



The
Rocket
50p

February 2021

The
Magazine
for the Parish
of St Ann,
Rainhill

We're Still Here



Light at the End of the Tunnel

In the first chapter of St John's Gospel the Good News Translation says: 'The Word was the source of life and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out'.

So far so good, in all of our history the light has shone and so it does now. As dark as January was and February may be, the light is here and will shine brighter. At the beginning of January the PCC, at a zoom meeting, unanimously decided to close our church in order to keep us safe, with no private prayer due to the virus being so virulent at the time. Decisions were in the air as to how this issue of the Rocket would reach your doormat. You may have received this Rocket later than usual but please believe me throughout the pandemic our best effort has been to keep the magazine going and to try to post it through your letterbox.



Photos in this issue are looking back once more behind the scenes. They focus on our zoom services, our Autumn jobs and some of our Christmas Services that took place in church. Our Carol and Crib Service on Christmas Eve was "Well Good" with lots of actions, drama and dressing up but no photos unfortunately, but quite rightly, as it was on zoom. Well done to Rev'd Lynne and 'cast' for a 'zoomtastic' performance.

There is a poetic air about this edition as there should be as St Valentine's Day is on 14th. I even put pen to paper myself. There is also a recipe for your pancakes for Shrove Tuesday on 16th.

There are daffodils blooming along the roadside near the 'Rocket' Pub but I am waiting with trepidation for my bulbs to erupt into splendour in my garden tubs, full of hope. The photo shows my granddaughter and me at St Ann's, in the recent snow. Delphine



Tuning in to God

Before the days of digital, radio tuning had to be done manually. You might remember how the dial had to be constantly adjusted to get the right station. My dad told me when he was a boy, he used to sit in an old lady's living room carefully adjusting the dial, listening to children's programmes on a set of headphones on her "Cats whisker/crystal" radio receiver. That was in the 1920s when my dad was growing up and this lady was the only one in his street with any form of radio.



Thankfully communications have improved now and we have push button digital tuning. Instant, no effort. But I still remember tuning a radio manually as many of you do, I'm sure. I was fascinated to find that many people take great delight in recreating/mending those old crystal receivers (please don't send me yours, I am not an expert). Naturally enough there is a Haynes manual for the job.

Tuning an old radio is a bit like Lent. We need to cut through the crackle of everyday life to tune back into God. We are like radios that need retuning, we have drifted from the right frequency and although God is constantly trying to get through to us, sometimes all we get is noise and interference. Those Lenten disciplines, fasting, prayer, Bible study, giving things up or giving things away are all about refocusing our lives. We live in an instant world that requires no effort. But we don't have a push button God, to tune into God takes effort and a bit of time, a bit like that old radio.

But why is it so hard? An old monk wrote, "I used to think that God was only interested when I was uncomfortable". That is perhaps many people's experience of Lent. But it's not about putting ourselves out a bit to get God's attention, nor is it the chance to lose a few pounds after the overindulgence of Christmas, although many people use it as that.

It is an opportunity to refocus or retune ourselves to God's frequency.

That same monk said, "I used to think that until I discovered the Holy Spirit". He discovered that God was willing to equip him with the gifts needed to draw close to him and that when he took one step towards God, he took two steps towards Him. When we discover that God is actually concerned enough about us to want to get know us or as one writer put it "is incredibly fond of us" and is willing to help us to connect, then we should be encouraged. There is no need for a Haynes manual on this because the worlds bestselling book The Bible is already available. These are some words of Jesus to encourage us.

"You who are parents—if your child asks for bread, do you give them a stone? If they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? ¹² If they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³ "And if even sinful persons like yourselves give children what they need, don't you realize that your heavenly Father will do at least as much, and give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" Luke 11:11-15

When God begins to work in our lives it requires that we give Him space. That is what Lent is about. It is about changing our focus retuning into God. Rather than thinking that we are twisting God's arm by making ourselves uncomfortable, we find that we are more connected with who we truly are when we draw near to God.

God Bless

Alan

Cover photo: Our church, after the first snowfall for some while fell in the night of 28th December 2020



KJT- WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME?

