

# Lent 2022 BOUNCING FORWARDS

**Daily:** Pick up the booklet of daily readings and reflections

**Daily:** Join morning prayer on our Facebook page 'Parish of Cowley' or via our website (A recorded morning prayer including the bouncing forward reflections is put up daily)

**Weekly:** Join one of our home groups.  
**Wednesday 7:30 pm 13 Annesley Road Mark Oxbrow Home.**  
**Thursday 7:30 pm with Geoff in the Ranklin Room**

**In the background:** why not read the book

## Reaching out to the Ukraine



A Church of England press release: "This attack is an act of evil, imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long."

In the coming days and weeks there will be great need. Over the coming weeks we will gather a collection of money to support those who are in need. This will be sent via a credited aid agency which will be determine din the coming weeks.

# Chronicle

March 2022

# From the Editors

*Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens*

Spring has begun and the daffodils are flowering to cheer us up – a welcome cheerfulness at this stormy time. Lent has just begun, Easter Eggs are being advertised, and perhaps your thoughts turn to spring-cleaning (or perhaps you have been very good during the lockdowns and a special clean is not needed!)

It looks as though the Parish Walkers are turning into a hardy “lot” – what a good idea, lunch at a local hostelry!

The Chronicle used to receive book reviews. Generally people are reporting that they have been reading more over the lockdowns and perhaps you have a book or books you would like to tell us about? We would be very interested to include any reviews received – and, of course, any other interesting articles you would like to submit.

We do hope you enjoy this publication – as we start thinking of the April edition!

Nicki and Sally

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## PARISH WALKS

Walks have been continuing this year - on the last one we walked from St James Church Centre to Iffley Church, a very pleasant walk, and then on to the Hawkswell House Hotel. We got to the hotel just as it started raining. We had a drink, sitting around a lovely fire, before getting rather wet on the walk home!



We happened to see the lunch menu when waiting for our drink, so we have decided that in the near future we will meet for lunch before walking to enjoy what looked like a very nice menu. Many people who do not come on the walks are circulated with details – perhaps you would like to join us for lunch? Details will be circulated to everyone.

Our next walk is on Monday, 7 March 2022, meeting at St James Church Centre at 1.30 pm, hopefully to walk to Sandford via the river (weather permitting). Walks will continue fortnightly (although we cancelled one during the very bad storm – so we do take note of weather forecasts normally)

## A word from the Rectory

*When you just can't sit on the fence*

Let me remind you of two events recorded by St John.

The first, an encounter of Jesus and a crowd. They thrust a young woman in front of him. The woman had been caught in adultery. Calmly, he writes in the soil, and then responds, He who is without sin may cast the first stone. (John 8: 1 to 11)

The second, at the start of Passover. Jesus visits the Temple. He encounters money changers and dealers in doves. In response he turns over the tables and drives the animal dealers out. (John 2: 13 to 22)

I wonder how you see these events? In your mind, do they perhaps show inconsistency?



Such a question leads my thoughts to another event.

One cen-

tral to our understanding of the season of Lent: Jesus spending 40 days and nights in the desert. Whilst on this retreat, he is tempted, 3 times, by the devil. On each occasion he draws on his broader experience of the Father's will, and expectations! It is this broader knowledge that enables him to respond faithfully to the challenges he faces.

In our earlier readings, we see similar. Jesus' broader knowledge of the Father's desires, and heart, enable him to respond. It is noteworthy that his responses protect those who might be abused. When we know the Father's broader will, we can focus, faithfully, on to a detailed situation: We can be Kingdom builders. This is why we encourage everybody to read the Bible daily. May our knowledge grow this Lent.

Do please read the Archbishops' accompanying letter. I believe it is both strong and fair.

May God bless you.



Benson Cottage

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24 February 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.*

*John 14.27*

Many of us will have troubled hearts as we watch with horror the attack by Russia on Ukraine. As we have already said, this attack is an act of evil, imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long. The attack by one nation on a free, democratic country has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions and condemnation.

We lament with the people of Ukraine, and we pray for the innocent, the frightened and those who have lost loved ones, homes, and family.

We continue to call for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces as well as wide-ranging efforts to ensure peace, stability and security.

