

INSPIRE



ST JOHN'S

ST KATHARINE'S



**THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISHES
OF**

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, FROME
AND
ST KATHARINE, EAST WOODLANDS**

NOVEMBER 2020

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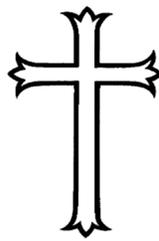
Dear Friends

October has been recognised as Black History Month, and around other matters I have taken some time to look more deeply into the history of connections between Frome people and the slave trade and some more recent events that reflect racism and prejudice.

Perhaps the most prominent of the Frome families directly connected with the slave trade were the O'Connor family who lived at Innox Hill House and had a plantation at Carrickfoyle in Jamaica, and the Champneys family who used to own Orchardleigh and also had plantations in Jamaica. It is important that we recognise that that gruesome trade was not confined to the ports involved in the shipping, like Bristol, but was financed and profited from by families across our county and diocese.

Frome has also seen champions of the fight against slavery: I think of people like Alice Seeley, Lady Harris, commemorated in Merchants Barton for her exposure of the sufferings in the Belgian Congo. And Frome has seen more recent examples of racism from the segregated US military units in the area during WW2 through to other even more recent stories of discrimination that others can tell. I have begun watching the powerful series *Enslaved* with Samuel L Jackson, exploring the history of enslavement in a powerful and broad perspective: I commend this to you – not always an easy watch, as it shouldn't be, but full of important insights into the fuller story. When we face up to darker parts of our community's history we can learn and grow and find deeper meaning in the commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves. We can also gain insight to help us look around and recognise issues of racism and slavery in contemporary society. One of my tutors when I was doing my theological training, Rt Revd Alastair Redfern, retired from being Bishop of Derby a couple of years ago and now lives in this diocese – he has done significant work with the Clewer Initiative, a project responding to issues of modern slavery which both equips people and communities to recognise such modern slavery and works to support its victims.

You can find out more about their work at <https://www.modernslaveryeducation.com/clewer-initiative>



May God give us the honesty and courage to face up to evils, past and present, and the vision and love to respond to the needs of those hurt by racism and slavery.

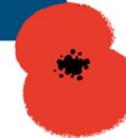
Your Friend and Vicar, Colin Alsbury

All Souls



We are setting aside Saturday 31 October, 1-3pm at St John's as a time for personal remembering of those we love but see no more. Those who have been bereaved this year will receive a personal invitation to come and light a candle; but there will be others who will wish to come and spend time reflecting on those we still miss.

Remembrance in Frome – November 2020



Initially we had hopes for a small gathering on Remembrance Sunday, but following the latest advice, the Frome Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL), in liaison with the police, have decided that there will be no Remembrance event at the Memorial

Theatre this year. Instead we are creating a virtual Remembrance which can be viewed online on the day.

Remembrance this year will be just as important, but it will be different and special with the recordings that will have been made by a wide range of people to be viewed online.

The Mayor, representing the town, and the RBL, representing the Queen and nation, will lay wreaths in a private moment at 11 o'clock after observing a two-minute silence. Standards of the RBL, RNA, RAFA along with the Union Flag will be flown. There will be no evening Remembrance service in St John's Church.

Links for Remembrance updates can be followed on the St John's parish website at www.stjohnsfrome.com.

Jane Norris
Frome Branch RBL
0777 620 8531

Revd Colin Alsbury
Remembrance coordinator
01373 472853



Lots of cheerful givers*

I'm so glad that we changed our minds about not bringing gifts at Harvest Festival (we had originally thought that it would be simpler to invite people to contribute money to the Food Bank). It somehow felt right to arrive in church bearing food (and other practical things) in thankfulness for all the good gifts around us. And it was really good to know that those crates of food from both our churches had arrived at the Food Bank by the following day. They were very gratefully received.

Harvest Festival at St John's marked the return of the choir (St Katharine's beat them to it!), and they were welcomed joyfully. Together with the sumptuous altar display and other flower arrangements it really did begin to seem like a celebration. I had remarked, rather sorrowfully, that this would be the first year that we would not have grapes from Maurice's garden decorating the church. But a basket of grapes, from Maurice's garden, *was* delivered to my

* Each person should give as he has decided for himself; there should be no reluctance, no sense of compulsion; God loves a cheerful giver. [2 Corinthians 9: 7]

door, and it was placed in front of St John's altar. A poignant reminder of Maurice— surely the epitome of a cheerful giver.

Later in the month I was delighted to note that St Luke's day was falling on a Sunday: he is such an appealing saint and, with his traditional association with medicine (Luke 'the beloved physician') it seemed particularly appropriate this year to pause and give heartfelt thanks for all those working in the medical services, thinking of those known to us: those we have continued to see and rely on during the last few months; those we have had to contact suddenly; those whose skill and expertise bring healing; and those known personally to us – friends and family members working in local surgeries and hospitals and further afield.

Earlier in the year we had enthusiastically joined in the weekly clap for the NHS, but hadn't really had an opportunity to express our gratitude recently, so we hit on the idea of inviting members of our congregations to come to church on St Luke's day with gifts of chocolate, biscuits and hand cream for the staff working in our local surgeries and Community Hospital. I had hoped for some sort of response but hadn't really expected such an overwhelming outpouring of generosity.

I had the pleasure of delivering the crates on the following Tuesday, to delighted cries of surprise and gratitude. Karolyn received the following email before I got home from doing the delivery— it gives a



flavour of the response:

Thank you so much for the lovely goodies you have sent to staff at Frome Community Hospital which we received today. It's so very kind of St John's Frome and St Katharine's East Woodlands.

We really appreciate your support and staff will be touched to receive these. With very best wishes on behalf of all of us.