Katarina Johnson-Thompson or KJT as she is known has many strings to her bow. She is such a talented athlete that it is hard for her to know which event to specialise in. She is world class at both the high jump and the long jump and she can hold her own at 200



metres among British sprinters. This talent has been obvious from an early age and while everyone close to athletics recognised it, the one person with some doubts was probably KJT. It wasn't so much did she have the talent, but could she do it on the big stage? Could she produce the goods when it really mattered at the major championships?

KJT mockingly says that having a double-barrelled surname and doing a discipline with 7 events shows how indecisive she is. But triumphs in the English Schools Championship and then gold in in 2009 in heptathlon at the World Youth Championships showed a talent to watch. In 2012 she broke Jessica Ennis-Hill's British Junior Heptathlon Record and for good measure won the long jump at the World Junior Championships. How far could this talented athlete go and when might we see the best of KJT? Further records followed in the high jump and long jump but there were setbacks. Some critics fastened onto her three foul jumps in 2015 in the long jump at the World Championships in Beijing and started to question whether she could ever focus enough to marshal her talent on the really big stage. KJT had some of her own demons but was helped by some wise decisions in accepting help and support. Barrie Wells with his Wells Sports Foundation believed in her and helped with driving lessons and in other ways to keep that talent flourishing. Mike Holmes had been her coach in early successes but now she turned to Bertrand Valcin in Montpellier, France.

It was a big move from Woolton, Liverpool to continental Europe but it soon paid off. In 2018 she won several titles including the Commonwealth Games. Now it was Doha in 2019 and the World Athletic Championships. The competition was stiff particularly facing Nafi Thiam, the World and Olympic Champion but this was KJT's time. She was ready. Day one went well with several personal bests. Could she stay focused? Would there be anymore long jump problems? The answer was emphatic with a gold medal and a British record of 6,981 points. It was her time indeed.

Early in St. John's Gospel Jesus' mother, Mary wanted to show off her son and let everyone know how special he was at solving problems. They were at a wedding where the wine had run out. Now Mary looked to Jesus to do something but her boy was reluctant to perform. His reluctance to do anything,



he says, is due to the fact that his time had not yet come. Then throughout John's Gospel there are allusions to his 'time' or 'his hour.' The strange thing is that when Jesus spoke of his time he was referring to his cross. Then his true mission would be revealed and his purpose accomplished. Jesus was not going to be bound by any kind of human advice, agenda or manipulation. His task was to do his Father's will. And when the appointed hour came it was not a time for resigned fatalism but for prayer. So Jesus prays in John ch.17 that his Father will accomplish the purpose of this appointed hour. The very event by which Jesus would be crucified on a cross in horrible ignominy and shame would become a cause of praise and rejoicing by men and women, girls and boys whose sins he had borne.

A gold medalist and record holder rightly receives the praise of all but Jesus' hour and his glorification meant that he received glory from his Father God.

+Geoff



The Robin

He comes to the garden every day,
Lovely and cute in every way.

If I lead he will follow,
Down into the snowy hollow,
He's never the one to hide away,
Season's sparkle on a frosty day.

His little song he will deliver,
I will tremble, he will shiver.

With his breast as red as wine,
He has come just to dine.

Sitting on a thorny stem,
I would say he's winter's gem.

He's got a ruby on his chest,
Of all the birds he is so blest.

Robin's flight is always swift,
He is this season's little gift.

It's such a joy, I must say,
Seeing Robin on a winters Day.



Katrina (Tina) has written this poem for Anne
Memories of Higherside Comprehensive.

National Nestbox Week - time to help your garden birds

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14th February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes. Go to:

<https://www.nestboxweek.com>

parish pump



Oliver Watkinson

Many of us I'm sure, were so sad to hear that dear Ollie had died. He was a good friend, a gentleman, and loved his music. He had been a loyal member of the church choir for at least 40 years, and his musical knowledge and his lovely voice were an enormous asset to the choir. He also served, along with Joan, for many years as treasurer to the Friends of the Choir and kept us all smiling with his gentle humour.

