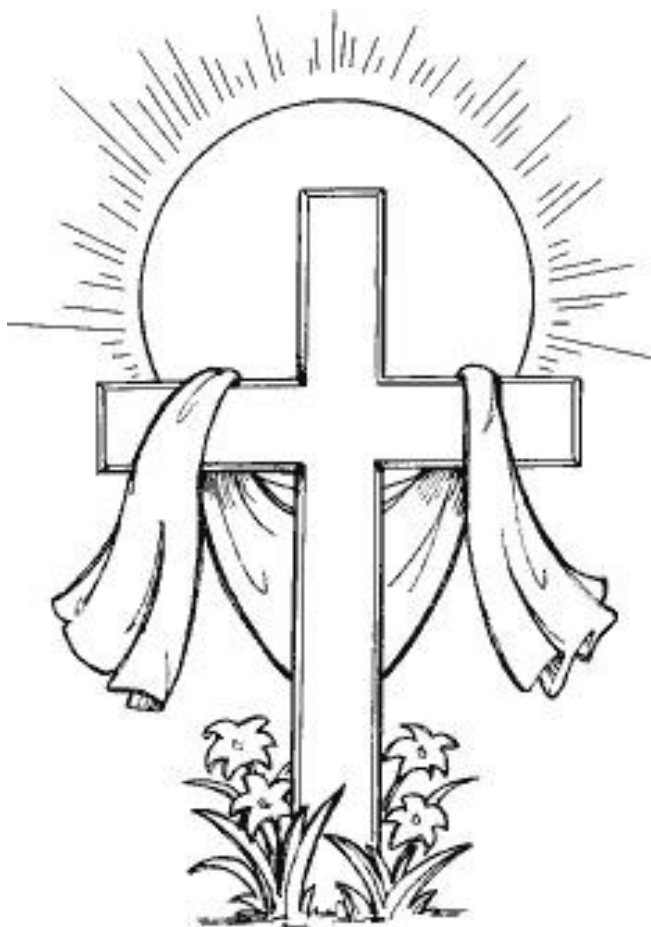


THE
OUTLOOK

MARCH TO MAY
2021



Emmanuel Church Sidcup
Methodist and United Reformed

Letter from the Interim Moderator

Three months have simply flown by. That time since I was last preparing observations for Outlook. By now I had hoped to meet you all at church services (it was my intention to join for worship once every three months). But it is not to be at present. However the future does look brighter. It has been a very long winter for so many. February is always a high month for deaths. We are finally rising from winter but of course this year has been exacerbated by Covid. At the time of writing (18th February) deaths are dropping and hospitals are beginning to get back to a semblance of normality. We thank God for that.

Now I appreciate that Boris is in a very difficult situation but some of his prophesies are wide of the mark. Compare this with God. Genesis 8, 22 tells us "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." And have they? No. God's promises never fail. I just wish that so many more would place their faith in God and His promises. But no. So many go their own sweet way.

Let's go back to 1348. Although getting old and senile even I cannot go back as far as that! The first outbreak of the plague known as the Black Death swept across England in 1348-49. It seems to have travelled across the south in bubonic form during the summer months of 1348 before mutating into the even more frightening pneumonic form with the onset of winter. The death toll was catastrophic. Other plagues have followed. When the Spanish Flu killed 100 million people in 1918-1920, very few people had any idea what the disease was and how it impacted others.

But thanks to constant research the Covid death toll is considerably less. We thank God that He has given so many scientists the ability to prepare models and speed up testing procedures.

The more extreme charge the present outbreak to the will of God. God could be punishing people with coronavirus, according to religious conspiracy theorists who believe humanity has lost its way. Did God send His Son to suffer immense cruelty to save us only to send a plague to eliminate us?

However, we can learn much about God and our relationship to Him through this present challenge. In our information age we get global hourly updates about plagues, military coups (like Myanmar) and economic volatility. Estimates on deaths are difficult to analyse because many inflicted had multiple health issues. The present definition is very wide. But Coronavirus is terrifying. It's frightening because it makes us look at our own mortality. Now most people do not want to die before "their time". But what is the measure of "their time?"

If you know Jesus, you have no reason to fear.

Which leads me to another question that I asked myself when poring through our Local Ministry and Mission Report and Profile, needed in preparation for calling a new minister.

And that is - how do many treat Jesus at times? Many regard Him as severely damaged goods. Either the price has been drastically reduced to get rid of

them or they are dumped. Because it is a sad fact that so many find it very embarrassing nowadays to have anything whatsoever to do with Jesus.