Cath Hiron PA to Nicola Murphy Matron/Senior Hospital Administrator

Thank you all so much for this generous, cheerful giving. I suspect that there will be other opportunities for donating gifts – we traditionally make donations to the YMCA and the Food Bank at Christmas – and I couldn't help thinking that perhaps we ought to make a similar gesture to the staff working in our Residential Homes.

These may seem only *small* gestures (although some of those boxes of chocolate were very big!) but by making practical contributions, I hope we can each sense that we are at least doing *something*. At a time when it may seem that we are helpless to do anything, the knowledge that our chocolate biscuits brought a smile to someone's face is gratifying.

Janet Caudwell

Ed: I hope you were able to take a look at Colin's harvest video featuring images of people's home produce. It's not too late – go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJu9TlPpSu_U. Thank you to everyone who sent in photos – here are a few more photos that were just too late to be included.



Singing via Zoom

It has been lovely to welcome back our choirs to St John's and St Katharine's. But some may have felt frustrated that we in the congregation are not permitted to sing. Now, you may have noticed the 'Singing via Zoom' notice which has

been appearing on our pew sheet for several months and thought that it wasn't for you, but I do urge you to explore it.

Rosemary, nobly assisted by members of her family, has been providing an opportunity for a singing session on a Friday evening (it used to be every Friday, but Rosemary is now able to hold a Choir Practice on alternate Fridays).

Sometimes there is a theme, and sometimes we are encouraged to suggest favourite hymns; occasionally we have Compline. And this is how it works: an email* to Rosemary should provide you with a link to Zoom and you just click on it.

One point of reassurance: although you may be joining in the singing with gusto, your microphone is automatically muted *so nobody else can hear you*. This is a great relief to those of us who enjoy singing but no longer have the voice for it!

We regulars are very grateful to Rosemary for doing this – and there is always time when the microphones are switched back on and we can have some valuable catchups. Do give it a try: I particularly recommend the service of Compline which Rosemary will be conducting on 6 November. We look forward to seeing some new faces, even though we won't be able to hear you singing.

Janet Caudwell

*apologies to those of you who won't be able to access this.

Cards for Good Causes shop: Sadly the card shop will not be happening in St John's this year, but there is an online shop you can use: <https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk/>.

During the stewarded opening hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays, we will have St John's Christmas cards for sale in church during November and December.



St Katharine's Church and Woodlands Hall News



Sunday 1st November Holy Communion 11am

Sunday 15th November Morning Service 11am

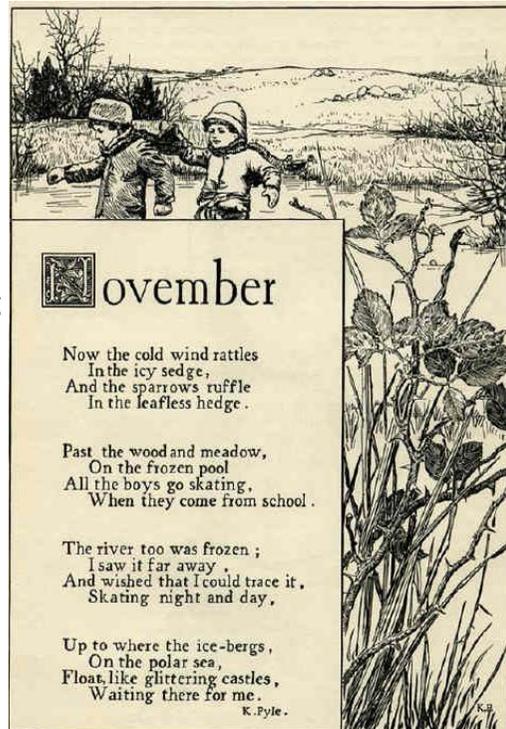
The service on October 4th was celebrated as Harvest Festival. As very little of the usual proceedings are currently possible, only packaged and canned goods could be allowed, and these were destined for the Food Bank. We missed the 'enjoyment' of the fresh fruit and veg display and sale, and because of the limited congregation numbers, the title 'Festival' was perhaps a little OTT. However, prayers were said for farmers, food retailers and food banks and their volunteers. The beautiful pedestal arrangement was in remembrance of Roger Giles. The morning service on October 18th, celebrating Luke the Evangelist (also called 'the beloved physician'), was led by Colin, with prayers and readings interspersed with music from the choir. Members of the church also contributed small gifts for distribution to the staff of Frome Hospital and medical centres, in recognition of all their hard work and dedication during the recent trying months.

Continuing with my floral notes, Pam had created a very pleasing pedestal arrangement filled with mostly autumnal blooms. Following the service Colin chaired the annual meetings – see Mandy's report opposite.

Again I have no Hall information so here's another poem.

Until next time, Stay Safe,

Terry Williams



St Katharine's APCM

The APCM of St. Katharine's was held on Sunday 18th October following the morning service. The meeting opened with a prayer led by the Rev. Colin Alsbury. No apologies had been received.

At the Annual Vestry Meeting Michael Joyce was re-elected as churchwarden, and the other post will remain vacant as there were no other nominations. Michael was thanked for all of his work, particularly in handling all the new regulations and requirements so competently and thoroughly.

At the APCM, thanks were expressed to the choir for their contributions especially in working out how to continue under the new regulations. We also remembered Joy Chant for all of her many contributions over so many years.

Colin had prepared the treasurer's report which was accepted. He emphasised the dangerously low general fund and the urgent need for the PCC to consider how to increase funds. The whole issue of giving is one that the congregation needs to be made aware of.

The electoral roll now stands at 36.