He was a keen member of Parkside Male Voice Choir, and sang in many concerts with them. Under normal circumstances, I'm sure that both choirs would have been at his funeral, each feeling that Ollie belonged to them, it is such a shame that we couldn't all sing for him and send him off with music in his heart.

Ollie was blessed in having Joan to care for him, the love and devotion she gave to him was a joy to see, and she kept Ollie cheerful and content with his lot. Now she needs to be cared for and their lovely family will do that I'm sure. John and I both wish them all well, and are certain that Ollie's voice is now resounding around Heaven.

Kath Ball.

Bringing the 'Light of the World' into the dark days of winter

The Christian festival of Candlemas, which is celebrated annually on 2nd February, marks the 'Presentation of Christ in the Temple' (*Luke 2:22-40*), which is the official name for this feast day. Candlemas is celebrated by Christians throughout the world. Ten years ago, when in Madeira, I witnessed an amazing celebration when hundreds of local people, carrying lighted candles, took to the streets and processed into a cathedral. There were so many people that most of them had to stand outside and listen to the service on loudspeakers. The name, 'Candlemas' evolved from a tradition that churches, while celebrating the time that the child Jesus was presented in the temple, used the occasion to bless the candles they had bought for the coming year. Candles, of course, were the usual source of light in dark church buildings before electric light became available in the early 1900's. In my parish church, St Andrew's Sonning, a single electric light bulb was installed in October 1934 to supplement the candles that had always been used. It was first light bulb in the village. The vicar, writing in our parish magazine, said: 'At Evensong, when the congregation was even larger than usual, the church looked extraordinarily beautiful ... and the combination of the electric light and the candles throughout the church being markedly effective.' Candles, of course, were not only the main source of light - oil lamps being another source - in churches but also in people's homes and workplaces. Most villages, and certainly most towns and cities, had their candlestick maker, hence the nursery rhyme, '*Rub a dub dub, three men in a tub, the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker*'. Candles, or rather the light they provided, were an essential commodity. It is estimated that in the UK we spend £1.9 billion on candles every year!

Despite a modern day LED lighting system that welcomes visitors to my church today, candles are still used for all services. Before Covid 19, our Sacristan bought over 650 candles every year to replenish over 100+ candlesticks and chandeliers. The oldest chandelier still in use dates from 1675.

There can be no doubt that the humble candle is the perfect symbol for Jesus as the light that shines into the darkest parts of our world.

Bob Peters, Association of Church Editors

Colin Dempsey



We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Colin Dempsey. He served as vergers for many years, taking over from Alan Owen. When Colin's name is mentioned to the people of Rainhill, many will reply saying, "He took our wedding photographs". He would drive around in his beloved Morris Minor and that was also a talking point.

Colin and his wife were ballroom dancers. He told us that they had been on the programme, 'Come Dancing' and they had won many awards.

He was quite a character and was very popular. He was extremely knowledgeable about our church and village.

In one of the conversations we had, he told me his mother brought him to

St Ann's as a baby to be christened and he remained a parishioner for the rest of his life. What a wonderful achievement in today's world.

He was a much loved father and grandfather and a much loved friend to many people. He will be sadly missed. Janet Hardman

Advice from a Forget-me-Not

Be at home in nature, put a smile on someone's face. Cover lots of ground, stay close to the earth, be unforgettable, live a colourful life and bloom where you are planted.





Looking Back Behind the Scenes



Many thanks for the photos which show autumn leaves being tidied before a service in church by our verger and bishop, which shows the importance of the task to keep us safe.



Also shown is mission control for a zoom service also an important task to allow us to attend All Age Services and Platform 2, where the lovely Advent candles were made.





