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Registered Charity Number:

St. Peter's with Ss Mary and Leonard: SC010443

Contact is printed by the Central Print Unit of Fife Council and is also available online at :

St Peter's Website.....[www.stpeterskirkcaldy.co.uk](http://www.stpeterskirkcaldy.co.uk)

**The Contact Magazine of St. Peter's with Ss. Mary & Leonard**

**Rector: The Revd. Canon Christine Fraser**



This issue's front cover depicts another St. Peter's church—this Grade 1 listed building is in the center of the Hampshire market town of Petersfield which is some 15 miles north of Portsmouth and has a population of 13,404. The High Street is typical of many English small towns and the town's flag displays the familiar Keys of St Peter



St. Peter's Square, Manchester formerly known as St. Peter's Fields, site of the Peterloo Massacre in 1819.

A window in St. Peter's - Field Episcopal church in Cambridge, Ma., USA

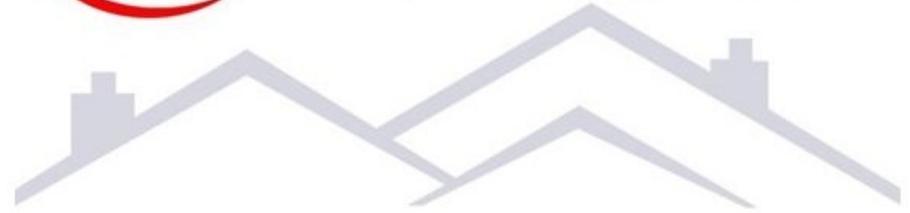


St. Peter-de-Wytton church in St. Peter's Fields, Droitwich, Worcester. (I was one of the bell ringers here and lived just a short walk away for almost 30 years...*Editor*)



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Summer Salad Ingredients

## Another missive from dear old Eustace

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for the kind offer of your old computer, but I do not want it. I know you find it a fundamental basic of daily life, but I do not, and I intend to keep things that way.

This is despite the fact that our diocesan office now takes it for granted that all of us clergy have a computer. Indeed, the diocesan secretary and I have had several awkward phone calls upon this very subject. He can't believe that I really don't have one, and suspects that I am simply hiding my email address from him so that he cannot send me the daily diocesan briefings, weekly questionnaires, and constant notification of all sorts of meetings and training days. But I remain firm: I have survived in ministry for nearly 50 years without a computer, and I don't intend to change now. When he gets tetchy with me, I take the high moral ground and remind him that St Paul did not have a computer.

Besides, it would not end with just a computer. Next, I would be obliged to get a printer and then ink cartridges and then maybe some sort of virus would attack me. As I have no idea about any of this, I might have to allow someone into the vicarage to sort it out, and even worse, I might even have to *pay* them. My money can be far more usefully spent on good claret.

Being without a computer also saves me much aggravation. From what I can gather, most computer owners spend significant parts of their lives either trying to get their machine to do something that it refuses to do, or else getting help from someone in a remote part of the world who speaks a jargon only distantly related to English, who assures you that whatever you did, it would have been better if you hadn't.

So I have decided that should I ever REALLY need to use a computer for something, I will visit our local primary school and get a six year-old to do the job for me, which they do with effortless efficiency, speed and accuracy.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

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## Letter from The Rector

Dear Friends

I write this as we prepare to celebrate our Patronal Festival at the end of June, although at the moment it is unclear how much of a celebration that might be.

Some of our congregation may have had the opportunity to visit the tomb of Saint Peter the Apostle in the Necropolis at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. It has been many years



since I visited Rome, but I still cannot help but recall the striking way in which God used a man such as St. Peter for greatness.

When Simon Peter met Jesus for the first time, he was a simple fisherman. He was neither wealthy nor educated. But his first meeting with Jesus stirred something in him. He wanted to learn more about what Jesus had to offer him, and when Jesus gave him the opportunity to do so, he acted upon it.

*"As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:18-20).*

Throughout Peter's three-year journey with Jesus, he had his moments of consolation, but he also had his share of doubts. When Jesus appeared to the disciples, walking on water, Peter had enough faith to get out of the boat and come to Jesus. However, once he started having doubts, his faith began to shake, and he allowed himself to sink.

Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

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### Question ?

