

MIXED BLESSINGS

T I M E S

LITE

Can you believe that we have already reached Edition 10 of this magazine? And, once more, it will brighten your day and make you feel good.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items, and thank you, Graham, for putting them all together.

The focus for this issue is your gardens. I know that lots of you have been busy in them.

Enjoy reading.

John

Issue 10

7 Aug 2020



And the winner is ...



Tony & Roz

**The Mixed
Lantern
Blessings**



Fiona Norris (Community Fundraising Manager for Tearfund)

My daughter, Kate, had a school lockdown project to create a work of art that explores the relationship between faith and creation. She chose to use photography to express the wonder of creation, and it was such a pleasure to spend time with her focusing on some of the incredible plants and flowers that we are often too busy to appreciate.

In the same way, there is nothing I like more than walking in the countryside and delighting in nature. My eyes feast on the different plants and animals, the rich variety of colours and textures. My ears delight in the quiet at first, then, as I tune in, the gentle chorus of activity from the humming of insects, to the birdsong and the gentle breeze through the leaves. I take deep breaths, allowing the fresh air to fill the depths of my lungs, savouring the goodness of my surroundings. And as I reflect on the beauty of all that is around me, I am filled with gratitude, and I cannot help but overflow with praise for the Creator!

I love what the author, CS Lewis, says about praise; *“I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.”*

God in his goodness created us to praise and worship him, that our joy may be made complete. And creation is a wonderful stepping stone to worship.

If God's work, creation, stirs up our feelings of wonder and praise, then God's word, the Bible, makes sense of those feelings. The Bible asserts that creation is indeed God's handiwork and that everything in it bears his hallmark. Psalm 19:1 says;

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

And as much as creation declares the glory of God, God also delights in all that he has made - including us. He longs for us to know him intimately through a restored relationship that Jesus makes possible.

So I encourage you to seek out those places where you can delight in the natural world, whether that be in your garden, on a walk, or just through a view from the window. Allow creation to remind you of God's power, creativity, care and attention to detail. And in those quiet moments, try taking some deep breaths and reaching out to God in prayer. God delights in us and in hearing from us!

Fiona



Practical Help and Support during the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Lantern Church tel: 01202 887733 or email: help@thelanternchurch.org

“These are a few of my favourite things ...”

We asked Karen, The Lantern’s new Curate, Graham, and Wendy to tell us a few of their favourites. Here’s what they said:



My favourite:

Karen

Graham

Wendy

<i>Meal</i>	Cauliflower cheese	Roast dinner	Fish & chips
<i>Drink</i>	Coffee	Latte	Real ale
<i>Pudding</i>	Apple pie + custard	Bananas and custard surprise	Gooseberry crumble
<i>Fruit or vegetable</i>	Strawberries	Runner beans	Raspberries, peas
<i>Item of clothing</i>	Comfortable jeans	Odd socks	Hats - I have 45
<i>Hobby</i>	Walk on the beach	Gardening	Playing music, knitting, reading
<i>Sport</i>	Swimming	Football - Wimborne Town supporter	Skittles
<i>TV programme</i>	The Chase	Doc Martin	Eggheads, The Chase
<i>TV detective</i>	Hercule Poirot	Endeavour	Vera
<i>Film</i>	God’s not dead	Chariots of fire	Far from the madding crowd
<i>Actor</i>	Emma Thompson	Brenda Blethyn	Sean Connery, Alan Bates
<i>Musical show</i>	Lion King	Les Miserables	Swan Lake ballet
<i>Singer / group</i>	King and Country	The (early) Beatles	Elvis, and Ricky Nelson
<i>Song</i>	Burn the ships	Ernie (The fastest milkman in the West)	There’ll never be anyone else but you for me
<i>Book</i>	Mister God, this is Anna	The Bible	Jane Eyre

Virtual Mixed Blessings in Bloom - Derek Baker

Several weeks ago, we noticed that some people had used the extra time provided by lockdown to take a little more care than usual in their gardens. The trouble was that friends and neighbours were unable to get round and admire the hard work. It was a private joy that deserved to be shared. So, Graham had the idea of holding a "Virtual Mixed Blessings in Bloom" competition.

Now, some ideas spark interest and some fade into oblivion before they've begun. This idea really took off in a big way. We had 48 entries from 15 members. There were wonderful garden vistas, beautiful specimen plants, silly pictures, and everything in between. We decided upon two categories, "Single Subjects" and "Garden Views" and we squeezed all the photos into one group or the other.

We invited our new Curate, Karen, to do the impossible and be our judge. She willingly accepted the challenge.

Rather her than me! However, Karen did a brilliant job with a good heart. You can see her decisions, and many of the entries, in the following pages.

Many thanks to all of you who entered, to Karen, and to Graham who had the idea in the first place. You have all made the event a bloomin' marvellous success. Well done.