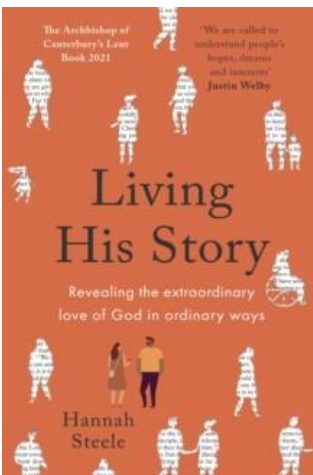
LENT



17th February

At time of writing Rev'd's Alan and Lynne are waiting to see what changes if any, the government review mid February will bring, so that they can take action on how they will proceed with Lent. An Ash Wednesday Service could be in church or on zoom but at present it is unknown as is any other service or course. We will just have to wait and see but in all the uncertainty, one thing we do know for certain is...**We're Still Here.**

Living His Story is a Lent devotional that will change the way you think about evangelism, show how ideally suited it is for the world



we live in and fill you with confidence in sharing God's love with the people around you. The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021 is set out in six sessions to take you through Lent, Hannah Steele uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, she shows us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us and allowing people to be drawn to him through our natural gifts.



Garden Tubs

December was very mild and the shoots began to push through the soil. They stood proud, too tall, for if the weather was to turn very cold they may burn with frost, So, I covered them with a bit more with compost. I was right the weather did turn cold and unfortunately, I was hoping to show a photo of the new shoots in the new year but we have snow. In the small photo taken today, on 3rd January, you can see shoots coming through the snow, on the left, along with my now dying bedding plants. I will take another photo before the magazine goes to print and you never know... Lots more shoots are showing through in mid January, although the cold weather isn't encouraging growth. Loki the Labrador posed for perspective on the photo, only if I played ball afterwards, a good deal I thought and so did he.

Promises

God has not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our life through;
God has not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God has promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labour,
Light for the way;
Grace for the trial,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love. (Anon)

Progress on the Garden Tubs



From the Parish Register

Funerals 'Our sympathy and prayers'

7th	December	Derek Johnston
8th	December	Druscilla Margaret Williams
29th	December	Olive Phillips



Christmas Eve, 6pm

Ring out those Christmas Bells

Along with everyone in the country, with an excellent turnout in my road and among them my grandchildren, neighbours were ringing their bells on Christmas Eve. Just after the Carol and Crib Service on zoom. It was beginning to feel a lot like a very different, but joyful Christmas.



Neighbours



Grandchildren



Let it Snow, let it snow, let it snow...

A lovely collage of Snowmen built by 'Platform 2' children some who are on the photos with their sculptures. Jean is looking suitably proud of the snowman she had built with her young helper (or was it the other way around).





The fourth Sunday of Advent



At the end of Advent in this extraordinary year, Platform 2 joined the 10.30am Service. It was all about shepherds and angels.

We had just heard from the government that many of our Christmas plans for our family celebrations would not be going ahead and many of us were disappointed to say the least including Jean and Geoff who led the service.

However the service was so uplifting and joyous that everyone felt that even if our plans were in ruins the Christ child would be still be born and celebrated whatever our circumstances with hope and joy.

A big thank you to Jean and Geoff for a most faith restoring, inspiring service.

The children's activity was to make a Christmas card and oh boy, they did.



Midnight Christmas Service

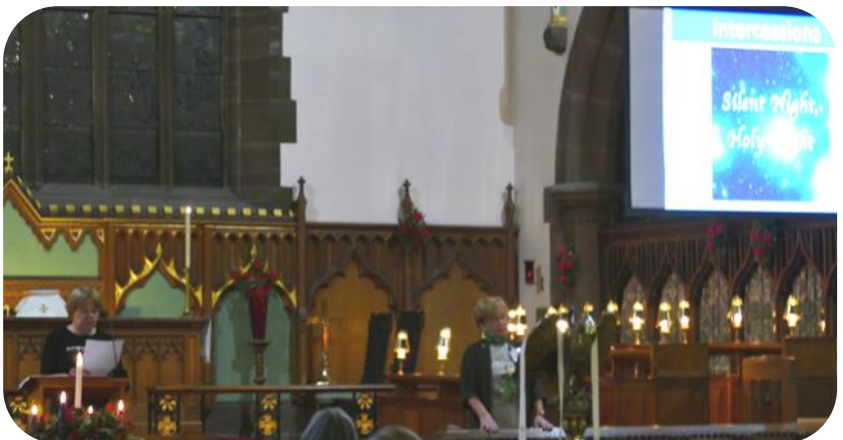
Rev'd's Alan and Lynne led the service to a safely spaced congregation. Carol read the Gospel.