These events remind us powerfully that peace is precious and it is fragile. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper and he leaves them his peace. This is not a mere greeting, but rather something deep and abiding. This peace is something that only Jesus gives; for it is a gratuitous gift, a way of living, something to be received for the gift of peace is the gift of Jesus himself. That is why the Lord is able to offer reassurance to our hearts, why those who receive the gift of the peace of Jesus Christ at the deepest of levels should not be afraid.

Peace, therefore, is so much more than the absence of war. It is a gift, and it is also a decision, a gift that must be received. It is a choice we make that shapes

the way we live well alongside each other. It characterises our relationship with God. It comes into being by seeking justice.

In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again turn to the Lord and receive God's gift of peace, work for God's justice, know God's reconciliation and love, and choose paths not of hatred or destruction, of violence or retribution, but God's way of justice, mercy and peace.


As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world.

We pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too.

You can find liturgical resources on the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/praying-peace-world>

However and whenever you pray, pray that the world may choose peace, and be assured of our prayers for you.

With every blessing,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is for Justin Welby, and the bottom signature is for Stephen Cottrell. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell  
Archbishop of York

LAMPS  
presents

# THE PASSION

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in this moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter story.

Told from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, The Passion leads us up to and through the events of Holy Week to the cross and beyond.

Performed by a small talented cast, this original and inspiring production has been toured all over the UK.

“A life-changing experience for me... I honestly had trouble getting to sleep as I kept reflecting on what I had seen and heard.”  
R.Dennell - Oxfordshire

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South Oxfordshire Filling Station  
presents a performance of

## ‘The Passion’

at the Great Hall, Cholsey Meadows, Fair Mile, Wallingford OX10 9GW

on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Doors open at 7pm for performance start at 7.30pm.

Following acclaim for ‘Bread & Starlight’, performed in Marsh Baldon village hall in December, South Oxfordshire Filling Station have engaged Lamps theatre company to present their novel interpretation of a ‘Passion’ play at an Easter performance in the larger venue of the Great Hall, Cholsey Meadows.

We invite you to come and enjoy this professional thought-provoking theatre performance. Everyone welcome. (See the flyer in the link below for more information)

Tickets for £10 can be bought at <https://cholveydt.org.uk/bookings/the-passion/>

Tickets also available on the night at £15. Refreshments provided.



**COMMUNITY HUB DAYS**


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**Monday 7th March 2022**  
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ark-t.org



**COMMUNITY HUB DAYS**

**The Ark-T Centre**

- Under-5's Soft Play 9.30-11.30am
- Pay-as-you-feel meal 12-2pm
- Chat, newspapers and games 2-3.30pm
- HerSpace Jr\* 3.30-5.30pm \*pre-register

The Waste2Taste cafe at Ark-T Centre will be open for tea & cake from 9-11.30am

**The Venue**

- Dementia info and advice 10-11am
- 1:1 benefits, debt and housing advice 10-11am

In collaboration with:

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- WILLIOWI
- GPA
- The Agnes Smith Adult Centre

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## CHILDREN'S CORNER

When I was your age I was not naughty, or cheeky and believe it or not, I was a very quiet 'good boy'. I had a sister who was luckily younger than me. She was not at all bossy, so we got on quite well. We did not travel far together as a family. At least, not in my younger years. No one travelled very far, mainly because we could not afford it and holidays were shorter. Very few people living in Cowley had a car, although houses were usually built with 'garage access', especially the new houses on Sunnyside, with the hope that one day the family would be able to afford a car to visit relatives and go on holiday, usually to the seaside in the UK. Nobody went on holiday abroad when I was at school. Working at the car factory my father hoped he might own a car one day. He walked to work and most others cycled. Married women usually did not go out to work, especially if they had a family. Their job was 'keeping house' and looking after the family that often, included grandma. Care Homes for older people were almost unknown. You only flew in an aircraft if you joined the RAF.