Karen has been busy since she joined The Lantern. Not only has she judged our "In Bloom" competition, but she's also revealed her "Favourite Things", and you can read them on the previous page. - Ed



Winner
best single subject
- Margaret and George Bailey



A gardener's ode to Babs

- this was written by John, Babs' former gardener, for her birthday. He knew that her name wasn't Barbara, but used it to rhyme.

There once was a lady called Barbara
No, she didn't come from Market Harborough
She came from the South
A small town called Ply-mouth
(it was small 90 years ago)
About 180 miles from Farnborough.

She tells stories and jokes
In front of plenty of folks
And they laugh, cry and applaud.
She's tall and imposing
Her tongue's always composing
For the next time she faces the horde.

She's kind and she's funny
And a bit of a honey
Her gardener is a fortunate man.
He takes all sorts of insults
Gives no complaints, and the results
Are a job well done by the bloke in the van.

After all's said and done
She's a bit of a one
And celebrations are in order today.
Long may she reign
Again and again
And Babs, have a very happy birthday.



The difference between knowledge and wisdom ...

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit

Wisdom is knowing not to put a tomato in a fruit salad

If you like your vegetables big, try these world records for size ...

Heaviest beetroot - 51.5 lb - *grown in UK*

Longest carrot - 19 ft 2 in - *UK grown*

Heaviest cauliflower - 60.6 lb - *UK grown*

Longest cucumber - 42.8 in - *UK grown*

Heaviest onion - 18 lb 11 oz - *UK grown*

Longest parsnip - 20.6 ft - *UK grown*

Heaviest potato - 10.95 lb - *UK grown*

Longest runner bean - 4 ft 3 in

- *UK's best is a mere 36 inches*

Highest sweetcorn - 35 ft 3 in

Heaviest UK tomato - 5 lb 11.5 oz

Tallest UK sunflower - 26 ft



Josie & Bill



Margaret & George



Lui's orchids



Val S

02/07/2020



Jackie



Carolyn



2nd

Graham & Chris



Ron



3rd

Margaret & George



Beryl

*Derek dares to do dangerous deeds
So last week he swallowed some seeds.
Within just one hour
His nose was a flower,
And his head was a riot of weeds.*



Trouble at T'Mill by Arthur Smith



I've put the carrot cakes to bed
And twice tickled the cat's head
I've washed my socks with honey
And wrapped up all my money.

I've dusted the flowers
And exerted all my powers
To keep the chocolate foxes
Tied up in their fancy boxes.

I've had words with the spoons
Who are behaving like baboons
Fighting with the knives
Who are rowing with their wives.

I've smacked all the pillows
Waved my fist at the willows
And polished the tomatoes
Till they shine like silver bows.

I've washed and scrubbed his head
And pickled his four poster bed
But if that rhinoceros snores
Then he can sleep out of doors!

*Why do gardeners plant bulbs?
So the worms can see where they're going.*

*Did you hear about the successful bonsai gardener?
He's looking for a house with a smaller garden.*

My neighbour asked if he could use my lawnmower.
I told him of course he could, so long as he didn't
take it out of my garden. (Eric Morecambe)

*An indolent vicar of Sway
His roses allowed to decay;
His wife, more alert,
Bought a powerful squirt,
And said to her spouse:
"Let us spray."*



Jolly John's Joke

Two men were walking along the road. One says to the other "I'm hungry, Shall we have a Chinese?"

"No," says his friend. "I don't like foreign food. I'll just have a pizza."



Courgettes are so versatile - grow them, cook them, wear them



Jenny's recipe for courgette cake

Ingredients

3 eggs
400g (14 oz) caster sugar
375g (13 oz) plain flour
225g (8oz) grated courgette
250ml (8.5 oz) vegetable oil
2 teasp vanilla extract
2 teasp ground cinnamon
2 reasp ground nutmeg
3 teasp baking powder



Method

Preheat oven to 170 C - gas mark 3
Grease two 1 lb loaf tins
In large bowl, with electric mixer, beat eggs until fluffy
Beat in sugar, oil, and vanilla
Gradually mix in flour, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg
Fold in grated courgette
Transfer to tins
Bake for 50 minutes (approx).

Wimborne In Bloom - words from their website

Wimborne in Bloom was inaugurated in 1992. It is a completely voluntary organisation run by a small committee, Richard Nunn is the current chairman.

Its Aims and Objectives are:

To beautify the ancient and historic market town of Wimborne Minster.

To do our best to ensure it is kept clean and tidy and free of litter and other unsightly mess and to encourage others to do likewise.

To participate in Regional and National *In Bloom* competitions.

To encourage traders and others with premises in the town to provide hanging baskets, window boxes and planters.