Bishop Paul spoke to us, on screen, from a comfortable armchair, about the birth of Jesus.

Lynn led the prayers interspersed with the carol of Silent Night, read by Joan. Joyous, different and exceptionally good as Lynn Bishop's prayers always are.

All the candles were lit on the Advent wreath as it was now Christmas day.





**January Thoughts from June Houghton,
Provincial President, York Mothers' Union.**

Another journey is behind us dear friends. We head into 2021 with a mixture of trepidation and anticipation. We carry the grief of the past year with us but tilt our faces towards the light of the star — and hope.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

**Staying connected through
Midday Prayers**

Our members who don't have access to the internet at home will still be able to hear our midday prayers thanks to the Church of England's Daily Hope Line. Just Call 0800 804 8044 from a mobile or landline, press option 4, then option 8.



As the world continues to struggle with and through this pandemic may we keep our hearts and minds focussed on the cross. May we receive the faith and courage needed from our heavenly father who loves us so much. Carve the words of "All our hope on God is founded" on our hearts as we together, continue to walk this strange journey. May the Lord keep us safe and well.

Our love and prayers, David and Lynne Tembey.



We fondly remember Barbara Benson, one of our Mothers' Union members who passed away at the end of 2020. Barbara was married to Brian and had three grown up children. A son and daughter who are twins and an elder son. She also had one grandson. Barbara was very close to all her family and loved her holidays with Brian, in Llandudno. She was also a cat person.

Barbara was a lovely quiet person who loved big earrings and bright colours! She had been an active member for seventeen years in Mothers' Union and enjoyed all the M U outings. We will miss her. Thanks to Pat Cockshott

Women's World day of Prayer usually takes place in March however, due to circumstances as they are, we have decided to postpone the event until Friday 4th June. St Bart's are hosting this year. More details to follow nearer the time.

Rev'd Lynne

Rhubarb pancake topping for Shrove Tuesday

Ingredients

- 450g rhubarb, cut into 4cm pieces
- 85g caster sugar
- 3 tbsp honey
- finely grated zest and juice 1 lemon
- 2 vanilla pods
- stem ginger, cut into thin shards

For the vanilla crème fraîche

- 1 tsp icing sugar
- 200ml crème fraîche



16th February
It's Pancake Day!

To make the rhubarb compote with vanilla crème fraîche topping

Heat oven to 140°C/fan 120°C/gas 1.

Put the rhubarb pieces into a bowl and add the sugar, honey, a squeeze of lemon juice and 3 tbsp water. Mix well, then lay the pieces flat in a roasting tray. Split the vanilla pods in half, then scrape out the seeds and reserve for the vanilla crème fraîche. Add the vanilla pods to the rhubarb, then bake in the oven for 30 mins.

Meanwhile, stir the vanilla seeds and icing sugar into the crème fraîche.

When the rhubarb is cooked, drain the juices into a pan, then boil to thicken slightly. Mix the rhubarb with the stem ginger and juices, then spoon over pancakes. Top with a spoonful of vanilla crème fraîche and a sprinkling of lemon zest.