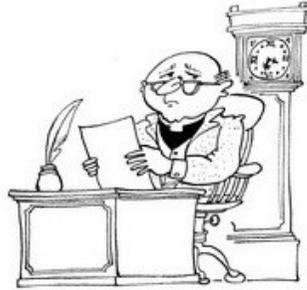
Today is your Birthday,

Are you now one day or one year older than you were yesterday ?



The Rectory

St. James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15-room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.

Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verger now objects to standing outside during Mattins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring interesting patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.

*"Peter said to him in reply, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'" (Matthew 14:27-31).*

Not only did Peter have his share of doubts, but he also had moments when he was ashamed to even know Christ. On the night of Christ's crucifixion, when asked if he knew Jesus, Peter denied knowing him not once but three times. Prior to this denial, Peter claimed that he would never deny Jesus and that he would even die for Him.

*"He said to him, 'Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you.' But he replied, 'I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me'" (Luke 22:31-34).*

Even during Christ's darkest hour, when He was dying on the cross, Peter was nowhere to be seen. He and most of the other apostles had abandoned Christ when he needed them the most.

Despite all of Peter's shortcomings and failures, Jesus saw the best in him. In fact, Jesus saw so much potential in Peter that He made him the first leader and "Rock" of His Church.

*"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19).*

After Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, Peter became a witness of Christ's love and forgiveness. He went around healing people and baptizing new Christians. And as he promised Jesus the night before Christ's death, Peter died as a martyr for Christ.

As Tradition has it, Peter died by being crucified upside down. God used a person like Saint Peter for greatness. He was just an ordinary man. He had doubts, just like we all do. He stumbled. He even denied Jesus three times. Even so, God made him the leader of His Church. Out of all of the Apostles, Peter is perhaps the one we can relate with the most. We have all had our share of doubt at times. Our faith is not always strong enough to walk on the water, and we sometime find it embarrassing to profess our own faith at times. But despite all of this, we cannot help but remember the extraordinary way in which God used an ordinary person such as St. Peter. If God used a man like him, it makes me think that God can use our lives for greatness, too.

Many followers of Christ today feel that they are not adequate enough to be used by God. Saint Peter is a prime example of someone who could be considered inadequate or not worthy enough for the title that Christ gave him. But Jesus did not look at Peter's inadequacy. He looked at His heart. When we feel inadequate or unworthy of Christ's love, we can look to Saint Peter. Although he had his share of doubts, failures, and shortcoming, Christ did not consider him to be undeserving of greatness.

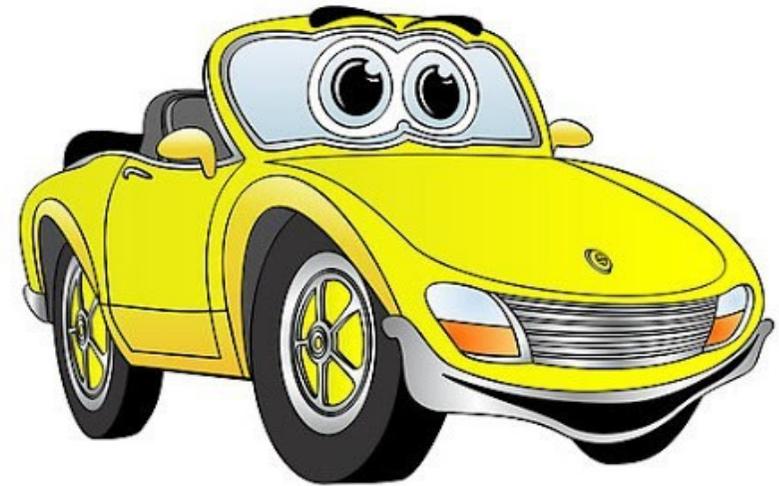
With love and prayers

*Christine*

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### Blurred Vision ?

A friend had his 2nd dose of the vaccine. at the vaccination centre, after which he began to have blurred vision on the way home. When he got home, he called the vaccination centre for advice and to ask if he should see a doctor or go to hospital. He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital but return to the vaccination centre immediately and pick up his glasses.