Allyson Joyce and Mandy Hulme were willing to stand again as the Deanery Synod representatives, and they were duly appointed. Vicky Turner, Allyson Joyce and Lara Williams were willing to stand again as members of the PCC, and they were appointed for another 3 years. Lorna Wheeler has resigned from the PCC and there are therefore 2 vacancies at present.

The report from the PCC about their activities and the report from the churchwarden had been circulated, and there were no questions about these.

Colin thanked everyone for bearing with the difficulties that the pandemic had caused. Services will continue as at present for the time being with arrangements for Christmas still to be decided. He also mentioned his research which had raised the probability that the Thynne Ecclesiastical Trust might actually own St. Katharine's. This will be discussed at the next Trust meeting.

The meeting finished at 12:05.

Mandy Hulme, PCC secretary, St Katharine's

St John's annual meetings

St John's much delayed Annual Meeting of Parishioners — to appoint churchwardens — and Annual Parochial Church Meeting finally took place on 22nd October (the original date planned for them had been 13th May).



As the main business of the meeting was to review the year 2019, which ended 10 months ago, the business was conducted swiftly and the Annual Report for 2019 was accepted by the meeting without any questions raised.

Neil McCormick, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that the number currently on the Electoral Roll is 84.

There were no contested positions, so the elections too were conducted swiftly, with the result that PCC membership is now as follows:

Clergy	Revd Colin Alsbury
Readers	Janet Caudwell, Ross Frooms
Churchwardens	Terry Bushell, Neil McCormick
Deanery Synod reps	Lois Bushell, Ross Frooms
Other PCC members	Peter Connew Amanda Crook Elaine Gilbert Christine Holland Chris Lewis Angela Pater Kathy Yeaman

As part of his report, the vicar thanked the pastoral team and all who have helped in this difficult year to keep the congregation in touch through phone calls and emails, also the *Weekly Extra* and the Zoom get-togethers for singing and chat; the ministry team for their support with services and the weekly reflection; and the treasurer, Christine Holland, for carrying out the huge amount of work — often at short notice — involved in two successful grant bids as a result of which St John's is in a much better position financially than it would have been otherwise in the current circumstances.

A full set of minutes of the meeting will be available shortly.

Mandy Crook, PCC secretary, St John's

Covid Corner (Good news only here)

Face Masks



Ed: Many thanks to Neil for suggesting and getting this new series started. I'd be delighted to receive your own good news Covid stories too, so please do send them in.

Until relatively recently there was considerable uncertainty and debate about the benefits of the general wearing of face masks. A study recently reported in *The Lancet* has concluded that masks do not prevent the virus from spreading but they have the effect of attenuating the dose, so what would otherwise be an infectious dose becomes an inoculatory one.

Neil McCormick

Next month: Sniffer dogs.

Christmas Box Appeal

You will have gathered by now that it has not been feasible to run a Shoebox Appeal from St John's this year.



However, the Appeal is still happening — indeed, it is probably even more important in this difficult year — and The Trussell Trust/FSCI (Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion) would welcome donations — here are some ways to help:

- If you would like to donate towards the costs of the Christmas box appeal, go to: <https://www.fscinet.org/donate/christmas-donations/>.
- If you would like the Trussell Trust to make a up a Christmas box for you, go to: <https://www.fscinet.org/donate/create-a-christmas-box/>.
- If you'd still like to make up a box yourself, go to: <https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/how-to-pack-a-shoebox/> — note that filled boxes need to be delivered to the Salisbury Foodbank (SP27HL) before 20th November.

Alison and John, who usually run the appeal at St John's, say: 'We very much hope that the situation will have improved significantly by mid-2021 and that St John's can take part in the appeal next year.'



My Kitchen Notebook Beetroot revisited

During Lockdown many of us found ourselves with more time to spend in our gardens, and now we are enjoying the fruits of our labours. I have heard several people say that they have had particular success with

beetroot this summer, so in this article I am suggesting some new ways to enjoy this versatile vegetable. Looking back through my archive I find that this is my third celebration of this colourful ingredient, and I have been experimenting with two ways of using it – one savoury and the other sweet. Neither of these recipes are my own invention, they are easy to find online and I will include the links to the originals, but in order not to infringe copyright I shall only give a brief description of how to make them. If you are not able to find them, let me know, and I will let you have more details.

Beetroot and goat's cheese risotto (The Hairy Bikers)

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/beetroot_and_goats_80522

There are some flavour combinations that work every time, and one of my favourites is beetroot with goat's cheese; the sharpness of the cheese complements the sweetness of the beetroot, and when they are together on the plate you also have this wonderful colour combination – I am feeling hungry just looking at the picture! This is a quick and easy supper dish which starts with cooked beetroot. I roasted mine in the oven while I was making the beetroot tea loaf – just remember to peel them while they are still hot – the skins slip off much more easily. You then cut up half the beetroot and blend it with the stock; the other half is cut up small and added towards the end of the cooking. The method then is the same as any risotto – soften some onion in oil before adding the risotto rice. Pour in a glass of white wine, then gradually add the hot stock until it is all absorbed and the rice is



still a bit grainy. With the pieces of beetroot I added some herbs – parsley and dill then seasoned it before finishing the dish with some grated parmesan cheese and the crumbled goat's cheese. The original recipe suggested serving some deep-fried kale alongside, but we

just had some spinach leaves. There weren't any left-overs from this meal!

My other offering for you this month is a **Beetroot and raisin tea-loaf**, adapted from a recipe published in The Guardian by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2012/nov/09/pumpkin-squash-recipes-fearley-whittingstall>

He suggests varying it by using different root vegetables, and beetroot does produce a very colourful cake.