To encourage participation by private residents and traders in the local Wimborne in Bloom Competition.

Over the years the Town has won the Britain in Bloom Small Town Category on eight occasions.

Wimborne in Bloom also stages its own Competition. There are the Adults and Schools Art and Poetry Competitions and the main 'floral' competition for all residents and traders.

Wordsearch

In the wordsearch, find the following 16 words which can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal, and forwards or backwards:

BEGONIA

BLOSSOM

BUTTERFLY

COMPOST

COURGETTE

FLOWER

FUCHSIA

GERANIUM

GRASS

INSECTS

MANURE

NECTAR

PLANT

SEEDS

SHRUB

TOMATOES

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

Quiz - national flowers

Match the plant to the country
- answers on next page

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Cherry blossom | a. Australia |
| 2. Daffodil | b. Canada |
| 3. Edelweiss | c. England |
| 4. Golden wattle <i>pic</i> | d. Holland |
| 5. Lotus <i>pic</i> | e. India |
| 6. Maple leaf | f. Ireland |
| 7. Rose | g. Japan |
| 8. Shamrock | h. Scotland |
| 9. Thistle | i. Switzerland |
| 10. Tulip | j. Wales |





Born and Bred in Dorset - John Taylor

In this issue John looks at Bridport

This market town is situated on the picturesque coast road to Exeter in the south west of the county. The traditional manufacture of ropes, twine and netting is still carried on here. In addition to supplying most of the cordage for the Fleet in earlier times, the town also provided hangman's ropes used for executions,

The wide main streets afford attractive views of the surrounding hills. In south street, beyond the Georgian town hall, are some Tudor and seventeenth-century houses. The parish church is a handsome building dating back to the thirteenth century.

The quaint harbour of the town is at West Bay about a mile away where the River Brit flows into the sea between

the two piers. The yellow cliffs rise sheer from the beach.

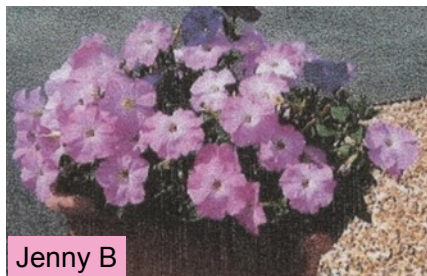
To the east lies Burton Bradstock where the River Breedy flows through sandstone cliffs. The cliff road above the unique Chesil Bank towards Weymouth provides some of the most magnificent panoramas along the south coast, ranging over the whole of the vast West Bay which stretches from Portland Bill to Start Point.

On the road above Burton Mere, are the villages of Pucknowle and Swyre. The former has a Norman church and a charming little manor house. Further inland lies Kingston Russell, home of John Russell whose fortunate knowledge of Spanish in Tudor times took him to court and brought to his family the Dukedom of Bedford.



Quiz - national flowers - answers

1. Cherry blossom - Japan;
2. Daffodil - Wales;
3. Edelweiss - Switzerland;
4. Golden wattle - Australia;
5. Lotus - India;
6. Maple leaf - Canada;
7. Rose - England;
8. Shamrock - Ireland;
9. Thistle - Scotland;
10. Tulip - Holland



Jenny B

Our Father in Heaven ... - Pat Piddock

For the beauty of the earth we give you thanks, Lord.

Lord, we praise you that during lockdown nature has continued to do her work, and that Mixed Blessings' members have been able to get out into their gardens and plant their flowers and vegetables with success.

In the country lanes the growth is amazing, and so many different wild flowers and colours are blooming.

Lord, we can rejoice and say that our land is "in bloom".

In your name we pray, Amen



All things bright and beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*



Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God almighty,
Who has made all things well.

"The author of this well-loved hymn was Cecil Frances "Fanny" Alexander. Fanny was born in Wicklow, Ireland, in 1818 and married William Alexander, a rector, in 1850.

From a child, Fanny had delighted to compose verses, often shyly hiding her scraps of paper under some rug. Two years before her marriage she published her best-known book "Hymns for Little Children" - a book that would sell 250,000 copies in the next twenty years. In days when women were not readily accepted as hymn writers in a male-dominated world, the composition of children's hymns was one avenue open to them and Frances Alexander excelled at such verses.

With a supreme gift as a story-teller, the rector's wife wrote in the "Once upon a time" style so loved by children. Even her best-known, and arguably greatest, hymn is told almost as an artless tale. "There is a green hill far away ... " it begins, and we may imagine Fanny gazing at the green hills of Ireland.

The plan which Frances Alexander adopted as she wrote her *Hymns for Little Children* was to take the important teachings of the Apostles' Creed and put them into simple verse. She also wrote the popular Christmas hymn "Once in Royal David's City", again in a narrative style."

"Our Hymn Writers and their Hymns" - Faith Cook

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