

# MIXED BLESSINGS

T I M E S

LITE

Welcome to the final issue of our “Lockdown” magazine. Inside, I am confident that you will find articles of interest to you, ranging from the tale of Miss Purple Pants to Memories of Mixed Blessings, and of teenage years, and much, much more. Isn't it wonderful how our contributors have come up with the goods each fortnight, keeping the publication lively and interesting? It has kept us entertained and it helped to hold Mixed Blessings together during this time. Such a very big “thank you” must go to Graham who has done all the hard work of putting it all together each fortnight.

Enjoy. *Derek*

**Issue 13**  
**18 Sep 2020**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

**The Mixed  
Lantern  
Blessings**

## Karen Franklin - Curate at The Lantern

Some of my memories have become some of my greatest praises. As I am a Christian, when I am struggling, I find it helpful to look back at the memories of where God had been faithful to me before. I look back to those times and remember how He's answered my prayers. Remembering God's faithfulness has helped me to trust in God more. I feel like God is saying, "Do you remember this? I was with you then and I'm with you now."

Remember how God has delivered you in the past from difficult things. Remember how He may have spoken to you. Remember how He guided you. He's the same God and if He has done it before He will do it again.

In the Bible we see lots of examples of this: Psalm 77:11-14 says "*I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember Your miracles of long ago. I will consider all Your works and meditate on all Your mighty deeds. Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; You display Your power among the peoples.*"

Psalm 143:5-16 says "*I remember to think about the many things You did in years gone by. Then I lift my hands in prayer, because my soul is a desert, thirsty for water from You.*"

Psalm 9:1 "*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.*"

Hebrews 13:8 "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*"  
Deuteronomy 7:17-19 "*You may say to yourselves, "These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?" But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt. You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the Lord your God brought you out. The Lord your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.*"

Next time you are struggling, why not bring to memory times where you have struggled before and seen provision, or experienced comfort? God was there for you then and He is there for you now.

Karen



### Practical Help and Support during the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Lantern Church tel: 01202 887733 or email: [help@thelanternchurch.org](mailto:help@thelanternchurch.org)

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Front cover photo:  
Babs and her flowering myrtle

"Looking back on lockdown - 3, 2, 1":

We asked Jenny, Lui, and Pat to tell us about their lockdown experience. Here's their answers to our questions:



	Jenny	Lui	Pat
<i>which 3 activities did you miss most</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mixed Blessings</li> <li>● Seeing family and friends</li> <li>● Visits to the coast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Family &amp; friends</li> <li>● Lunches out</li> <li>● Walking on the Quay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● My daughter's visits</li> <li>● Mixed Blessings</li> <li>● Browsing in shops e.g. M&amp;S</li> </ul>
<i>which 2 activities did you enjoy most</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Walks around Merley</li> <li>● Crosswords, puzzles, reading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FaceTime with family</li> <li>● Picnic in the garden with family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Daily walk around Wimborne</li> <li>● Spring cleaning</li> </ul>
<i>which 1 activity do you wish you'd done</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Painting and decorating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sorting my sheds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keeping a daily account of the comings and goings in the Minster grounds</li> </ul>
<i>which 3 items do you wish you'd stocked up on</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S.R. Flour</li> <li>● Eggs</li> <li>● Dried fruit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fabrics</li> <li>● Birthday cards</li> <li>● Carpet shampoo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bread flour</li> <li>● S.R. Flour</li> <li>● Yeast</li> </ul>
<i>which 2 items did you buy too much of</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tinned tuna</li> <li>● Coffee mate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Coffee</li> <li>● Sugar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tinned tomatoes</li> <li>● Red kidney beans</li> </ul>
<i>which 1 unexpected item did you use</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Online shopping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ordering doctor's prescriptions online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Couscous</li> </ul>

The first edition of MBTL was published on 30th March. It was one of the various ways for members and leaders of Mixed Blessings to keep in contact during the lockdown. Thirteen editions later, we can confidently say that it has achieved its aim.

However, as we can now gather in small numbers, shops and cafes are open again, church groups are meeting in person and on-line, and contributions for our fortnightly magazine are slowing, here at MBT H.Q. we think that this is the right time to bring the "Lite" version of our magazine to an end. This will be the last issue. So a massive "thank you" to all our contributors, to Derek for printing the magazine, to those who distributed it, and to you our readers. Stay safe. *Graham*

## Life as a teenager during the 1950's - Jenny Ball

I was 14 when my family moved to Boscombe from Yorkshire. I went to Bournemouth School for Girls which, in those days, was at the Lansdowne. I hated the school. The curriculum, sport and discipline was so different to what I was accustomed to. I admit I didn't work very hard, with end results not worth mentioning.