The first thing you have to do for this is grate the raw beetroot – quite easy but potentially very messy – the juice goes everywhere! There is no oil or butter in this cake so it won't keep particularly well. I thought it might be a bit dry, but the moisture in the beetroot prevents this, but I would recommend a thin spreading of butter. It is made by whisking together egg yolks and muscovado sugar, before stirring in the flour, raisins and beetroot. At this stage it was a rather unappetising lump of dough, but after whisking the egg whites and folding them through it looked more promising. I had slightly too much mixture for my lined loaf tin, so I spooned it into cup-cake cases – the ideal excuse for tasting them straight from the oven!



While investigating beetroot recipes I found one for beetroot and chocolate ice-cream – I shall definitely be trying that next summer!

Rosemary McCormick

'Maz's Knitting Story'

Read about Marian Alsbury's knitting story on the website of Arnall-Culliford Knitwear, run by two members of the St John's congregation, Jen and Jim. Go to <https://www.acknitwear.co.uk/> and click on 'Blog', then scroll down and click on 'Maz's Knitting Story'.

One of Marian's recent knitting projects: an Ama sweater modelled here by Marian and Colin's daughter Beth →



Cathedrals and churches of England

Arundel Churches:

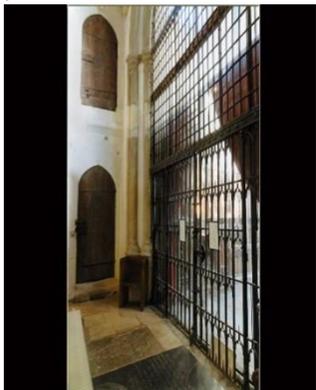
St Nicholas, Fitzalan Chapel; St Philip Neri Cathedral

Arundel has a population of only 3,000, much less than Frome's 28,000. But there is a lot for the visitor to admire: for example, there is a navigable, tidal river, a large lived-in castle with extensive grounds, a superb cricket pitch, a cathedral and a mediaeval church building, half Anglican parish church, half catholic chapel. This is because Arundel is home to the Dukes of Norfolk and has been for over 850 years – a record for a family not moving house. Moreover, the Dukes have always been catholic, even when it was dangerous and illegal to be.

The original church building, erected in 1380, served the town and the priests of St Nicholas Priory. This was a common practice in many English towns: after all, the Duke, the priests and the town were all catholic and it made sense to share space if possible. The priests held their very frequent services in the chancel and the town its less frequent services in the nave, taking care not to overlap in timing.

This worked very well for 160 years until Henry VIII came along, and in 1544 the Priory was closed down and the buildings sold off to the highest bidder. A compromise was reached whereby the chancel was bought by the Duke of Norfolk and the nave by the town. The chancel became the Catholic Fitzalan Chapel where successive Dukes of Norfolk were buried. The nave became the protestant parish church of St Nicholas. Regular protestant services were held in the town part and occasional catholic services of interment in the Duke's part. This became somewhat unstable, and, in due course, a wall was built between the chancel and the nave which remained until modern times.

The former chancel, completely walled off for many years, can now at least be seen through a wrought iron grille from the 'protestant side'. Known as the Fitzalan Chapel, it is the grandest part of the church, with Perpendicular windows and a collection of elaborate monuments of the Fitzalan family, Earls of Arundel, and their heirs,



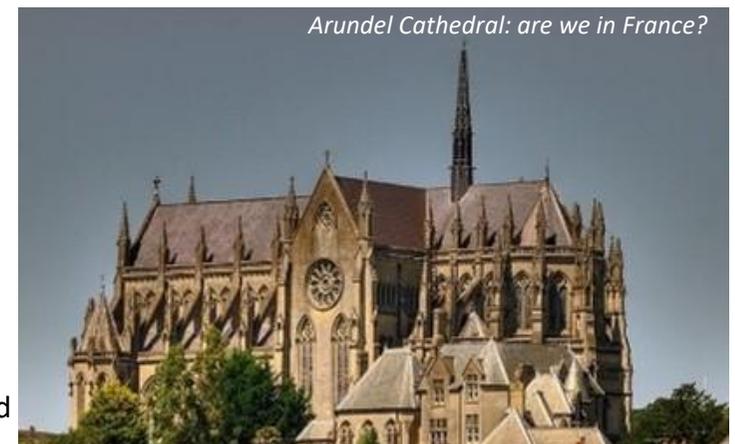
*Symbol of disunity:
the door is rarely opened*

the Dukes of Norfolk. It can be visited as part of a tour around the castle itself. The nave is largely unaltered from its 1380 building. From around the same time are the octagonal font, made of Sussex marble, and faded wall paintings, in the north aisle, depicting the seven deadly sins and the seven works of mercy. The unusually elaborate canopied stone pulpit in the centre aisle, thought to be slightly later in date, was designed by one of the architects of Canterbury Cathedral.

It took almost 300 years before society had changed enough for catholics to be allowed to worship openly again: this became possible from 1829, the Duke of Norfolk being important in the negotiations. Once the situation had settled down, the Duke wanted to ensure town catholics would have their own church and commissioned a building in December 1868, by Joseph Aloysius Hansom, who also designed numerous Catholic buildings and the 'Hansom Cab', an early London taxi. Difficulties with the foundations necessitated sinking deep concrete supports and not all of Hansom's plans could be carried out: e.g. the 280-foot spire. The church, of brick clad with Bath stone, was completed in little over three years and opened in July 1873 dedicated to St Philip Neri, an Italian saint.

Built on the crown of the hill where the South Downs meet the outskirts of Arundel, and dominating its western aspect, it is a landmark in the countryside of Sussex. It was only consecrated in 1955. In 1971 the remains of the martyred 13th Earl of Arundel, St. Philip Howard (1557-1595) were brought from the Fitzalan Chapel and a shrine created, following mediaeval traditions.