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***In the summer we may also begin to sort priorities for the coming autumn...***

Our Lord's life was ordered by His objective. – *K Robbins*

Medical science recognises that emotions such as fear, sorrow, envy, resentment and hatred are responsible for the majority of our sicknesses. – *S I McMillen*

Security is not the absence of danger, but the presence of God, no matter what the danger. – *Anon*

Clear definition of goals is the keynote of success. – *Edison Montgomery*

Be great in little things. – *St Francis Xavier*

It is better to wear out than to rust out. – *R Cumberland*

“I'm playing all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order.”  
*Morecambe of Morecambe and Wise.*

**Easy Fundraising** St Peter's is now registered on the easyfundraising website. If you wish to contribute, the instructions are as follows:

1. Open easyfundraising website: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
2. Click on 'Create an account' box
3. Click on 'I want to support a good cause' box
4. Enter cause name in box - St Peter's, Kirkcaldy
5. Click on 'Support this cause'
6. Complete form with own personal details.

## *Worship at St Peter's*

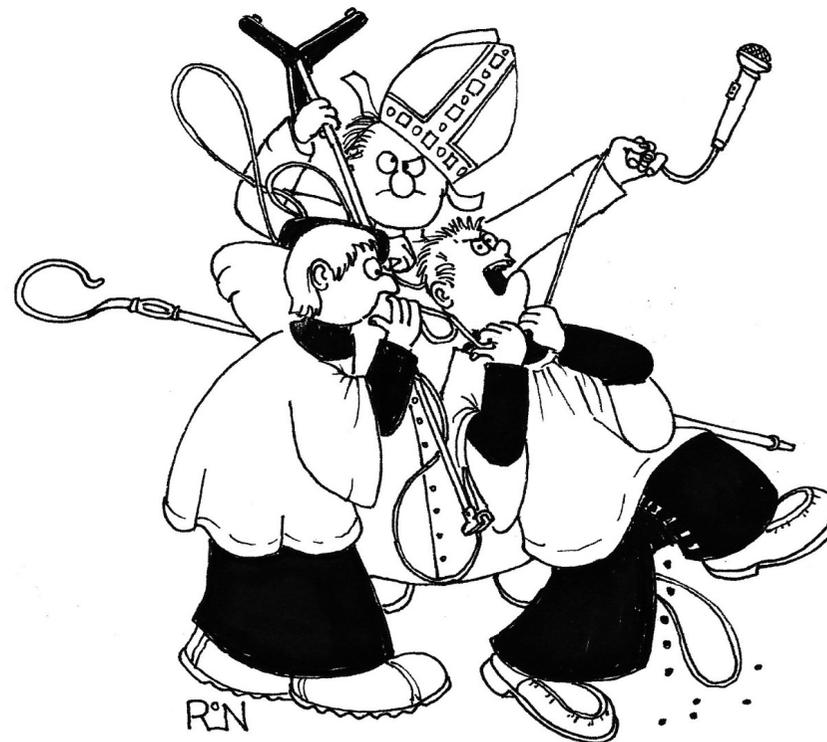
**Sundays 9.15 am Said Eucharist (SPB)**

**10.30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Liturgy)**

**PLEASE NOTE: The Patronal Festival will be celebrated at both services on 27TH JUNE**

**(At time of writing, numbers are still limited to 24 at each service but this may change, dependent upon Government guide lines)**

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*After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.*

## The Old Oak Tree

Look at that tree, so strong and so bold. It must be at least a hundred years old.

But age does not mar its beauty, its fame It's the old oak tree, that's its given name.

It stands proud and erect as if to say "Here comes yet another wonderful day"

Time has no meaning for this old tree, No concept of age like you and me.

It welcomes the seasons as they come and go, From sun and rain to the falling snow.

It enjoys being a friend to the human race And it does it with style and plenty of grace.

Its gnarled roots spread far and wide A haven for small animals to sleep and to hide.

The big broad trunk is a resting place For weary travellers, far journeys to trace.

And under the spreading boughs of this tree Family picnics are had by you and by me.

A horse needs some shade from the searing sun. So where does it go, where does it run?

Under the shade of the old oak tree, of course It knows who its friend is that clever young horse.

In the autumn the golden leaves fall to the ground. They fall to the earth with hardly a sound.

The squirrels are also glad you're their friend Your acorns will feed them to winter's end.

And under the leaves that fell to the ground A secret remains until spring.

The bulbs of the crocus are there to be found And oh, what a delight they will bring.

So thank you old oak tree, for all that you give What can we say but "Long may you Live"

## Beautiful Britain

(Do you know where this is?)



## All in the month of JULY

It was:

100 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1921 that the Chinese Communist Party was founded.

Also 100 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1921 that Belfast's Bloody Sunday took place. Protestant loyalists attacked Catholic enclaves and set fire to homes and businesses, sparking rioting and gun battles. At least 17 people were killed and more than 70 injured. 2,000 people were left homeless.