I would spend my weekends and school holidays helping with pony rides at Boscombe pier. We horse-mad girls (kept us off the subject of boys) would spend the day brushing and pampering the ponies and going up and down the beach. There was always the child who wanted to go faster, faster - hard enough to walk on the sand let alone run! In return for this commitment we rode the ponies bare-back, home to their stables.

On leaving school at 16 I knew exactly what I wanted to do – work with horses. My father soon put paid to that idea and said I had to get a proper job - he would enrol me at the Underwood Secretarial College in Christchurch Road.

I duly started at the College to do shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. How boring I thought, but surprise, surprise, I actually liked trying to work out light and dark squiggly, straight lines, dashes and dots, all a bit of a headache and frustrating at times. No computers of course, we used the old fashioned upright manual typewriters which had the letters removed from the keys. I actually did well with my studies which pleased my parents and I got some good exam results.

I became very friendly with a girl whose parents ran a Guest house in Boscombe, we both earned pocket money helping to serve dinner and doing the washing up etc. I also earned

money working in my parents' grocery business. We went to the youth club at St John's church, also occasionally on a Sunday we would attend church, which pleased both our mothers! Little did they realise it wasn't church that was the attraction but the choirboys!



I remember opposite the church was Boscombe Crescent well known for the 'drunks' there, but you never saw them away from this area so they never seem to cause any problems.

On a Saturday night the popular place to go was either the Chatfield Hotel or the Chine Hotel, where dances were held. We girls would sit around the dance floor just hoping a boy, preferably a nice looking one, would ask us to dance. We certainly did not dance by ourselves or with another girl. Highlight of the evening would be 'Ladies Excuse Me Quickstep' when we could ask a boy to dance!

On a Sunday afternoon, weather permitting, we would walk along the prom from Boscombe to Bournemouth pier, again meeting up with other groups. If we had the money we would go into Fortes in Westover Road for a coffee, oh it was so exciting. None of us would have dreamt of going anywhere near a public house, just not allowed.

My friend was very good at dressmaking and she taught me to make my own clothes, I remember dirndl skirts were all the fashion, worn with very full petticoats underneath. Amongst our friends were a couple of boys that were into cycle racing. Often on a Sunday there would be road races, particularly around Queens Park. The roads would be closed to traffic and us girls would

## Life as a teenager during the 1950's - Jenny Ball cont'd

line the route shouting encouragement to the boys we knew.

Several of us got interested in attending Boscombe (as it was known then) football matches at King's Park on a Saturday afternoon. Not that we were interested in the actual game but the attraction was the footballers themselves. One name I remember was 'Billy Lunn'. We would hang around outside the ground hoping to get their autographs.

It was very popular to collect autographs and friends would write lovely little poems and words. The clever ones would paint a picture for you. We would go to the Winter Gardens and wait outside the stage door to collect as many autographs as we could. Some of the artists would ignore you completely, others would be more accommodating.

We also had a good choice of cinemas. There was the Carlton, the Savoy, and at Pokesdown the Astoria and the Roxy cinema in Holdenhurst Road. I can't remember how much it cost but I do

remember the double seats on the back row! Also the Boscombe Hippodrome was popular although more expensive.

When I left college I got a job as junior secretary/receptionist working at the private consulting rooms for an Orthopaedic surgeon and a Radiologist. Gosh the medical names were hard - I couldn't spell them or pronounce them, let alone decipher my attempted shorthand.

My first wage was £2.15 shillings a week, (equivalent to approx £90 in today's money) with a 5/- a week increase on your birthday. I gave my mother 10/- towards the housekeeping. My hours of work were 9-7 plus Saturday mornings with Wednesday afternoon off. I would either cycle or travel on the number 25 bus. Buses were all very frequent in those days.

I worked there until I married at 19 and then went to work at a Childrens' Orthopaedic Clinic in Stewart Road – but that is another story to tell!



## Friendship at Mixed Blessings - *Beryl Groves* (with a little help from my friend)



I first visited 'Mixed Blessings' over 30 years ago and have been a regular ever since. I have made lots of friends, though sadly have also said farewell to many of them.