Why is Jesus so side-lined in many areas? New season's luxury stock is put out for sale at premium prices. High mark-ups to gain maximum profit. This is the paradox. We have a Saviour who is ever new and yet He is often treated as soiled goods. How utterly disparaging it must be for our Saviour to feel like that.

This is not new. It is not a 2021 phenomenon. It has always been the case since biblical times. Many people simply turned their back on Jesus and walked away. They had no time for Him.

A few years back an entrepreneur bought up many of the most mediocre films ever produced. He then re-issued them under the title "the poorest films ever made". He amassed a fortune. People actually bought them to watch such excruciatingly destitute films. And they enjoyed watching them! How many treat Jesus as a poorly produced film?

We have the honoured task of promoting our Lord Jesus. We have the most precious Saviour. We "present" our Saviour in different ways. Churches have different concepts or worship and place distinct emphasis upon various aspects of Christian devotion. Most churches do try very hard to present a very attractive package. But where are the customers? The punters are missing. We do not even charge for the goods or the service. People are welcome to come to Church without giving to the offering.

Why are we not at least getting some more additional desperate people (and there are many in to-day's Covid ridden society); a few downers coming to Church? After all they have nothing to lose. They have lost virtually everything already. Why do they not find the solace and hope of the Church so wonderfully beneficial in their time of need?

We have heard it so many times before. Church services are boring. No one makes us welcome. But in the main that is not true. Most Churches go out their way to accommodate newcomers. To make them feel at home, comfortable and at ease. And most sermons are provoking and challenging. Yes I have heard some nifty ones but not too many!!

But let me pass this true story by you. Some years back Pam and I went to the UR church in Nantwich, Cheshire. We were made very warmly welcome. The lady on duty gave us the order of service and told us that there was a sudoku on the back cover. "You can try to complete the sudoku if you find the sermon boring" we were told!! That's a new one on me. Actually the sermon was very relevant and well constructed.

So again let me return to the age old question of why more people do not find the challenge, the comfort and the hope for the future that is found in the Church. Jesus is not spoiled goods. Jesus has never reached, and will never reach, His sell-by date.

Colin Watson

News From Alison

Greetings from a wet and wintry Romford and good wishes for the coming year.

After nearly 6 months I am well settled into the Manse still with books and jigsaws to sort out though. I have started my veg bed in the garden, and am waiting for a dry spell to pot out the rhubarb.

Thanks to all those who remembered me with Christmas and New Year cards and greetings. I was very fortunate as my parents were already with me in Romford when London went into Tier 4, so unlike many it was much the same as in past years. They are now back home and waiting for their 2nd dose of the vaccine.

I am using my daily exercise to explore and have found a couple of parks well within walking distance, one has good views into central London. I have yet to visit Romford market which many mentioned to me before I moved.

Church life is continuing all online since November. Worship on Zoom is not ideal but at least singing is possible (all muted), folk can see each other and more people are prepared to get involved. Other meetings also take place on Zoom.

My college role is also all online. I have been able to "attend" meetings and sessions with students more regularly than would normally be possible all from the comfort of my study.

I had hoped that in the New Year it would be possible to hold my induction service in person with some of you coming across the river, with singing and fellowship over tea afterwards. However our third lockdown means this is impossible so my induction was on Zoom on Sunday 14th February.

Best wishes.

Alison

Jennifer received this news from Alison to share with you. Some of us accepted her invitation to attend her induction service by Zoom. It was very good to join a hundred other people from far and near. After the service we met some of her new congregations and Alison in a 'break-out' room

Ed

———oOOo———

There was a very gracious lady who was sending an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

Christian Aid Week

10-16 May 2021

Rose is caught in a cycle of climate chaos. From severe drought to flooding, extreme weather robs her of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

When she was a child, Rose remembers how often the rains would fall, giving fruit to the baobab trees and providing plenty of nutritious food to eat.

‘When I was a young girl, there was plenty of food,’ Rose says. ‘Now, the rains are totally unreliable.’ The climate crisis has galvanised extreme weather and Rose’s community are feeling the brunt of it. **For months at a time, Rose and her family live with drought.**

‘Because of climate change, I worry a lot about food. I pray to God that the rainfall will become normal like it used to be’.

Rose Katanu Jonathan.

Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face.

Together we STOP this climate crisis.

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift to Christian Aid could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they can store the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

Please give generously to Christian Aid this year.