Also 100 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1921 that the hormone insulin was discovered by Frederick Banting and Charles Best at the University of Toronto.

80 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1941 that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill launched his 'V for Victory' campaign.

75 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1946 that the King David Hotel bombing took place in Jerusalem. The Irgun (a militant right-wing Zionist group) bombed the hotel which housed the British administrative headquarters for Palestine. 91 people were killed.

60 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1961 that Diana, Princess of Wales, was born. (Killed in a car crash in 1997)

Also 60 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1961, that Ernest Hemingway, American novelist and short story writer, died. Winner of the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. Best known for For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms, and The Old Man and the Sea. (Suicide)

40 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1981, that the Toxteth riots broke out in Liverpool.

Also 40 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1981 that the Humber Bridge, linking Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, was officially opened. It was the world's longest single-span suspension bridge at that time.



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## Who's Who at St. Peter's

*Rector:* Rev'd. Canon Christine Fraser

*Assistant Priest:* Rev'd. Stuart Gray

*Car Park Rentals:* Maria Page

*Child/vulnerable adult Protection:*

Kerry Briers

*Christian Aid:* Judy Webster

Rosemary Potter

*Church Treasurer, Gift*

*Aid & 100 Club:*

Judy Webster

*Contact Magazine Editor:*

Richard Ouston

*Email*

richard.16@hotmail.co.uk

*CTN Administrator:*

Shirley Mann

*Duty and Tea Rotas:*

Judy Webster

Shirley Mann

*Fabric Convenor:*

George Legge

*Flower Convenor:*

Jane Legge

*Hall & Room Hire:*

Andrea Ladyka

*Lay Representative:*

Shirley Mann

*Lay Worship Leaders:*

Richard Fawcett

Maria Page

Shirley Mann

Rudi Limebury

Rev. Christine Fraser

*Prayer Group:*

*Social & Fund Raising*

*Committee Chair:*

Shirley Mann

*Vestry Chairman:*

Bill Page

*Vestry Secretary:*

Maria Page

*Website:*

Norman Ward

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## 100 years of the Chinese Communists

One hundred years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1921, the Chinese Communist Party was founded. It had its roots in the Russian Revolution of 1917 and at first worked with the Chinese Nationalists. But the Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, turned violently against them in 1927 and for a while the Communists, under Mao Zedong and others, went underground, turning to rural areas for recruits.

The Nationalists were stronger, however, and in 1934 Mao and his followers undertook the Long March northwards in order to survive.

After that, and despite many internal power struggles, the party grew quickly – assisted by its resistance to the Japanese invasion – and drove the Nationalist Government out and into Taiwan in 1949, following the Chinese Civil War. The People’s Republic of China was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> October that year.

Today the CCP has more than 85 million members and is a monolithic and monopolistic entity dominating all aspects of Chinese life. Although Article 36 of the Chinese Constitution insists that citizens “enjoy freedom of religious belief”, in May this year a decree was issued requiring all religious leaders to support the Communist Party: links to foreign organisations, such as church organisations and missionary societies, often led to persecution.

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### It was

40 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1981, that the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer took place at St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

25 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1996 that the first cloned mammal was born. Dolly the sheep was born at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. (Died 2003)

15 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2006 that Twitter, the micro-blogging social network, was launched.

## A Slip of the Pen



Most of you will know me as ‘Richard’ but a few may have noticed my surname ‘Ouston’, thought it unusual and maybe wondered where it came from. Well, let me explain.

My cousin Roger became interested in genealogy some years ago, and decided to try to trace our family tree. He started by looking up our surname in all the UK Telephone Directories and to his surprise, found only 19 entries in the whole of the UK. So he then contacted all of the named entries and quickly discovered that they were all related – parents, uncles and aunts, cousins of varying distance, etc.

In other words, there is just one family with the surname Ouston. Early UK contacts led on to others in far flung places such as Canada, USA, and Australia. Again, these distant contacts were also related in some way to each other and to those back home in the UK.

So my family is unique and, should you meet another Ouston in the future, know that he or she will be a relative of mine.

But where did the name originate?

Well Roger continued his investigations and managed to trace our name back to the late 1500’s but there reached a full stop. Then, one day, he was doing more research in the archives held by the Society of Genealogists in London when he met a stranger, also researching his family history and who had likewise got stuck in the mid 1500’s.