But let me begin at the beginning. I had recently been widowed when a friend visited and told me about the club, a friendly place where I could have the company that I was missing. I wasn't sure at first. I wasn't used to going anywhere on my own, but I finally decided, with some trepidation, to go along and see for myself.

I needn't have worried. I was met with a friendly welcome by all. Tina Bloom was leader back then. Some of you will know her (and others will have read about her in last December's *Mixed Blessings Times*) but there was one face you will all be familiar with - that's Ted. Yes, he was there on my very first visit (and on the many Tuesdays since - I'll let you calculate the numbers!).

The picture below is from a boat trip to Wareham in September 1993. Can you spot me and Ted? Anyone else? Babs, Kitty, Tina, David Phillips to name a few! It certainly takes me back!

The weeks, and years, have passed with numerous cups of tea, biscuits & cakes and lots of fabulous meals that I have enjoyed with my friends. Alongside all the games, talks, outings - too many to mention - we've had the encouraging, thought provoking, '*Bible bits*' (thanks to David Phillips and now Graham) and '*Prayers*' (thanks to Pat Hollocks and now Pat Piddock).

When Tina left the club, she placed it in the safe hands of Irene Selway (we enjoyed her recent quiz questions). Irene passed the baton to Boudewijn and then on to our current leader, John and our co-leader Derek. We have been very blessed with such great leaders over these years.



## Friendship at Mixed Blessings - *Beryl Groves cont'd*



I want to finish this little visit down memory lane with a big thank you to those who continue to reach out to us '*more mature folk*' with their care, kindness and help - come rain or shine. We'll meet again, some day soon, I hope... meanwhile we keep in touch with our friends, and wait patiently.

*Mixed Blessings?* No. It's just **Blessings** - all the time!

*Beryl*

*Above - Ted, Tina and Beryl; right - Babs*

The seasons have changed but each has brought new treats and new friendships. And these friendships haven't just kept to the *club* meeting times. Some of us joined other clubs, for exercise (like our weekly trips to Broadstone Sports Centre for swimming) and we even shared holidays. I'm sure you remember, Maggie, our trips overseas to Spain! So many happy memories.





I expect that some of you are thinking that this is a photo of the current English Cricket Test Team. Well, you're partly right. It is a cricket team, but a long way from England standard, and a long time from being current, as you can probably tell from the hairstyles! It was taken in the summer of 1973. That's 47 years ago. I'm at the right hand end of the front row. Let me tell you the background of the team and the photo.

When I left university in 1971, my first job was as a computer programmer with Rank, Hovis, McDougall in Harlow, Essex. I started on the same day and in the same department as John, back row second left, and we became flat-mates in Epping. We both liked sport, and we started the company's cricket team,

drawn from members of various departments in the large office block.

Chris worked as a systems analyst in that computer department. We started dating, fell in love, and subsequently married - wonderful. Back to the photo -

Chris was the scorer for our cricket team, and was on hand to take this snap. I think the front row is sloping because the left hand end was in a dip. The guy next to me was Alan Davidson, with the initials A B C D.

We played friendly games against village and works teams in Essex and Hertfordshire. Generally we let our opponents bat first. The highlight of most games was the tea interval.

*Graham*



## Miss Purple Pants by Arthur Smith

Dear little Miss Purple Pants  
Set out to visit her aunts.

She took some sweetmeats and a drink  
Wrapped in a teacloth, blue and pink  
All safely stowed in a neat little basket  
Along with a special gift in a shining casket.

So she strode through the Delamere wood  
Skipping over the flowers and feeling good.

Suddenly out jumped an ugly bear  
“Ha, ha!” He snarled, “What have you there?”  
“Just something for my aunts” Miss P replied.  
The bear chuckled and with a flick of his wrist  
He stole Miss Pants’ precious gifts  
And disappeared into the darkest thicket.  
“Well!” Thought Miss P, “that’s not cricket!”

When she arrived at Aunty’s cot  
Aunty Florie was lying in bed  
With a huge frilly bonnet over her head.

“Oh Aunty!” She exclaimed  
“What a hairy nose you’ve got!”  
“And where is dear old Aunty Nell?”

At that moment the telephone rang  
“Aunty” lifted up the receiver  
No more could the bear deceive her  
For there, for all to see, was one big hairy paw.

So Miss Purple Pants quickly drew  
A pistol from her gilded shoe  
And shot the bear without delay.

Just then she heard some wild cries.  
It was the aunts in crippling ties.

Miss Purple Pants soon had them free  
And they danced around full of glee.  
They then sat down and ate some buns  
Washed down with lots of lovely tea.