In previous years Emmanuel have done door to door collections for Christian Aid. This year we hope Gift Aid envelopes will be available in church. Alternatively e-envelopes will be available at

www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/envelopes

—————oOOo—————

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life,
And pass it on to other folk!

Fillers contributed by Colin Watson



OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

MARCH

Hilda Morton-Hooper	1947
Charles Harrall	1959
Nigel Stuart Pont	1978
George Francis Fox	1981
Alice Annie Wilson	1984
Ada May Rippon	1984
Arthur Kenneth Mould	1984
Norman Fedrick	1985
Cecil Hastings Grimes	1988
Colin Liddicoat	1989
Lucy Irene Selvey	1991
Edith Clarke	1993
Peter Blades	1994
Eleanor Lilian Baker	1994
Marjorie May Gaunt	1994
Lily Sexton	1995
William Godfrey Howsam	2007
Ida Ramsey	2009
Bryn Williams	2011

APRIL

Percival Nathanielsz	1961
Gertrude Agnes Gennard	1973
Marjorie Jessie Verinder	1980
William Hutchinson	1986
James Herbert May	1986
Laura Ellen Barker	1988
Sydney Craford Barker	1988

MAY

John Stevenson Lawson Oswald	1981
Dorothy Pearl	1987
Alfred Sleeman Barnes	1989
Greville Millward	1989
Hubert Samuel Clarke	1993
Kathleen Carter	1994
Harry Cecil Parker	1998
Doreen Thompson	2000
Peter Geoffrey Hopkins	2007
Ethel Parker	2009

Pastoral News

Our thoughts and prayers are with Michael and Marion Parfitt as they come to terms with the death of Michael's mother who died recently in hospital.

Doris Willson had a fall at home and is now in Baugh House nursing home. Please remember Doris in your prayers and also Freda Skinner and Lorna New who are cared for in St. Margaret's nursing home.

Syd Howlett is continuing to make progress still supported by carers and regular physiotherapy. Maureen is very grateful for people's concern and prayers. Phone calls and chats have been really appreciated. She is looking forward to being able to take Syd out when they get a wheelchair. Please continue to pray for both of them.

Maryam Garcia was in hospital for an operation but is now recovering well at home. Sadly, her brother-in-law died recently and Maryam is a great support to her sister with whom she lives.

Hilda Upson had a fall on the High Street. Thankfully, she was taken to Farnborough hospital for a thorough check before returning home to rest and recuperate. She is now feeling much better, apart from a few bruises.

It has been a difficult time for Ella and Joe and their family. Remember them all in your prayers, especially Ella who has not been well.

Most people have had at least their first vaccination and some have had the second. At last we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel.

As we return to worship in the Church we must still be mindful of the restrictions we need to observe, especially social distancing and wearing face masks. Our thoughts and prayers will be with those who are unwell or don't feel ready to join us yet.

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting was scheduled for 22nd November but, obviously, had to be postponed.

It is now hoped to hold this on 18th April after the morning service.

This will be a very short meeting but is essential as the Accounts need to be approved and appointments confirmed..

Most of the reports were submitted prior to the November shutdown. These were compiled and printed in the December Outlook. Only a few copies will be available at the meeting for those who have not received Outlook, so please bring your copy of Outlook with you.



Subject to change due to Covid-19

Services for March

7	10.30am		
14	10.30am	Mr Colin Watson	Mothering Sunday
21	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
28	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	Palm Sunday, Communion. British Summer Time begins

Services for April

4	10.30am	Dcn Maureen Spinks	Easter Sunday
11	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	
18	10.30am	Elders	AGM
25	10.30am	Mrs Sue Cope	St George's Day, Parade

Services for May

2	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
9	10.30am	Rev Terry Wright	Communion
16	10.30am	Mr Paul Ayliffe	
23	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	Pentecost Sunday
30	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	Trinity Sunday

World Day of Prayer

Vanuatu

On the other side of the world in the South Pacific, 2000 miles east of Australia, lies an archipelago of 80 islands called Vanuatu.

With black and white sandy beaches, beautiful coral reefs, tropical coloured fish, forests full of lovely birds, abundant flora and fauna, and spectacular cascades these are wonderful islands.

There are no large mammals, poisonous snakes or poisonous spiders. The climate is temperate and the soil fruitful, but this region is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and many destructive cyclones in the hot and humid season from November to March.