The French Gothic style of architecture makes an immediate impression of height, light and



space, echoing effects usually sourced by mediaeval architects. The impression of height is enhanced by the lofty piers, each with eight clustering shafts, supporting a handsome cross-groined vault of chalk alternating with Bath stone. There is no stained glass to the nave, which ensures light. In the spandrels between arches are roundels with busts of Saxon saints.

The cathedral has a strong musical tradition: in 2002 it appointed the first female, and the youngest person ever, to direct music at an English cathedral. The acoustic is a little cold, but the ambiance is very inspiring. I remember well a unique performance of Thomas Tallis's *Spem in Alium*, a 40-part motet, mainly by friends of mine, during the early years of this century.

Protestant worship continues in the western part of St Nicholas Church Building. The division has long been accepted and attempts to 'unify the building' shelved until wider unity is achieved. A video of the Anglo-Catholic Eucharist for the Assumption of Mary in August 2020 shows an impressive service with the glories of the Fitzalan Chapel clearly visible through the iron grill behind the protestant altar but never referred to. St Nicholas Church's interior retains many important features contemporary with the building, such as the font, the remarkable stone pulpit, a rare medieval iron screen, Consecration Crosses, corbels, wall paintings, mason's marks and a remarkable quantity of graffiti, including soldiers' comments before going off to fight in France or further afield. There is an unusually large Royal Coat of Arms, the organ, which occupies part of the north



St Nicholas Parish Church Arundel

transept, and the recently renovated bells in the tower, a gift to the protestants from the 15th Duke. The regular services are a said mass each Sunday, a Sung Mass at 9.30. and evensong, sometimes sung, at 6pm.

Chris Lewis

Wheelchairs for South Africa

Rotary in Frome are looking for donations of old wheelchairs, crutches or walkers of any type or size, even slightly damaged.



They will be collected and sent by container to South Africa where there is a huge shortage, meaning that many people with disabilities have to be carried in wheelbarrows or dragged on pieces of corrugated iron or cardboard.

Getting a wheelchair is a life changing experience for the individuals and also for their families, and is greatly appreciated. The project was started by Rushmoor Rotary Club, and you can see more about it by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czfvBksHll>.

If you have or know someone who has a wheelchair (any type), crutches or walkers, please contact me on 07847 368892 and we will make arrangements to collect. Many thanks.

LecDeck app launched!

A new way to explore the Bible

This app has been launched by the Diocese of Bath & Wells and the Diocese of Bristol, following the successful launch of the LecDeck pack of 52 cards for Year A readings last



year. The aim is to help people engage with God's word and encourage more people to read the Bible by providing a Bible passage, thought-provoking questions, a quote and a prayer focus – all based on the Lectionary.



Purchasing the LecDeck App is a one-off payment of £5.99 for both Android and Apple iOS formats. Years A and B are included on the app, and Year C will be added in 2021. Original packs of cards of LecDeck Year A are available at a reduced price of £4.00 each (free P+P). Packs of Year B are available to purchase at £8.00 each (free P+P). Go to: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2020/10/new-lecdeck-app-launched/>

NOVEMBER 2020 SERVICES

Sunday 1st November 4th before Advent All Saints Day

10.00am	Morning Service	St John's
11.00am	Holy Communion	St Katharine's
4.00pm	Holy Communion	St John's

Sunday 8th November 3rd before Advent, Remembrance

<u>10.30am [NOTE</u>	Morning Service with Act of	St John's
<u>UNUSUAL TIME]</u>	Remembrance	
4.00pm	Holy Communion	St John's

Sunday 15th November 2nd before Advent

10.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
11.00am	Morning Service	St Katharine's

Sunday 22nd November Next before Advent Christ the King

10.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
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Sunday 29th November First Sunday of Advent

10.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
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Sunday 6th December Second Sunday of Advent

10.00am	Morning Service	St John's
11.00am	Holy Communion	St Katharine's
4.00pm	Holy Communion	St John's



Thank you to Pat Lawless and her son Richard for sending in this lovely photo of the hedgehog that's been regularly visiting their garden.

DIARY DATES – NOVEMBER 2020

October

Tue	27	11.00am	Julian meeting (SJ)
Wed	28	1.00-3.00pm	Church open (SJ)
Fri	30	6.45pm	Choir practice (SJ)
Sat	31	1.00-3.00pm	Church open – All Souls light a candle (SJ)

November

Sun	1	11.30am	Zoom get together*
Wed	4	1.00-3.00pm	Church open (SJ)
Fri	6	6.30pm	Singing via Zoom**
Sat	7	9.00am	FACT prayers
		1-3pm	Church open
Sun	8	11.30am	Zoom get-together*
Mon	9	7pm	PCC meeting (SJ)
Wed	11	1.00-3.00pm	Church open (SJ)
Fri	13	6.45pm	Choir practice
Sat	14	1.00-3.00pm	Church open (SJ)
Sun	15	11.30am	Zoom get together*
Wed	18	1.00-3.00pm	Church open (SJ)
Fri	20	6.30pm	Singing via Zoom**
Sat	21	1.00-3.00pm	Church open (SJ)
Sun	22	11.30am	Zoom get together*
Tue	24	11.00am	Julian meeting
Fri	27	6.45pm	Choir practice
Sat	28	1.00-3.00pm	Church open (SJ)
Sun	29	11.30am	Zoom get together*

December

Wed	2	1.00-3.00pm	Church open (SJ)
Fri	4	6.30pm	Singing via Zoom
Sat	5	9.00am	FACT prayers
		1.00-3.00pm	Church open