My 'adventures' really began when I learned to ride a bike. With much less traffic than nowadays it was a useful and quick way of getting to the scouts or church youth club and of course when you reached eleven years old you had to go to one of the larger schools. If you were very lucky, you got a scholarship to a grammar school, or the technical College. Some of these were in a different part of Oxford so that you needed two buses to get there. More cost and time. A bicycle was a good investment, and my first *new* bicycle was when I got a scholarship to the Oxford Boys School in the centre of Oxford. My school was in town but the sports field was in North Oxford. That meant a five-mile cycle ride *before* the game of rugby or cricket, and another five miles after the match to get home, in all weathers! Boy, were we fit.

Cycling is certainly useful to keep you fit and healthy, but it also allows you to enjoy the journey and surroundings better than speeding by in a car. On one occasion I thought I would visit relatives in Stroud. That is 50 miles away. My parents were not worried about me because there was very little traffic in those days. I was a careful cyclist and always looked after my bicycle, cleaning and oiling it to keep it in good condition, and paying particular attention to keeping the tyres inflated so that the tyres were not damaged. It also helped to give a smoother ride and for the tyres to last longer. I always carried a repair kit with me on long journeys, plus a tyre-pump and of course a map if I travelled outside Oxford. If you had a puncture, you mended it beside the road. No mobile phones in those days!

On another adventure to an aunt who lived near Salisbury, I travelled by bus. You could get a direct coach and then the local bus but although it took longer, we visited all the small villages off the main roads along the way, making it far more interesting than simply rushing along a main road. There were no by-passes in those days. In addition, if you wanted to stop off in one of the towns along the route, it was no trouble and added to the interest for the journey. But with any journey, you have to go prepared with emergency snacks...and an apple.

Sometimes we are in a rush and are too hasty to enjoy the journey. Life is a journey and yours will be very different to mine but we should all enjoy the journey and the company we keep along the way. If you take your time you will meet some very interesting people and be able to do all kinds of marvellous things. Enjoy today and give thanks, but save some energy for tomorrow.

Uncle Ben

# MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

The February meeting of the Mothers' Union diocesan members' prayer group focused on the role of women. First, we looked at the story of St Frideswide, the patron saint of Oxford, and a great role model for us all.

If ever there was anyone who, through determination and a deep faith in God stuck to her convictions, it would be her. This was followed by

members sharing their own respects for women who stand by their beliefs, from our Queen to Florence Nightingale, from the suffragettes to Edith Cavell. And, of course, women in our own time speaking up and making a difference. Then followed a discussion on women in our own parish who have made, and are still making, the world a better place.

The prayers focused on women throughout the world, who are facing all kinds of danger, deprivation and marginalisation.

As ever, a social time was shared with a cup of tea and biscuits, during which we discussed the success of the Valentine Tea. This was held during the month and attracted a large group of people. We congratulated ourselves on the superb array of puddings which we had provided for the event.



Rosanne Butler

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## SUPPORT PHONE NUMBERS

NEEDING ADVICE OR HELP? or just want to talk?

SOME USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS:

Citizens Advice:	08082 787 909
Oxford City Council:	01865 249 811
Oxfordshire Mind:	01865 247788
Red Cross <i>coronavirus support line</i> :	08081 963 651
Samaritans <i>available 24/7</i> :	116 123
The Archway Foundation:	01865 790 552
Mental Health helpline <i>available 24/7</i> - NHS Oxford Health:	
Adults:	01865 904 997
Children/young people:	01865 904 988
Age UK—new telephone service for older people	01865 411288

Have you been receiving a lot of scam calls on your phone, some of them quite scary? If you are concerned about them, you can obtain help by:

- phoning 03450 700 707 – that's a special department set up by the police *OR*
- Silver Lines, open 24 hrs for assistance on 08004 708 090 - this is a charity set up by Esther Rantzen, primarily to assist those elderly people in need of assistance and who live alone and are in fear of being abused.



## RECIPES

### Soups for the cold days ahead

#### Parsnip and Apple Soup

- 1oz butter
- 1 tbsp sunflower oil
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1lb 5oz parsnips, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1lb 5oz Bramley apples, peeled, quartered and cut into chunks
- 1¾ pints vegetable or chicken stock
- 5fl ozs milk
- Flaked sea salt and freshly ground black pepper



Melt the butter and oil in a large saucepan. Gently fry the onions and parsnips for 15 minutes, or until the onions are softened. Add the garlic and apples and cook for a further two minutes, stirring regularly.