THE ROCKET DEADLINE FOR MARCH submissions is FRIDAY 12th February

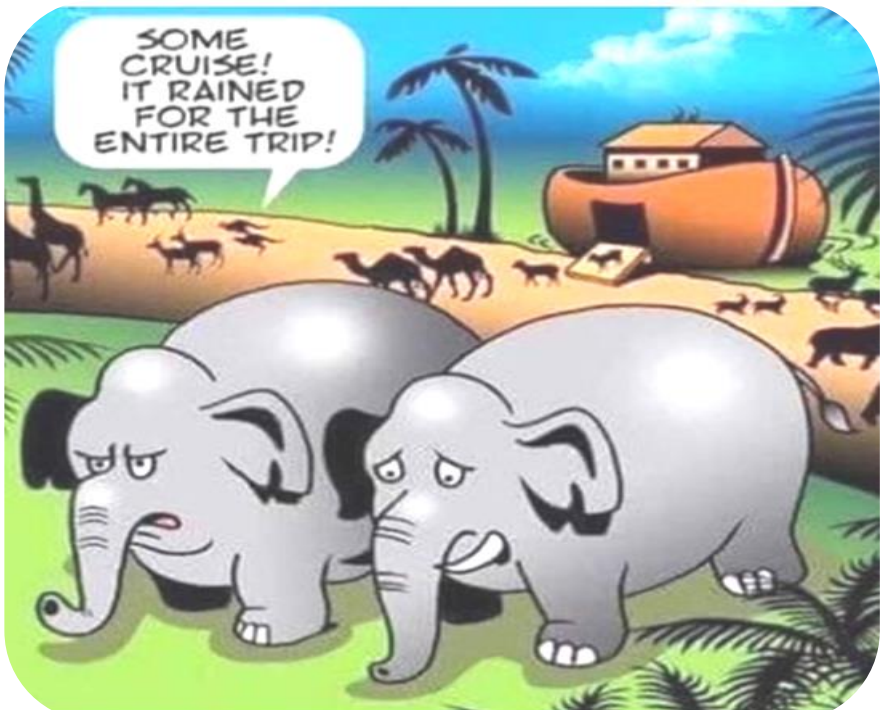
Our Award Winning *Rocket* magazine is enhanced by your articles, photos and poems which are especially welcome from all parishioners and churches in the parish.

Please email your submissions to: therocketmag@gmail.com or drop them in at St Ann's Centre or leave them in the red folder at the back of church. Thank you!

DISTRIBUTERS PLEASE NOTE : Hopefully, the March magazines will be in St Ann's Centre for a week from Friday 26th February, (and in church on Sunday 28th) please try to pick them up. If you cannot pick them up during this time, they will be delivered to you. Thank you.

THE ROCKET SUBSCRIPTIONS

New Subscribers, each issue of *The Rocket* costs 50p, with 11 issues each year. But did you know you can subscribe for just £5 a year? For more details contact: therocketmag@gmail.com





A Romantic Story for Valentine's Day

A gentleman from Lincolnshire contacted the Society after having noticed a reference to The Tower VAD Hospital on our website www.rainhillremembered.org

He told us about his mother, Gladys Pomfrey, born in 1894, who came from humble beginnings near St Albans. Having left school aged 14, Gladys gained employment with Mrs Doris Jackson - a doctor's wife in St Helens. In 1915, Doris Jackson was appointed Commandant at the Tower Hospital, Rainhill which had been set up to provide medical care and convalescence for soldiers who were injured in the war. At the time her husband, Col. Robert Jackson, was serving in France with the RAMC. In April 1916, he returned to St Helens and became the Medical Officer at Tower VAD Hospital. Mrs Jackson had encouraged Gladys to train as a VAD nurse with the Red Cross and Gladys served at the Tower Hospital for the duration of the War.



Group of nurses at the Tower Hospital. Gladys Pomfrey is 4th from the left on the back row. Doris Jackson is standing facing the seated nurses. Col. Jackson is seated with the swagger stick.



Gladys never forgot her time with Mrs Jackson. In later life, she told her children that it "transformed her life" and she talked of a 'Mr Roby'* who came to play his violin to entertain the wounded soldiers at the Tower. The romance blossomed and she had hopes that they would marry one day. However, for some reason, this was not to be.

At the end of the war, Gladys went to a Liverpool Hospital to train as a professional nurse.

There she met Dr Harold Godfrey Young who had been in service with the RAMC during the war. They married in Birkenhead in 1924. In 1925, he was the Residential Medical Officer at Liverpool Infirmary. Later, they moved to Hertfordshire where they brought up their family.

*'Mr Roby' was Albert Roger Roby - a director at Roby's Brass Foundry and also owner of Roby's Grocery Shop at the corner of Tasker Terrace. His grandfather, Roger Roby, was the brother of John Roby who had established the Foundry in 1859.