Believe it or not, his name was OWston – note the subtle difference!

So, long story short, the two researchers were stunned by this extraordinary meeting of chance and realised what had probably happened back in the middle ages. Some writer of the time, had written a “W” in a Parish record book but had missed off the last upright stroke of the letter, resulting in a letter “U”.

Thus beginning a whole new family name and tree.

So, all Oustons and all Owstons are related, probably by a Slip of the Pen, and our joint family tree now stretches back to 1492. Further research has failed to find any reference to either name beyond this date.

Some OUstons pronounce the name as in “arouse” while others use the pronunciation as in “moose”. It seems that OWston was the original spelling and this would have been pronounced as in “arouse”.

It is also possible that the variation in spelling might have come about because of the different local dialects in Yorkshire, where the name has been traced back to.

There are several villages named Ouston in northern England, also what was once RAF Ouston (later Albermarle Barracks) in Northumberland.

We have wondered about the origin of the name—genealogical experts think it may be derived from the Vikings or even the Romans, both of whom were known for depositing small stashes of salt or “tons” along their marching routes.

Wouldn't it be great to be able to travel back in time to find out ?

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## The Cork & the Whale

from **Jane Legge**

A little brown cork fell into the path of a whale  
 Who lashed it down with his angry tail.  
 But in spite of its blows it quickly arose  
 And floated serenely beneath its nose.  
 Said the cork to the whale, you may flop, splutter and frown  
 But you never can keep me down.  
 For I'm made of stuff that's buoyant enough  
 To FLOAT instead of to DROWN !

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To date I have knitted almost 40 throws and I am hoping to have them available once we are able to have a sales table. Part of the sale will go for church funds, and part to recoup some of the cost of the wool. Just to give you an idea, they are knitted with chunky wool and are 4ftx4ft square and cost £15 to knit. At the moment I



have 7 completed, 1 on the pins and enough wool for another 7. Oh, and I don't need the pattern any longer, it's ingrained in the memory.  
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 Interestingly I have become faster as the weeks have gone on.

I would love to know what kept you occupied during lockdown too.  
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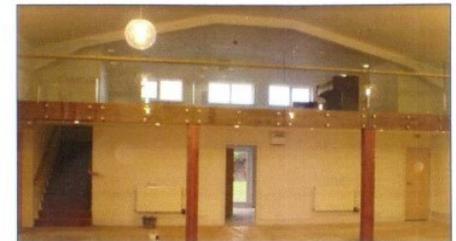
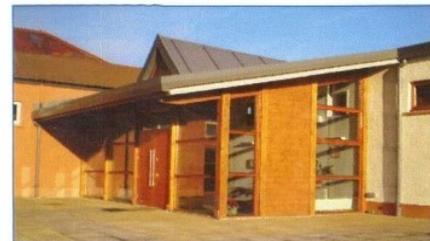
**The Hug** from **Jane Legge**

On days when the world seems to be getting on top of you  
 Stop and look around  
 Give someone a little hug and chase the world away  
 You would be surprised what a little hug can do, it can lift the weight  
     off your shoulders and make you feel good.  
 So when you read this little poem, give someone a little hug  
 They might need it just as much as you !

I never considered Scotland a nation of 'huggers' but this past year has changed my view as many friends have said how much they have missed getting hugs—myself included. We are still wary of having hugs but, hopefully in the near future, we will be able to hug freely again  
 And Boy! Did I enjoy the biggest bear hug I had from my grandson Stuart when the ban was partially lifted recently.....*Jane*

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## Think on These.....

- In the word SCENT is it the S or the C which is silent ?
- Does my dog bring back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it ?
- If Poison is past its sell by date, does it get more or less poisonous ?
- Why is the letter W called double U; shouldn't it be double V ?
- Why doesn't Superglue stick to the inside of the bottle ?
- How come "abbreviated" is such a long word ?
- Why do we forget years and remember moments ?
- If you can do anything, why can't you do everything ?
- Where does all the white go when the snow melts ?
- What happens to the flame when you blow a match out ?
- Why do we say the alarm "went off" when it actually "came on" ?
- Where does weight go to when people lose it ?
- If everybody lost 5 lbs weight, would the Earth lose its gravity ?
- If a No. 2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still No. 2
- Why is a building called a building when it's finished being built ?
- What'd happen if when night fell, the Earth wasn't there to catch it ?
- If wool shrinks when it gets wet, why don't sheep when it rains ?
- What colour hair do bald men put on their driver's licence form ?
- Why is a carrot more orange than an orange ?
- If dropped, why does a slice of toast usually fall butter-side down ?
- Why are buttons on men's shirts on the opposite side to women's ?