Pour over the stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for about 20 minutes, or until the parsnips are very soft. Remove from the heat and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Blend the mixture in a food processor until smooth.

Stir in the milk, adding a little extra if required. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

#### Pumpkin Soup

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 small onions sliced and pushed out into rings
- 1 lb pumpkin skinned and chopped
- 2 pints chicken stock
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 large stalk of celery, chopped
- 1 large potato peeled and chopped
- A tablespoon of lemon juice
- A dash of tabasco sauce
- 8 fl oz double cream
- 1 teaspoon paprika

In a large heavy saucepan melt the butter over moderate heat. Add the onions and pumpkin and cook gently for about 6 minutes stirring

occasionally. The onions should be soft but not brown.

Stir in the stock and add the celery, potato, salt, lemon juice, tabasco and the teaspoon of paprika. Turn up heat, bring to the boil and stir. Turn heat to low, cover the pan and simmer for 35 minutes until all the veg are very tender. Remove from stove, pour through strainer into large mixing bowl, press veg with back of a wooden spoon to remove the juices. Throw the pulp away. Stir in cream to soup, return to pan and heat gently, stirring but not allowing soup to boil.

Can be served with croutons on top if desired.

#### TRY THIS FOR A DESERT

(from Cakes, Bakes, Puddings and Prayers by Susan Over)

#### Speedy Turnovers (serves 4)

- 3 slices medium-sliced white bread
- Butter for spreading and frying
- Spices to taste eg ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg
- Your choice of stewed or tinned fruit or fruit pie-filling

- 4 medium eggs
- 4 tablespoons caster sugar
- 4 tablespoons whole milk or single cream

1. Butter all the slices of bread on one side only, then cut off the crusts.
2. Place four slices of bread on a board, butter side up. Mix a little spice into your chosen fruit filling and divide between the four slices. Use the other four slices of bread, butter side down, as lids. Press together to seal the edges.
3. Beat eggs, sugar and milk or cream together in a shallow dish, then place sandwiches in mixture, turning to ensure they are evenly coated.
4. Melt butter in a large pan and, when starting to sizzle, fry turnovers on a low heat until golden on both sides, turning carefully.

# Prayer Space

O God who loves us,  
we offer this day into your keeping:  
our plans into your providence,  
our concerns into your love,  
our words into your silence,  
our activity into your stillness.

Look upon us in your steadfast love  
and grant us your saving health,  
so that we may be instruments  
of your healing for others,  
and all may grow into wholeness  
in your praise.

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Gracious God,  
you came to our world through Jesus  
Christ,  
and, despite everything that conspires  
against you,  
your love continues to shine through him.

You conquered the forces of evil,  
you overcame the sting of death,  
and you brought joy out of sorrow,  
hope out of despair.

Teach me, whatever I may face,  
to hold on to that truth,  
confident that you will always lead me  
out of darkness  
into your marvellous light.

Hold on to me when life is hard,  
and assure me that you are present  
even in the bleakest moments,  
able to use every moment of each day  
in ways beyond my imagining.

Amen

(Taken from Prayerfully Yours  
By Nick Fawcett)

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## AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU'RE YOU?

I thought I'd like to share with you the words  
of a little song which I learnt as a little girl in  
the nineteen forties. At this time of so much  
doom, gloom and bad news, it is so positive.  
I use it as a prayer of thanks to God, for sur-  
rounding us with lovely things.

Ev'ry time you're near a rose  
Aren't you glad you've got a nose?  
And when the rose is full of dew  
Aren't you glad you're you?

When a meadowlark appears  
Aren't you glad you've got two ears?  
And when your heart is singing too  
Aren't you glad you're you?

You can see a summer sky,  
Or touch a friendly hand  
Or taste an apple pie,  
(Pardon the grammar) but ain't life grand?

And when you wake up each morn  
Aren't you glad that you were born?  
See what you've got your whole life  
through.  
Aren't you glad you're you?

Bing Crosby sang this song in one of his old  
black & white films. Some of our readers  
may know the tune, so go on, sing it like a  
prayer!