* Zoom get-together – contact Terry: twbushell@gmail.com

** Singing via Zoom – contact Rosemary

rosemarymccormick@hotmail.com

Little Gidding in Dorset The Pilsdon Community

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

From the Iron-Age fort on the summit of Pilsdon Pen the sea glistens beyond Bridport. It's a clear autumn day, and to the east I can make out the Hardy monument and Exmoor to the west. Below, at the foot of the hill, the modest steeple of ancient church of Pilsdon beckons through the trees, and I get a glimpse of the neighbouring Jacobean manor house with its quadrangle of outbuildings. It is the home of the Pilsdon Community, whose founding in 1958 was inspired by Nicholas Ferrar's experimental community at Little Gidding. I am visiting for a conversation with Marian Barnes, one of its members, to discover how this remarkable Christian community sustains itself where other similar ventures have failed. The virus has restricted Pilsdon's activities this year, but normally it would consist of 25-30 people living and working together on a small farm, sharing a common life of prayer, hospitality and work. The scale and nature of its hospitality is very distinctive. Up to a dozen members (who make a two-year commitment) and volunteers provide the stable core of the community, which welcomes guests, visitors and wayfarers (itinerant homeless people). Many of these are "people in pain", as Marian puts it, who need time away from bad circumstances. Pilsdon's approach is summed up in the word *acceptance*. It's based on the recognition that everyone is broken and that wounds can be "repaired" by mutual support and kindness. Pilsdon does not use a medical model of individualised "care" or therapy, focusing instead on creating a stable and safe environment which can hold and support its residents to regain their strength free from social or psychiatric labels. No questions are asked: "Often I only hear about someone's diagnosis over the washing up," says Marian. (This must be a refreshing experience for her, since outside Pilsdon she is a Professor of Social Policy and a distinguished author in the field of mental health). Pilsdon has taken the bold step not to enter into service contracts with local authorities. Residents never become "users" or clients". Pilsdon does not "deliver care packages". This has financial consequences, but the community stays afloat through donations from churches, friends and trusts.

Little Gidding's ordered life of liturgy and education was attractive to

Percy Smith, when he and his wife Gaynor set up Pilsdon, but they soon realised that this aspect of the community, whilst precious to some, was not necessarily shared by guests and should not be a condition of participation. "The most fulfilling side of Pilsdon life was its concern with the welfare of guests," said Gaynor, and it remains true today. Several times each day members and volunteers walk over to the beautiful little church, with hay bales for pews, to recite the daily offices, but it is in the kitchen and dining room that the community really comes alive. Everyone is expected to participate in rotas of cooking, cleaning, gardening and care of the farm animals, and residents' hidden talents often re-emerge in time.

I ask Marian to define the core purposes of Pilsdon. She hesitates for a second. "Acceptance, hospitality and kindness," she replies. The pause reflects something crucial about Pilsdon. Its ethos is not written down or codified in rules, let alone the kind of formal Rule which anchors many religious communities. It is lived out. "It's about doing, being," she says. Christians might call this living or creating the Kingdom, but the language of Pilsdon is human-centred not theological. The Christian "complexion" of Pilsdon underwrites its continuity, but you do not have to be Christian to embrace its values.

Two other distinctive features stand out. Firstly, Pilsdon achieves a high degree of participation in its decision making. The Trustees appoint a Warden, who is an ordained Anglican priest, but her role (Sue Langdon is the current incumbent) is *first amongst equals*. Most decisions are made by consensus at weekly meetings of members and volunteers. Guests are often consulted. The Warden retains some important legal responsibilities, such as at the rare moment when a person must be asked to leave, but leadership at Pilsdon seems more about humility, nurturing and unobtrusive organisation than charisma or direction. Finally, Pilsdon has a sense of remoteness and liminality. It is deeply embedded in the natural world in the rustic quiet of West Dorset. The central paddock is home to calves, pigs and poultry which appear to be much-loved. The vegetable gardens reveals the fruits of much labour. Living in contact with nature in a community which has found fresh ways to live out ancient values of acceptance, hospitality and kindness must make it easier to let go of past burdens and be refreshed.

<https://www.pilsdon.org.uk>

Church leaders

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

This month's church leader is a South African bishop with an international reputation, admired for both his political and religious skill and zeal. We can only touch on all he has done, but we start with two stories before he became a bishop: The first story, in his own words, was written in 2013:



"I believe the most defining moment of my life occurred when I was about nine years old, [about 1940] outside the Blind Institute in Roodepoort where my mother worked. We were standing outside when this tall white man in a black cassock and a hat swept by. I did not know he was Trevor Huddleston. He doffed his hat in greeting my mother. I was relatively stunned at the time, but only later came to realise the extent to which it had blown my mind that a white man would doff his hat to my mother. It was something I could never have imagined. The impossible was possible. I subsequently discovered that this was quite consistent with Trevor Huddleston's theology: that every person is of significance, of infinite value, because they are created in the image of God.

Trevor was an English priest in Sophiatown who became very influential in Desmond's development, in his training to be a teacher and later a priest. In his teens Desmond started going to Trevor's church near Johannesburg but was in hospital with TB for 18 months, during which time Trevor visited him frequently. As his father was a schoolteacher, Desmond was ambitious and started training to be a doctor, but the fees were too high, so, in 1951, he changed to train as a teacher. By 1955 he had decided to retrain as a priest at St Peter's Rosettenville under Mirfield Father Aelred Stubbs, who encouraged him to further his studies in England. Father Stubbs, who occasionally preached at his mother's church in Wimbledon where I also worshipped, mentioned Desmond as someone to watch out for.