But, you may ask, “What happened to the casket?”  
Maybe the bear ate it, along with cakes and basket!





## Born and Bred in Dorset - John Taylor

*In this issue John tells us about Shaftesbury*

Shaftesbury, in the north east of the county, occupies a distinctive setting seven hundred feet high. It is on a wooded escarpment with panoramic views across the Blackmoor Vale and the western end of Salisbury Plain.

Alfred the Great founded a nunnery here with his own daughter as Abbess. After the murder of King Edward at Corfe in 978 his body was brought from Wareham to Shaftesbury and the bones of this canonised martyr are said to have wrought great miracles of healing.

King Canute died here in 1035 and was buried at Winchester.

It was a saying in medieval days that if the abbess of Shaftesbury married the abbot of Glastonbury their combined wealth would be greater than that of the King of England.

Of the twelve churches in the town only four have survived and three of these have been rebuilt. The fourth is St Peters now nearing completion. This is in the High Street and dates from about the thirteenth century.



Forty years after making the Hovis advert, actor Carl Barlow returns to Gold Hill in Shaftesbury.

## Wordsearch

In the wordsearch, find the following 20 names.

The names can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal, and forwards or backwards:

BARBARA	A	V	Q	G	W	E	R	P	C	F	K	F	M	T	C
BEATRICE	F	C	M	E	A	I	R	E	M	A	F	E	M	M	O
BERYL	P	F	N	U	C	E	S	T	Q	J	R	V	I	U	F
BRIAN	M	D	O	H	E	I	R	E	L	A	V	O	B	T	L
CAROL	Y	F	A	E	Q	G	B	R	I	A	N	M	L	Y	H
CLIVE	K	R	O	W	G	G	D	T	Z	M	L	K	R	N	L
DOREEN	D	P	R	N	S	A	N	K	E	A	J	E	L	N	I
EDITH	L	J	L	L	E	M	X	D	T	U	B	F	W	E	Y
FIONA	B	Y	W	I	J	E	I	J	V	R	A	T	C	J	J
GEOFF	K	A	B	E	A	T	R	I	C	E	C	S	Y	Q	K
JENNY	R	S	R	V	H	E	S	O	K	E	L	R	P	P	J
JOSIE	J	Y	O	B	C	X	R	V	D	N	I	T	T	X	U
JOYCE	D	D	N	Y	A	J	O	S	I	E	V	B	G	M	U
KEITH	A	N	O	I	F	R	K	Y	C	U	E	D	V	N	S
MAGGIE	E	J	I	I	L	Q	A	N	M	D	K	Y	I	K	E
MAUREEN															
PETER															
RICHARD															
VALERIE															
WENDY															

### A Story of Three Little Pigs ...

*A little pig walked into a cafe. He asked the server for a lemonade, and after drinking it he asked where the toilet was. The assistant told him and off went the pig.*

*Soon a second little pig walked into the cafe, and also asked for a lemonade. After drinking it, he too asked where the toilet was. Once again the assistant gave directions and off walked the pig.*

*Shortly after yet another little pig walked into the cafe and asked for a lemonade, which he drank. Then the assistant said, "Don't you want to know where the toilet is?" The pig replied, "No thank you, I'm the little pig who goes wee wee wee all the way home".*

### Gardener's Delight

It's too late for our "In Bloom" competition, but look what Graham found when he harvested the carrots from his vegetable plot last week:





## **Our Father in Heaven ... - Pat Piddock**

What we are missing!

Good morning Mixed Blessings friends.

I've been reading some letters, written to different groups of people, in the Bible. Though written by various teachers, they all have one thing in common - they long to meet up face to face with the people they are writing to. We are the same! Writing and telephoning have been great ways to keep in contact, but we long to meet you all face to face.

On Tuesdays, I usually squeeze past a group of chaps at the lower end of the rows of tables before reaching the seat that Maggie has kindly saved for me - thank you Maggie. I then wave across the room to Barbara and Pat. Joyce is close by and always ready to give me a £2 coin as change, this I can put in my duck money box when I get home. Sometimes we get a little sausage roll with our coffee, and oh, how we miss our delicious lunches. You never know what Derek and Graham are hatching up and our special leader, John, may need a prompt or two. Yes, we do all miss each other.

**May the Lord bless you and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you.**

**May He be gracious to you and give you peace. Amen.**



*Talented Ted's painting titled "Gulls"*