Rosanne Butler

# Cowley Library - 2022

The library is still going strong although the last couple of years have been quite a challenge. Keeping the service going amid a global pandemic has tested our ingenuity at times but we are now fully open again and cautiously ceasing our Covid precautions.

When the pandemic struck, the library staff were all sent home and had a very interesting few months working from home whilst careful plans were made to reopen safely.

Some of the team helped with welfare calls to vulnerable people and two were even directing traffic at the recycling centre!

We were finally allowed to open with a staff member on duty at the door to limit numbers. All the staff enjoyed this – an opportunity to sit outside in fine weather and greet customers!

We were also offering 'click & collect', which involved us choosing books when customers were unable to come in. It was fun for us and gave readers a chance to try something which they may not have chosen for themselves.

Now that we are fully open and the Covid situation has eased a little, we now offer:

- \* 2 rhyme time sessions a week for under 5's
- \* A reading group for adults – if you would like to join this monthly group please ask at the library.
- \* A new event for us: a monthly children's story time in Italian, courtesy of our Italian staff member
- \* Local schools have begun to bring children in as part of the school day, so you may hear even more 'happy chatter' as they choose books to take to school.
- \* Library staff can validate documents for bus passes, blue badges, residents parking and zero emission zone exemptions by appointment – ring us for details.
- \* Home library service is still going strong – if you know anyone who would like the service please get in touch
- \* And of course, books, audio books, large print, e-books & e-audio, online newspapers and magazines, online learning courses and much more.

We are beginning to welcome back volunteers and are keen to hear from anyone who would like to help customers on computers, delivering books to the housebound or helping with a play session in the library which we are hoping to restart soon.

If you are interested, contact the library for a chat.

The library is open:

Monday & Friday 9.15 – 5.30

Tuesday & Wednesday 9.15 – 7.00

Saturday 9.00-4.30

Gill Manning, Library Manager

# A WARTIME CHILDHOOD

(Part 17)

During the school holidays, it was always an enormous treat for me to be taken on the ten o'clock bus with my mummy for a day out in Oxford. Of course, we always went on a Wednesday, which was market day. The bus was a double-decker, but one which had been specially constructed to be low enough to travel under Oxford railway bridge, therefore it had a low ceiling. However, no trouble to this little girl who would get mummy to climb up to the top deck and, if possible, to find a front seat. By the way, the bus had the old livery of deep maroon and olive green.

Off we would trundle through the villages: Stanton Harcourt, Eynsham, (where my granny lived), Farmoor and then up the Botley Road to finally arrive in Gloucester Green, where all the country buses had their designated bays. Until quite recently, Gloucester Green had been the city's cattle market, and the metal barriers between the bays were reminders of those days.

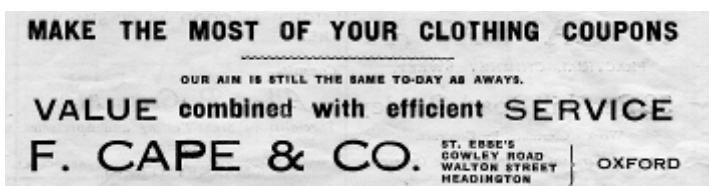
Along New Inn Hall Street we'd go, usually with a long shopping list of necessary items to buy. I loved the shops and can remember so many of them. On the corner of St. Ebbes was Cooper's with the delightfully squeaky floor. Further along was Capes. Now *there* was a shop!



July 1922

It had very high counters but in front of them were tall bentwood chairs for customers. Mummy would lift me up on to a chair so that I could see what was going on. I loved to see the shop assistant measure out a yard of elastic (very hard to get) or a yard of ribbon for my hair, along the brass measuring ruler which was embedded into the counter. But best of all, was the 'overhead railway' on which metal boxes would whizz across the ceiling with cash and bring back your change. You could buy all sorts of useful things in Cape's, and they were all priced at 'something' and three farthings (for example: 6  $\frac{3}{4}$ d.). This meant that when you handed over your 7d., instead of getting  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. change, you were offered something like a card of pins. I still have one of those cards in my sewing cupboard.

At the end of Queen Street was another fascinating shop – MacFisheries. It was always a bit chilly in there but no matter, because in the middle of the shop was a pool in which were real, live fish. My mum was very keen on plaice which she would serve with lovely creamy, parsley sauce and mashed potatoes. Those fillets were bought from MacFisheries.