To the Ni-Vanuatu, the people of Vanuatu, land is very important. It is not viewed as a thing to be owned, but as vital to the existence of humans as a mother is to a child. The traditional Vanuatu family took care of each other and was self-sustaining, and respect was shown for the environment. Modern technology is changing life – although the internet is scarcely available in the outer islands, mobile phones are almost universal. But the islands, which vary greatly in songs, dances and customs, are proud of their cultural identity.

Vanuatu Today

The people of Vanuatu are mostly Melanesian, with a Polynesian minority. The population is around 300,000 of whom nearly a fifth live in Port Vila, the largest city.

Education is not compulsory or free. Most families can only afford to educate their firstborn child, and boys get priority. However, in the past 20 years there have been changes and the gender gap in literacy and education has narrowed.

Malnutrition is a growing problem, accounting for most of the deaths in children under 5. Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities are major concerns. In rural areas people may have to walk up to an hour to find water.

Originally, each island had its own gods, customs and culture. The Vanuatu people did not worship animals or plants but believed there was a creator somewhere in the heavens. Christianity changed a decentralised system of life in the villages to a centralised form of governance, and the role of women in decision-making was much reduced. Currently 83% of the population is Christian.

Please continue to pray for Vanuatu.

The service at Christ Church scheduled for Fri 5th March 2021, has been postponed.

The Life That Mum Had

The life that mum had
Is all that I have
And the life that she had is yours.

The love that she had
Of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours.

A sleep that I have
As Mum is at rest
She makes tea with the Good Lord
bless.

For peace of Mum's years
In the long green grass
Will be yours and yours.

Colin Seal



As well as being Colin's Mum, Rene was a well loved member of our congregation. The photo shows her enjoying a garden party in 2016.

Water Aid

How did you start your day today? With a shower, followed by a hot drink perhaps? You may have washed up your breakfast dishes, gone to the toilet and washed your hands to set yourself up for the day.

We depend on clean water so much while going about our everyday routines, for drinking, cooking, washing and producing food. But can you imagine how different life would be without clean water?

That's the reality for a staggering 785 million people. Living in some of the world's poorest communities they have no choice but to walk long distances to fetch and drink dirty water. This impacts their health, their education and their livelihoods.

We are experiencing a global water crisis. Water is a human right and we're determined to make sure it's a normal part of daily life for everyone, everywhere within a generation.

During Lent, the Women's Hour and some church members usually collect for Water Aid. Pat George is happy to collect any donations people may wish to make. Cheques should be made payable to Water Aid but Pat is happy for any cash donations. Ideally these should be handed in by Easter Sunday.

Or you can donate online at <https://www.wateraid.org/>

Revised Common Lectionary

Liturgical Date	Calendar Date	First Reading	Psalm Reading
3rd Sun in Lent	Mar-07	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19
4th Sun in Lent	Mar-14	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
5th Sun in Lent	Mar-21	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or Psalm 119:9-16
Liturgy of the Palms	Mar-28	--	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion	Mar-28	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16
Maundy Thursday	Apr-01	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Good Friday	Apr-02	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22
Resurrection of the Lord	Apr-04	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
2nd Sun of Easter	Apr-11	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
3rd Sun of Easter	Apr-18	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
4th Sun of Easter	Apr-25	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23
5th Sun of Easter	May-02	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31
6th Sun of Easter	May-09	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98
7th Sun of Easter	May-16	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1
Day of Pentecost	May-23	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Trinity Sun	May-30	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29	

The full Lectionary can be accessed on line at
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=B&season=Lent>
 Make sure you get the correct year

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
Mar-07	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Mar-14	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Mar-21	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Mar-28	--	Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Mar-28	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)
Apr-01	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Apr-02	Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42
Apr-04	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
Apr-11	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
Apr-18	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
Apr-25	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
May-02	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May-09	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May-16	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May-23	Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May-30	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17



Mothering Sunday

14th March

How lovely to be back in Church on this special day when we all remember our Mothers.

Memories of Winters Past

Dear Friends

Waking up to the snow coming down always reminds me of certain years in my life. I have never been a fan of the 'white stuff' as everything comes to a halt which makes normal travelling difficult especially the trains. I have spent too many hours standing on station platforms in the snow hopefully waiting for a train you know won't turn up, but as you have to get to work you wait and wait.

When you eventually have to give up and try to walk back home again as the buses are not running and your feet are so cold they hurt, you then have to try and tell your boss you can't get in. In the sixties we never had 'proper boots' as the fashion was high heels. I broke a few pairs of beautiful shoes back then. The year of 1963 was the most memorable for me and others as the winter went on for months. The problem I had was the snow in London cleared pretty fast, but out in the 'sticks' where we lived it lasted as solid ice for months and my bosses who all lived in central London were not sympathetic to my arriving late most mornings.