While doing his Masters [1963] Desmond moved with his family to a

small Surrey village to be their curate. The second story is me talking:

"In the early 1970s, I went to Bletchingley to help them with fund-raising. At every meeting someone would speak about the need to recreate the atmosphere that Desmond had brought to the village: a warden told me 'It's dull here since Desmond left': another 'he did more for church unity in a short time than anyone before, encouraging Anglicans, Methodists and Catholics to work together'; a third 'we were amazed at how easy he found working with white people and how easy he made it for us to work with him.' All said 'The thing we will always remember is his laugh.'

Desmond returned to Africa in 1966 and from then until 1972 worked as a teacher and chaplain at various colleges in South Africa and Lesotho, as well as supporting the Black Consciousness Movement under Steve Biko and others. From 1972 to 1975 he worked as the African Head of the Theological Educational Fund (TEF), living again in England. In 1975 he returned again to Africa to become Dean of Johannesburg and Bishop of Lesotho, before moving back to South Africa to become the Secretary General of the South African Council of churches (SACC) in 1978, a post he held until 1985. He transformed the SACC into an important human rights organisation, as well as writing stronger and stronger books about human rights and speaking out against apartheid.

From now on he became more and more of an activist, opposing apartheid and other policies of the government and calling for the release of Nelson Mandela. He achieved such international fame that, although he was arrested and had his passport confiscated several times, the government felt unable to be more severe with him, as he always advocated peaceful protest. In 1984 he addressed the UN assembly, called the US president a racist and won the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1985, despite being vetoed at first by the white majority, he was elected Bishop of Johannesburg. In his inaugural sermon, he took a political line, calling for international sanctions against the apartheid regime. This happened in 1986, by which time Tutu had become Archbishop of Cape Town, a post he held until 1994.

His high and growing profile, at a time when nearly all other black

leaders in South Africa were either in jail or exiled, meant that he became the international voice against apartheid. Many church members criticised his political stance as well as the way he ran his archdiocese, but he was unrepentant on both counts. He lobbied successfully against death penalties imposed on black activists: he travelled the world arguing for an end to apartheid: he organised a protest march in 1989. The government did not feel confident enough to ban a march led by a bishop, but after that, protests became widespread, and from 1990 apartheid began to be dismantled under the new President De Clerk. Mandela was released from jail and elected President in 1994. Tutu organised the religious aspects of his inauguration, insisting that Christian, Jewish, Hindu and Muslim leaders took part.

Tutu's role in the new South Africa was just as vital. He coined the term **Rainbow Nation**, to reflect its multiple groups and languages. Mandela appointed him leader of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995. He insisted the commission met in public and broadly achieved its aim of publicising the past sins of both oppressed and victims. However, he did cross swords with the African National Congress, when he said that *'yesterday's oppressed can ...become today's oppressors. We've seen it happen all over the world ... we shouldn't be surprised if it happens here.'*

Since 2010 he has retired from public life to pray, read and watch cricket. He has kept out of the public eye, refusing to comment publicly, although he is known to be a gay activist and critical of many aspects of African and wider leadership. Some things have not changed: when his wife of over 60 years was asked for his favourite food, she replied *'Think of a 5 year old child.'*

Chris Lewis

Don't worry!

A little boy was told that he should try to be good, and that he could ask God for help with this. So he prayed: "Lord, please make me good, if you can. But if you can't, don't worry about it. I'm having a really good time like I am."



Ed: About a month ago, Dawn Holmes from Safe Families UK used the Bennett Centre to carry out some staff training. They are always looking for volunteers, so it seemed a good idea to publicise this in Inspire. They would love to hear from you.

At Safe Families we know that every child deserves to thrive, and we recognise that to do this children need to be loved and secure in their own family. The problem is that when families are isolated and struggling, their children can feel upset and afraid. Facing life alone is hard, and when families feel like there is no one there to help it's a scary place to be.

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For more information or to meet for an informal chat please contact dawnholmes@safefamilies.uk or 07384 218826.

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Inspired to Read?

If only they didn't speak English

by Jon Sopel



On November 3rd the Americans will elect their next President. Four years ago many people on this side of the Atlantic watched incredulously as Donald Trump became the 45th President, when it had seemed so obvious (from a distance) that Hillary Clinton was in so many ways a better candidate. Shortly afterwards Jon Sopel published his book: *If only they didn't speak English* in which he explores our two nations and the differences between them and tries to answer our question: WHY???

About the Author

Jon Sopel will be a familiar name to those of you who watch the BBC news. He has been their North American editor since 2017, having previously reported from Paris and Kuwait as well as presenting several important news and current affairs programmes.

From the cover

"You see, if only they didn't speak English in America, then we'd treat it as a foreign country – and probably understand it a lot better"
As the BBC's North America Editor, Jon Sopel has experienced the United States from a perspective that most of us could only dream of: he has flown aboard Air Force One, interviewed President Obama and was famously described as "a beauty" by Donald Trump. In this fascinating, insightful portrait of American life and politics, Jon Sopel sets out to answer our questions about a country that once stood for the grandest of dreams, but which is now mired in a storm of political extremism, racial division and increasingly perverse beliefs.

A short extract

(from the chapter on Government)

And then you come to the roads, which tells you much of what is wrong with America. After the snow fell it was days before they were 'ploughed'...weeks and weeks before they were completely clear....Because no-one likes to pay taxes, there is precious little budget for repairing the roads....It is hard to exaggerate the dilapidated state of so much American infrastructure. Roads are

crumbling, bridges are regularly closed for emergency maintenance... France has the most superb road network you could possibly imagine....but it comes with a tax bill that no American would ever countenance.