November 1942

I was always a bit sorry for the poor fish which would be scooped out of the pool. I couldn't look while they were killed and filleted by the fishmonger with his big sharp knife!

On we would go to Carfax paved, as it was in the war, with black rubber tiles. These were very slippery on wet days. Sometimes we had to post items at the General Post Office in St. Aldates. While mummy was being served at the counter, I would wander across the beautiful mosaic tiles on the floor. There were all kinds of motifs, but my favourite was a dolphin which I had never before seen, of course. When I saw my first live dolphin years later, my memory took me back to Oxford's GPO.

At Carfax, we shopped at Sainsbury's, again with lovely mosaics but this time on the walls. I remember the scenes of milkmaids with yokes and buckets, in fields of Freisian cows. If mummy had enough points in ration books, she might buy a couple of slices of ham (a big treat). I enjoyed watching the big slicer with its metal wheel slide across the ham to produce thin slices.

Webbers, next in The High, sold smart clothing amongst other delights. On one occasion my mum had saved enough coupons to treat herself to a smart tweed suit in Webbers. That suit graced many a W.I. meeting in the village, I can tell you!

Cornmarket had some wonderful shops, but best of all for me was Woolworths. Proper shop assistants stood behind proper counters where you could buy anything from clothes pegs and washing line to a box of candles and a pair of shoe laces. Grimbly Hughes was for

posh pastries, or there was 'Zacs for macs' – and so many more.

Twice a year the main aim of our shopping trips would be shoes for me. We usually went to Dolcis, but sometimes Millwards. Every spring I had a new pair of Clarks sandals for Easter. They were then regular summer wear. In the autumn it would be sturdy 'Startrites' with their curvy heels – which would see me through the winter. Elliston & Cavell was where mummy would buy the cotton fabric to make my summer dresses. I was allowed to sit up on the counter while the big boulds of fabric were produced. I was then allowed to choose the prettiest ones whilst the shop assistant measured out the right lengths and sliced across with her enormous scissors. By then it would be time to find somewhere to eat. If we could afford it, we might have lunch in Elliston's restaurant. Being a little girl who liked a bit of luxury, I revelled in the pure white tablecloths, real linen napkins and sparkling glasses. I think the food was pretty basic (it being wartime) but beautifully served. Perhaps, maybe we'd just go back to the Lyons Corner Shop for a cuppa for mum and milk for me, with a bun or Eccles cake. My favourites were the Chelsea buns, which you could unwind as you go. (I still do!).

Best of all though, was tea at the Cadena. I don't know how they did it but there was always a selection of dainty cakes (Fuller's I think) and tea was served in a teapot, with a dear little strainer in its own dish. Again, there were white tablecloths and the waitresses in black dresses and little white 'pinnies' to serve you. Then there was the entertainment:

three elderly ladies would be ensconced on a little stage surrounded with potted palms. One lady played the piano, one the violin and the third, in a very unladylike position, played the cello – all very genteel.

On very special occasions, mummy booked tickets for a matinee performance of a musical show at the New Theatre. I can recall seeing “The White Horse Inn”, the world-famous baritone Richard Tauber in “Old Chelsea” and the London cast of “Me and My Girl”, starring the amazing Lupino Lane. Afterwards, I skipped down George Street singing ‘The Lambeth Walk’.

But more often, it would be a film at The Ritz or ‘The Super’. I found the interior of The Super very intriguing – with its murals of Roman gladiators and charioteers, also the enormous fake urns high up on the walls. But, oh the films! There were Laurel and Hardy, Lassie, Shirley Temple and Tarzan, but best of all were the glamorous girls, like Betty Grable, with legs to die for,

the young Doris Day – and Ester Williams in her beautiful swimsuits, diving into a pool of bathing beauties. I loved Gene Autry, the singing cowboy, but my absolute favourites were Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, so immaculately dressed – and their white Stetsons never got so much as a speck of dust on them, even after a day “out on the range”!

Back in Gloucester Green to catch the six o'clock bus home, sometimes we would see a dear little man with a barrel-organ, playing a tune – and that somehow seemed a perfect ending to a very exciting day.