Aged 14, Albert joined St Ann's Church choir where he remained for 50 years. He had learned to play the violin at an early age and he formed a dance band which played for house parties organised by families of various Rainhill 'gentry'. The money raised was given to the Church funds. He was a keen cyclist and cricketer in his



youth and served on the Committee of the Rainhill Cricket Club. He had volunteered for service in the First World War but he was not accepted so he joined for the Special Constabulary and remained a member for 30 years. He was a benefactor to St Ann's Church and served as Secretary to the parochial Church Council from 1920 to 1938.

He never married and is buried in the family grave in St Ann's Churchyard

Albert Roger Roby died May 13th 1954 aged 63 years.

son of John and Elizabeth Hannah Roby

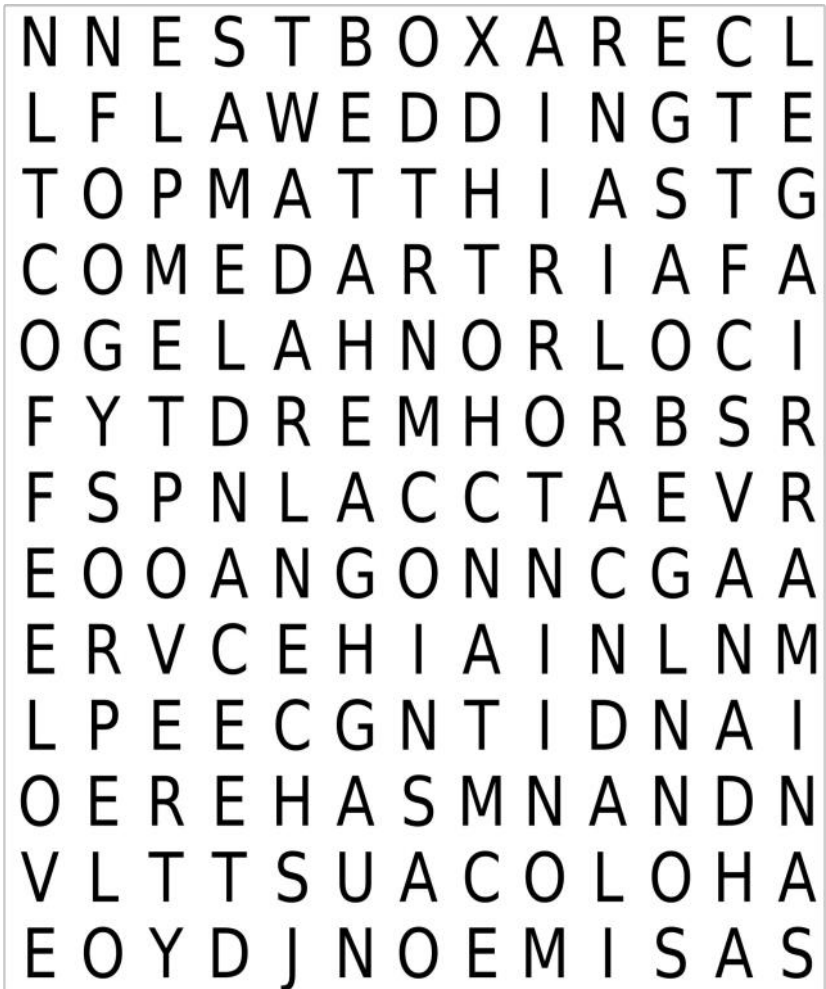
Gladys never forgot Albert Roby. In the 1970's a few years before her death, when she had been a widow for many years, she made a special journey to Rainhill to visit his grave. Among her treasured possessions was a book of Tennyson's poems which was given to her by Albert Roby. Her son, Christopher still has the book.

Anne Slater, Rainhill Civic Society Heritage Group. With thanks to Chris Young (Gladys's son) and to Kit Syder (a descendant of the Roby family).