St Mary Cray station that myself, my sister Pat and two or three friends went from is on top of a very steep hill from our side of the station. We had a problem as in those days it was a steep icy road and 87 icy steps with no hand rail to hang on to so we had to join hands and make a rush for the steps. It was a case of one up two down, but we did have a laugh and a few falls.

I am sure most people have memories of that year and hope this has brought a smile to everyone.

Roll on the spring! -

Marion

——oOOo——

What A Year

This past year has certainly been very testing and brought us all so many different challenges.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the church elders who have worked together to keep the church family together with services when allowed. Phone contact and being there for one another.

A lot of us are receiving our jabs so hoping for some normality returning as soon as it is officially allowed.

Stay safe everyone.

Pam Bush.

Wash Your Hands

I'm locked down and I'm shielded,
to the scientists I've yielded
and on my face I'm wearing a mask.
At government insistence
I'm observing social distance.
That really isn't very much to ask.

But I'm feeling a temptation
To have done with isolation
and invite the neighbours in for a drink.
To avoid any trouble
I will call us a bubble,
Would that be a good idea d'you think?

They say that we are winning,
but I think they may be spinning
the numbers, the predictions and the graphs.
But the pubs are serving booze and
they've opened up the zoos
so it must be good news for giraffes.

The church bells are not ringing,
doors are open but no singing,
and I would not take a holiday in Spain.
Keep your faith and keep your nerve,
your sense of humour and your verve.
Keep some loo rolls in reserve.
God willing it will all come right again.

Keith Brunton July 2020

Having enjoyed Roger's poem in the last magazine, Keith sent this poem he wrote when the situation was more optimistic.

He and Anne send their best wishes to all at Emmanuel for 2021, with hopes for an end to this crisis.

Thank you, Keith.

Ed

Christmas Collections

The Christmas Tree collection was £100, and the Retiring Collection from the Christmas Day Service was £205. With other donations, £365 was donated to Crisis.

Many thanks to everyone who donated.

Ed

The Great Circuit Bake Off

The circuit organised a bake-off in December. Members were challenged to bake a 'Festive Fantasy' and submit a photo to be judged on-line. The photos were then put on the Circuit website and are shown here. They were judged by "Master Baker" April from April's Kitchen.



The first entry was from Angela in Petts Wood, A lovely Christmas cake.

Rosemary from Chislehurst sent in her flourless chocolate, chestnut and almond cake adapted from an old Venetian recipe.
With holly, reindeer and a red and green Christmas tree.



Mini Christmas puddings from Janet at Petts Wood



With lemon coloured icing and rose and green candies.



Third place went to Clare and Mark from New Eltham

It's over 30 years since Mark last attempted to use an icing pen. He hoped we found it legible.

Second place went to Stephanie from Orpington

Mini Christmas Cakes with green leaves and red



The Circuit Star Baker was Judith from Emmanuel with an alternative Christmas cake.

A Tunis cake. Lemon madeira type cake with chocolate ganache, marzipan green holly leaves and red berries.

Lockdown Walks with a Camera

How well do you know Sidcup?

I took my camera on our exercise walks with Jacob, from home through the local parks. Do you recognize these sights?

Answers on last page.

Tony





Watendlath and Beyond

Watendlath is a tiny, remote hamlet which we pass through on one of our favourite Lakeland walks. It is situated at the head of a hanging valley.

The name Watendlath means water-end barn which is a very suitable explanation, as the road from Borrowdale ends on reaching the hamlet. Watendlath once belonged to the monks of Fountains Abbey. Today it belongs to the National Trust as do the Herdwick sheep. A tenant farmer looks after the farm and manages the Herdwicks, thus ensuring the survival of this breed.

The seven-acre tarn, fed by Blea Tarn Gill, is stocked with trout and is well known to anglers. It was given to the National Trust by Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise, in memory of her brother, King Edward VII. The outflow from the tarn continues under a picturesque packhorse bridge, reputed to be the most photographed one in the country, along the valley and over the Lodore Falls finally into Derwentwater. The views of the valley and surrounding fells are stunning. The Tate Gallery houses a painting of Watendlath painted by Dora Carrington in 1921 on a summer holiday there

There are several farm buildings in the hamlet, including a seasonal tearoom and a National Trust Bothy. Fold Head farmhouse was used by Hugh Walpole as the fictional home of Judith Paris in his Herries Chronicles which were written in the early 1930s.