## Lockdown Life

from **Christine Fraser**

I wonder what we would reply if someone asks us in the future, "What did you do during lockdown?" For me it was picking up a knitting pattern that I had used once before for a throw and had enjoyed knitting the first time. The pattern came from a craft shop in Busselton (South of Perth) W. Australia that I visited in 2018. The day I visited, (on a Tuesday) there was a craft class in progress and I though had I been in St Peter's I would have been at a craft class that day too.

The shop was an Aladdin's cave of goodies, and I could probably have filled a container to send home. However a pattern called Seadrift caught my eye and a copy was duly purchased. Rejects sold a similar wool to that recommended by the pattern, and was duly purchased. The first one was a bluish-grey and I thought turned out really well. The pattern was put away for the next one.

The next one turned out to be started in 2020, two years after the first! (A lot of projects intervened in the interim). When it looked like the country was going to be put into lockdown, off I went to Rejects once again and purchased some wool, this time in pink. I thought I can occupy myself with another throw, we won't be in lockdown for long. What did I know?!

The pink throw got completed, and still no sign of lockdown easing. By then I had caught the bug and found a marvellous wholesale wool supplier in Wales and got to thinking...These would be great to do for Christmas gifts. So an order was sent off and 12 balls of wool, enough for three throws arrived. The enjoyable bit of knitting these was deciding which colour scheme to knit for which recipient, and even that got changed as the throws grew. In the end I made 20 or so for gifts and built up a wonderful email relationship with the sales dept.

Well, lockdown 2 came earlier this year and movement was again curtailed, so out came the pattern and the pins and I received some orders. Again, I got to thinking.... I could continue to knit and build up a stock for craft fairs and so the pins became red hot as I kept going.



## St Alban - the first British martyr

Persecution of Christians worldwide is rising fast, so it is worth remembering St Alban, the first British martyr. Alban was a Roman citizen living in England when the Roman emperor, Diocletian, began a fierce persecution. Soon Alban found a desperate priest on his doorstep, hunted by local soldiers. Alban gave the priest shelter, and within days was converted. When the soldiers arrived, Alban took the priest's place, refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and was condemned to death. Alban went to his execution on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 250AD with such serenity that one of the executioners was converted. He died on the site of the Hertfordshire town that now bears his name.

Alban  
martyr  
persecution  
Roman  
emperor  
Diocletian  
priest  
converted  
soldiers  
sacrifice  
gods  
condemned  
death  
execution  
serenity  
died  
site  
town  
name  
doorstep

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

## Miscellaneous Observations on Life

Scratch a dog – and you'll find a permanent job.

Every seven minutes of every day, someone in an aerobics class pulls a muscle.

Few things are more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own.

Learn from others' mistakes. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Money isn't everything, but it does keep you in touch with your children.

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## Clergy !

As the enthusiastic curate was preparing to move on to his first church as a vicar, a parishioner asked him what he thought had been his main contribution to the life of the church. He replied: "People here didn't know what sin was until I came."

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Our elderly vicar was very devout, but sometimes lost his place during the service. One Sunday as we reached the Creed there was a long silence, so the curate went across to him and gently touched his arm. "I believe in God," she whispered.

The vicar smiled back happily. "Oh so do I, so do I!"

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On leaving the local Churches Together lunch, the Catholic priest was heard to say to the Methodist minister: "Well, at the end of the day, we're all doing the Lord's work: you in your way, and I in His."

## Smile Lines

In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"

"He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" the wife asked.

"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"

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A minister invited to preach at a local prison regretfully chose the text: 'With the help of my God, I will leap over the wall.'

\*\*

Bishop Douglas Feaver, the notoriously outspoken former Bishop of Peterborough, was presiding at his first Diocesan Synod and a man at the back had been droning on and on for some length of time. Finally, a lady called out to protest that she could not hear what he was saying. Bishop Douglas replied: "You should thank God and sit down."

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An estate agent's board outside a redundant church:

FOR SALE.

Suitable for conversion.

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Arriving at church to attend a wedding, a formidable looking lady in a large hat was greeted by the usher. "Are you a friend of the groom?" he ventured.

"Certainly not," she said indignantly. "I'm the bride's mother."