Rosanne Butler

P.S. I hope some of our older readers will be able to add more to these memories and that they will write them up for ‘The Chronicle’.

*This month's 'Adverts from the Archives' shows two more from shops mentioned in this article. LEH*



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Thought of the Month

No Peace, No God

Know Peace, Know God

## Of storms and compost

As I was up the extended ladders pruning the wisteria over the front door, I was feeling safe and absorbed cutting the branches to 2 buds. However, I was also wondering how many times I would still be able to do this job each year. It is a job that has to be done in the early Spring and it is surprising how fast the buds bulk up and swell to produce their glorious racemes of flowers in May. They have a gorgeous scent as well. The plant has been here since before we moved in and that is 36 years ago. It is not trained properly at all and would be regarded as a mess to an expert, but I do as best I can. Lots of whippy growth is made in the summer and that gets the chop but the January cum February task is a bit more specific to encourage the flowering buds.

As I stepped back to look at my work, I noticed that I had missed a couple of stems but they will have to stay as the ladders had been put away!

The recent storms have demolished half of the side fence. The bottoms of the posts were beginning to rot, so it was their time. I know we will have to wait a while for a repair as many folks have the same problem and fencing contractors are very busy.

We have also lost a forsythia shrub in the back garden. It's sad because sparrows, mainly, and other small birds take cover in its branches before venturing out to the hanging feeders close by. I have taken some cuttings so I hope not to lose the welcome yellow spring flowers.

My Other Half has had a therapeutic time cutting the branches up to go in the garden waste bin and we have to decide what to plant in the space that is left that will do the same job for the birds.

Having started sowing seeds, off we went to the garden centre to buy compost. On arrival, it was very disappointing to see empty spaces where the compost bags normally sit. I bought one small bag, labelled peat-free, and was told that new stock would be coming in and it will all be peat-free. This is due to the ban on retail sales of peat by 2024 and our garden centre is starting to do that now.

We returned a couple of weeks later to find that deliveries had been made and I bought what would have been my usual compost but at twice the price! There are big arguments on this issue. Peat is great for seeds, cuttings and potting as it holds water and has good drainage. Substitutes such as coir (coconut fibre) have to be imported from South-East Asia and have to be washed free of its high salt content using fresh water, a limited resource there. Waste materials which can be used are often contaminated with plastic.

I will wait and see how my latest supply does. It gives no clue as to what it is made from, except "top quality ingredients".

Joan Coleman

Caring & professional

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## REAL EASTER EGGS - the egg that shares the Easter story

The theme for the eggs this year is 'let's celebrate'

"The Easter story shows us how the resurrection of Jesus replaced sorrow with joy, despair with hope and death with new life. So let's celebrate and share the Easter story like never before!"

Of the 80 million eggs on sale each year, this from the Meaningful Chocolate Company is the only one to tell the story of Easter.

Twelve years on from the launch in 2010, well over a million eggs have been sold. £320,000 has been donated to charitable causes, development and education projects, with the Fair-trade Premium paid to supplying farmers, allowing them to buy everything from school-books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

For Easter 2022, there are seven types of Real Easter Eggs available, along with chocolate bars. Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. The Original, Dark, Special Edition and White eggs are free from palm oil and plastic. There are also bars of chocolate with an 'Easter blessings' wrapper – milk and dark.

Milk chocolate original egg	£4.50
Fun pack (6 midi eggs in an egg box)	£5.00
White chocolate egg	£5.00
Sharing pack (30 midi eggs)	£30.00
Dark chocolate egg	£5.50
Easter mug with 3 midi eggs	£10.80
Special edition	£9.99
Easter blessings bar	£3.00

All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from a simple guide to a beautiful 24-page activity book which includes a prize competition worth £200. The booklets provide an opportunity to share the joy of Easter with friends and family.

None of the supermarkets is stocking these special eggs this year. You can still source them on-line from the company\*; several charities including TLM; Oxford's two fairtrade shops in Headington and Cornmarket, and there's some extra stock in the Parish order:

6 original milk chocolate eggs
2 dark chocolate eggs
4 fun packs = 6 midi eggs in an egg box
12 Easter blessings milk chocolate bars

\* <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>

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