If you only read one book this year make sure it is this one! Easy to read, informative, thought-provoking - I have recommended it to several friends who have all found it fascinating. Written in an accessible journalistic style it is very enjoyable – I found I could hear Jon Sopel’s voice as I read it. My only criticism is that it seems to have been written quite quickly and it would have benefitted from some more careful editing in places. Chapter by chapter Sopel explores differences in attitudes towards such diverse areas as Race, Government, God and Guns. He explains historical differences and sometimes turns the tables, describing the British as Americans see us, but through it all he tries to find the reason why Donald Trump appealed to the American electorate in 2016. As a journalist Sopel has travelled the length and breadth of the vast country and his account is full of anecdotes and real experiences. I was particularly interested in his account of visiting a gun show – (and I will never understand why Americans find it necessary to carry guns): *it is like going to an out-of-town DIY store – except every table is loaded with weaponry...The first woman I spoke to...seemed to me as though she would be a stalwart of the Women’s Institute.....she said,“ I have a gun, I’m just coming to buy a laser sight for it.’ Or a quote from another gun-owner: ‘No-one asks my wife why she has seven pairs of shoes, so why do people ask me why I need seven Kalashnikovs?’*

In the final chapter, *Chaos*, which was written for the second edition of the book in 2018, Sopel turns the spotlight on President Trump’s first year in office and he does not disguise his lack of respect for a president whose favoured means of communication is the Tweet, and whose personal life is colourful to say the least! He followed this book with *A year at the Circus* which covered Trump’s first year in power by exploring the workings of the West Wing and meeting the leading players in the administration. I am keenly awaiting his next book, due out early next year: *My US Election Diary*. After the events of the past

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few months I think it will be fascinating!

I do hope some of you will be inspired to read this book and I should love to hear your thoughts about it. We may not be able to chat about it over coffee for the next few weeks, but please e-mail me and let me know which bits resonated with you.

rosemarymccormick@hotmail.com)

I would also welcome suggestions of books to feature in future months.

My plans for the next few issues are:

December: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens – a seasonal classic.

January: *The Dissenters* – a historical tale set locally.

February: *Educated* by Tara Westover – a memoir.

If you have any thoughts about these books or would like to suggest a title for future reading please remember that the magazine deadline is the 15th of the month!

Rosemary McCormick

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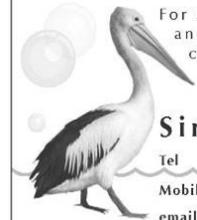
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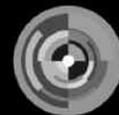
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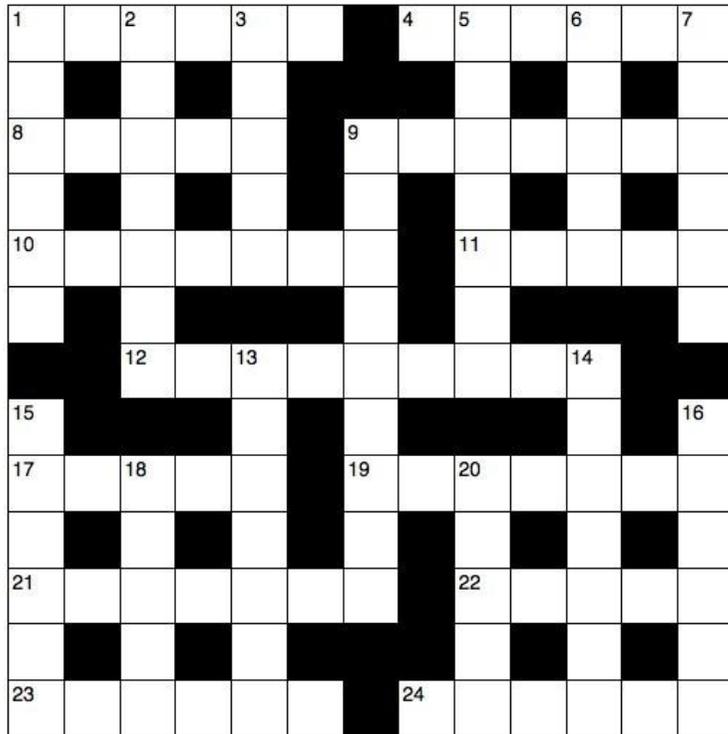
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NOVEMBER CROSSWORD



The Bible version used in this crossword is the NIV.

Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)

- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

Answers, October's crossword: ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.
DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

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WORD SEARCH: St Andrew

This month Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured not for any mighty deeds of his own but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing

Scotland
disciples
Jesus
Andrew
honoured

Peter
Nathanael
Bartholomew
Messiah
Saviour

Patras
Achaia
eighth
remains
translation

Fife
pilgrimage
tenth
pious
patron

saint
love
introducing
place

Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is

H	W	I	T	S	N	I	S	M	A	S	T	G	M	R
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N	D	N	O	O	S	U	S	E	J	R	E	S	A	O
S	N	N	M	I	O	O	I	R	G	V	T	I	I	R
E	A	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	E	T
G	H	H	A	L	T	A	A	L	W	D	R	M	H	A
A	A	O	M	E	T	A	L	N	I	E	A	T	A	P
M	A	I	N	P	I	O	U	S	F	I	H	C	S	P
I	N	T	R	O	D	U	C	I	N	G	H	S	A	S
R	H	L	U	S	U	I	F	S	I	A	S	T	I	A
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SUDOKU

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4		8						3

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YOUR MAGAZINE TEAM

Editor St John's	Mandy Crook
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Printer	Karolyn Curle
Collators	Judith & Peter Davies, Allyson and Michael Joyce

Please send in material for *Inspire* to the editors by the 15th of the previous month (please give St Katharine's news to the St Katharine's editor).

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*Ed: A change from the usual cartoon this month:
Autumnal view from the West Ashton crossroads. Photo: Lois Bushell*

**Material for the December/January magazine to the
editor by 15th November, please.**