Wordsearch

February opens with Candlemas - the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound. 'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

- naming
- Christ
- Candlemas
- Simeon
- Anna
- temple
- love
- Valentine
- romance
- Matthias
- Fairtrade
- Fortnight
- coffee
- bananas
- chocolate
- justice
- poverty
- nest box
- marriage
- wedding
- Holocaust
- leprosy





The Bible Garden Part 5 - Flowers

In our previous parts we have looked at planning a Bible garden, the seven essential Bible foods, trees and growing vegetables. This month we consider some of the plants that bring the beauty of God's creation into our Bible garden - flowers. There are plenty to choose from that can be grown in our climate, and for example, here are some that I grow:

Anemone - or the 'Lily of the field' (*Matthew 6:28-30*)

Daisy (*James 1: 9-10*)

Hyacinth (*Revelation 9:17*)

Lily (*Hosea 14:5*)

Poppy (*1 Peter: 24-25*)

Tulip (*Song of Songs 2:12*)

Doves Dung (*2 Kings 6:25*)

Lavender (*Song of Songs 4:14*)

Mandrake (*Song of Songs 7:13*)

Rose (*Song of Songs 2:1*)

Water Lily (*2 Chronicles 4:5*)

Add to this list flowering shrubs and herbs such as Mallow, Broom, Hyssop and Rue, and you will be able to create a splendid display of flowers that blooms from early spring to autumn.

To keep your Bible garden authentic, it is worth trying to find varieties and colours that are usually found in the Middle East. As a general rule, I have found that white and red is often the best choice, for example, white rose, lily, daisy and broom, and red poppy and tulip.

If you are puzzled by Dove's Dung in the list above, this is subject to interpretation, as Bible plants often are. Some experts suggest it is a type of chickpea, some suggest it really is 'dung' probably from doves or pigeons and was used as food - usually when a city was under siege and the inhabitants were starving! The interpretation that I prefer is that Dove's Dung is also the name of a beautiful small flowering plant known as the Star of Bethlehem. It has been suggested that the bulbous roots of this plant were sometimes eaten when food was in short supply.

Personally, I think it is far better to grow them for the beautiful white star like flowers and leave the bulbous roots in the ground for another wonderful display the next year.

If you are thinking about growing some Bible garden flowers, then now is an excellent time to do some research into their authenticity. Most of them will do well in pots. You will find lots of different views about the plant names, colours and species. I have found that you need to decide which of the experts you feel more comfortable with - and which flowers will grow best in your garden. If it all gets too confusing you can always do as I do most years and fill in some empty ground with a packet of mixed wild meadow flowers to remind us of what Jesus said (*Luke 12:27-28*) about flowers: *Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!*

Bob Peters,



St Valentine 2021

Roses are red and violets are blue,
St Valentine, the odds are stacked against you.

Roses are red and violets are blue,
I'm wearing a mask and so are you.
Roses are red, carnations are pink,
I looked in your eyes, you gave me a wink.

A rose so red with a long, long stalk,
We set out on a long, long walk.

We ate Roses Chocolates and similar brands,
After sanitizing, we then held hands.

Roses are red and violets are blue,
I've had the vaccine, and you've had it too.

All of God's flowers are sunny and bright,
Dark days will pass as love leads us to light.

Roses are red and violets are blue,
St Valentine, still helping love, find a way through.

Delphine



Parish Phonebook

VICAR

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The Vicarage, View Road,
Rainhill, L35 0LE
alanconant15@gmail.com
0151 426 4666

CURATE

Reverend Lynne Jackson
07388 198749
email lynn-ej@hotmail.com

CHURCH WARDENS:	Ian Corcoran	01744 832616
	Rachel Oxley	07523 787 577
ASSISTANT WARDENS:	Brian Kinder	0151 426 3023
	Mike Hardman	0151 290 1592
PCC SECRETARY	Sheila Jones	0151 426 0396
		email stannpcc@gmail.com
VERGER:	Joan Gorbutt	07467 455 023
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER	vacant, if interested please ring the Vicar	
WEDDINGS:	Rev'd Dr Alan Conant	0151 426 4666
BAPTISMS:	Rev'd Lynne Jackson	07388 198 749
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