I have always been fascinated by the blue plaque marking this home and have often wondered what sort of character Judith Paris was portrayed as. During this pandemic, with plenty of time for reading, I decided it was an opportunity to embark on the novels Hugh Walpole wrote. The Herries Chronicles consist of 4 books, namely Rogue Herries, Judith Paris, The Fortress and finally Vanessa. It is a family saga lasting over two hundred years tracing the trials and triumphs of the Herries family through the generations.

So finally, I met fictional Judith Paris and her family and pictured them in an





environment which I have grown to love over the last few years. I discovered what a dynamic, forceful and delightful heroine, with fiery red hair and a zest for life, Judith Paris was.

The fascinating family story and characters of the books unfolded themselves amongst the villages and fells I have become familiar with during our frequent visits to

Cumbria. Although I couldn't physically be there, in my mind I followed the footpaths and climbed the fells I know and love. Throughout the days I had my head in the book, I was enjoying a welcome escape back amongst the mountains.

The action in this fascinating story took place mainly in the beautiful landscape of the Borrowdale valley which we are familiar with and which is almost unchanged since the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when the fictional story is historically told. The detailed descriptions of the lakes and tarns, the mountains and fells are as real and dramatic today as they were when Hugh Walpole wrote his novels and set the story in the landscape he lived in and knew so well.

For me, enjoying reading the dramatic tales of the fictional Herries family also helped me to relive memories of many happy and rewarding days we have spent walking in such a beautiful part of the world. How different from the walks this pandemic has limited us to here in Sidcup !

As soon as the current pandemic restrictions are eased enough to allow us to travel safely, we will be back to the place that inspired an author to set some of his dramatic novels and somewhere which is very dear to our hearts.

Judith

Please Note

The closing date for copy for the **Jun / July / Aug Outlook** will be
Thursday 20th May

Earlier contributions will be welcomed.

Please plan ahead and make sure that I am aware of any events or meetings that need to be included on the calendar.

Tony Howard

Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com

Be Happy – Keep Smiling.

I think I, like many others have given up watching or listening to the News. They are nothing but doom and gloom merchants and it is not surprising that depression and mental illness are top of the agenda of virtually every single program on the television and radio. Stop listening to the news and get back to being your usual, happy, cheerful, positive and optimistic selves.

We are incredibly lucky to be living in this wonderful country of ours with our fantastic N.H.S., our clever scientists, workers and volunteers who have helped invent, produce and distribute vaccines on a colossal scale so that most of our population who are considered vulnerable will have received their first jab within the next few weeks. I am sure that our government were a bit slow off the mark with this pandemic but they have got the bit between their teeth now. Let us all support them and stop knocking them.

I like to think of previous generations who suffered unbelievable hardships who just had to pick themselves up, dust themselves down and face up to the realities of life with a smile on their faces and get on with it. We are lucky, we have friends and family on the end of the phone to talk to and most of us can now ZOOM or WHATSAPP like true professionals. Let us look forward to soon being able to all meet up again.

A great big hug and a kiss to all you lovely ladies and a nice strong firm handshake to all you gents.

Roger

Picture Quiz

‘The Fold’ apartments by the station

Holy Trinity church hall

‘The White House’ Half Way St. Sidcup's oldest house 1452.

The bath house in the Hollies

The lychgate at Holy Trinity, minus the gate itself.

Old cottages opposite Burnt Oak school

Burnt Oak School

The refurbished dome at Rose Bruford College in The Glade

New park in Old Farm Avenue.

Old tree in Marlborough park. Does anyone know why the fence?

Sidcup Place garden

Sidcup Place ha-ha

A Little Egret on the stream in the golf course

Full colour versions of all pictures can be seen in the magazine on the website.

Weekday Activities

Before Covid-19

Monday	2. 00pm	Woman's Hour (except Bank Hols)
	5. 45pm	3 rd Sidcup Beavers
	6. 30pm	3 rd Sidcup Cub Scouts
	7. 30pm	3 rd Sidcup Scouts
Thursday	10. 00am	Ladies Morning Club
Friday	10. 30am—noon	Coffee Morning
	1. 30pm	Parents & Toddlers Club
	4. 45pm	6 th Sidcup Rainbows
	6. 00pm	6 th Sidcup Brownies
	7. 30pm	4 th Sidcup Guides



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Awaiting new Minister

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