls are behaving strangely. When a ball goes off the carpet it seems to speed up. Even odder, it always heads for a door. Do you think they are trying to escape? What's more when you recapture one and place it on the floor where you can keep an eye on it, it rocks from side-to-side. Perpetually. NEVER stops. Perhaps they are possessed. I would ask one of our bowlers to exorcise the Spirit of the Balls, but I know they avoid exorcise at all costs. Maybe the balls have OD'd on sanitiser. Maybe I have? Nah, I don't feel any different from normal. That's reassuring. I think.

No return to matches for the foreseeable future. Some clubs have folded. So if you've been left in limbo (or anywhere else) and are suffering withdrawal symptoms, or still harbour a burning ambition to be the next, er well, first International Superstar, why not join us.

Call 01279-870620 (David Turner) or email [hartview2@gmail.com](mailto:hartview2@gmail.com)

Go on – you know it makes sense!

November 2021

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Deadline for the SPRING Newsletter is 20 February 2022

## WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH



| Organisation                       | Name                   | Address                                                                                                                  | Telephone No. |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Priest in charge                   | Rev'd Robert Stone     | The Rectory, Stortford Road, Leaden Roding                                                                               | 07726719288   |
| Associate Minister                 | Rev'd Tim Goodbody     | The Rectory, 3 Old Vicarage Close, High Easter                                                                           | 07485 308735  |
| Curate                             | Rev'd Gary Fleming     | The Rectory, Green Street, Great Canfield                                                                                | 07491 402273  |
| Church Warden                      | Mr David Turner        | Hart View, Canfield Road                                                                                                 | 01279 870620  |
| Church Warden (Deputy)             | Mrs Mary Clarke        | Haslow, Church End                                                                                                       | 01371 872213  |
| Church Visitor Access              | Mrs Jo Donald          | Rodingbourne, Church End                                                                                                 | 01371 879197  |
| Church Contact                     | Mr David Turner        | Hart View, Canfield Road                                                                                                 | 01279 870620  |
| Church Treasurer                   | Mr Tony Hughes         | Fanns Cottage, Canfield Road                                                                                             | 01279 871513  |
| Organist                           | Mrs Margaret Stevenson | High Roding Bury Farm                                                                                                    | 01371 872206  |
| Church Flowers                     | Mrs Mary Clarke        | Haslow, Church End                                                                                                       | 01371 872213  |
| Church Bells                       | Mr Jonathan Clarke     | Great Canfield Bury Farm                                                                                                 | 01371 873403  |
| Book Club                          | Penny Judd             | Fanns Farm                                                                                                               |               |
| Carpet Bowls                       | Mr David Turner        | Hart View, Canfield Road                                                                                                 | 01279 870620  |
| Cricket Club                       | Mr Stuart Hepburn      | Fitzjohns                                                                                                                | 01279 871664  |
| Neighbourhood Watch                | Mr David Hummel        | davidhummel@hotmail.co.uk                                                                                                | 01371 874884  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Roding Scout Group | Mrs Claire Matthews    | Meet on Tuesday Evenings, Aythorpe Roding Village Hall                                                                   | 01245 231478  |
| Parish Council Chairman            | Mr Robert Mackley      | Foxley, Bacon End                                                                                                        | 01371 879192  |
| Parish Council Clerk               | Mrs Allison Ward       | Peartree Cottage, Slough Road, High Easter                                                                               | 01245 231798  |
| VH Committee                       | Mr Jason Asser         | Whitedale, Canfield Road                                                                                                 |               |
| Village Hall Lettings              | Gill Vincett           | <b>For bookings and enquiries:</b><br><a href="mailto:greatcanfieldhall261@gmail.com">greatcanfieldhall261@gmail.com</a> | 01279 871421  |
| WI High Roding & Gt Canfield       | Mrs Margaret Stevenson | High Roding Bury Farm                                                                                                    | 01371 872206  |
| Newsletter Editor                  | Mrs Alison Clark       | 1 Warwick Road, Little Canfield                                                                                          | 01279 871835  |
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