

Five Alive

The Magazine of the Redruth Team Ministry
St Euny Redruth, Christchurch Lanner, St Andrew Pencoys
St Andrew Redruth and St Stephen Treleigh



MARCH 2022
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by FRIDAY 18 MARCH

Rector's notes – MARCH 2022

Lent – a time for a new challenge?

This March edition of Five Alive comes out when we're on the threshold of Lent once more. Traditionally at Lent we give time to '*self-examination, penitence, study and preparation for Easter*'. Not a barrel of laughs, you might think. No indeed, but really important themes, and we don't need to grind ourselves into the dust as we consider them. The writer Katharine Smith, suggests that: *In the Kingdom of God we repent not by feeling bad, but by thinking differently.*

The tradition of giving something up for Lent is age-old, and perhaps you have something in mind to give up. But I happen to think the alternative taking something up can be even more helpful, especially if it helps us to think differently. Elsewhere in this magazine is a write-up of four very different Lent Courses, and I hope you'll see if there's one you might join. It's only for five weekly sessions, but it might just give you a whole new perspective on some aspect of your faith.

Also for Lent, I make no apology for advertising 9am Zoom Morning Prayer again. In Lent 2021 at least three different people responded to the challenge of having a go at joining in – and one of those people has been present most days since then. The other two are also regular, but usually just once a week. If you *can* Zoom but you've never tried, I do encourage you to give it a go!

On the Way

You'll know about On The Way – it's all the churches in our deanery (18 in total) discerning from God a refreshed vision for mission and ministry, that will set a course for what we hope and pray will lead to our churches to being *fruitful* and *sustainable* in the years ahead. The issue of clergy numbers is part of it. As rural dean I'm leading that process for the deanery, but we're really keen to keep the conversation going with all church members. Please reserve **7pm on Monday 21st March** (venue to be confirmed). If you're concerned about the future direction and clergy numbers for our churches, please put this date in your diary!

Alice's new hip

Finally on a personal note, my wife Alice is due to have a hip replacement on 10th March – having waited a long time for it. In the days leading up to it I'll need to isolate a bit with her to reduce the chances of her getting ill, so my apologies in advance for that – but thankfully so much can happen from home online these days. We'd greatly value your prayers for a successful operation.

With my prayers and best wishes
Caspar Bush (Team Rector)

LIGHTHOUSE

'LIGHTHOUSE' is just one of the groups offered in the Benefice for children and young people. The group, based in Four Lanes and run by Caroline and Grandma Carol meets on the FIRST Sunday of each month, 3.00pm – 5.00pm in the Four Lanes Chapel. The group also hopes to offer some activities each school holiday.

The February half-term focused on the winter Olympics with various sports on offer, although the line was drawn at curling down the aisle of the Pencoys Church with wet soap!! However, there was ski-ing, skittles and flap the fish!! Nations were chosen, flags made and medals designed. The work will be on display in the church.

The monthly meetings of LIGHTHOUSE always focuses on a theme which is part of the life of the wider church. Prayers are offered, candles are lit and the work achieved is shared on the SECOND Sunday of the month at the church family service, with the young people taking part as much as possible.

YOU will always be welcome at LIGHTHOUSE, and the young people will be very happy to share their tea with you, which is an important part of the meeting.



ST STEPHEN'S TRELEIGH



As mentioned in last month's magazine on Sunday 6th February we held our first, of what we hope to be a regular, first Sunday in the month, Informal Holy Communion Service at the usual time of 11.15am. Caspar set up the big screen and the whole of the service was shown pictorially on this with no need for books. Lynn Cocup accompanied the hymns on her keyboard. The screen will not always be used so in future there may be the need for hymn books and service sheet.

The second Friday in the month Healing Service continues with Reverend Margaret and Fr. Peter and for those who haven't been, it really is an uplifting and peaceful time.

It is hoped when the evenings are lighter we may get a few more people from our sister churches, you will be so welcome. A ramp is available and has been used.

Our weekly service continues on Thursdays at 10am when the church remains open until 12noon for visitors, private prayer or just a friendly chat and cup of tea/coffee so if you are unable to make the service please pop in from 10.30am onwards.

The Ash Wednesday HC Service with Ashing will be at 7pm on 2nd March and at the Mothering Sunday Service on 27th March small bunches of flowers will be distributed to the ladies, a few men also, and Simnel cake made by Anne will be given out over tea/coffee in the hall following the service.

All the Easter Services will be printed in the April edition of Five Alive. On Saturday 12th March from 10.30am - 12.30pm there will be a Churchyard tidying morning. Please bring your own tools if possible but some spares will be available to borrow. Everyone welcome and hot drinks and biscuits will be served. We hope for more favourable weather than the last time we held such an event! It will be worth coming just to see the beautiful spring flowers, primroses, celandines & crocuses that are already heralding the promise of spring.

The people of St. Stephen's were saddened to hear of the passing of our dear and faithful friend, Mary Willis at Mount Pleasant Care Home, Camborne.

At the 10am HC Service on Thursday 17th February, the day before her funeral at St. Stephen's, Fr. Peter said special prayers for her, may she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

A tribute to her will be printed in the April edition of Five Alive and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.

On Saturday 5th February, a group of around 30 people enjoyed a post Christmas meal at Tehidy Golf Club expertly arranged by Carol Stewart who also amassed a wonderful array of raffle prizes. The Grace was given by Caspar who also expressed our thanks to Carol for a most enjoyable evening.

Christine Cunningham

ST EUNY

Ninety nine years ago the Rev. Gilbert H. Doble was curate at St Euny Redruth. He is better known as Canon Doble, vicar of Wendron and Canon of Truro Cathedral. A renowned historian, he is remembered for his histories of the saints of Cornwall.

The history of Saint Euny was one of his earlier publications, reflecting his interest in the place in which he was serving his ministry. Having researched and understood more about the saint, Rev. Gilbert Doble revived the celebration of feast which had fallen into abeyance at Redruth. Feast days were once celebrated at most, if not all parish churches in Cornwall and were a time of holiday, a break from work, community processions, praise and leisure. The story of St Euny written by Rev. Doble was the basis of his sermon preached on Sunday 4th February 1923, the Sunday closest to 1st February which is the feast day of St Euny. This is the day which is almost certainly the day on which the saint died.

A procession to the church preceded the service and his sermon describing the research of the life of St Euny by Canon Doble was delivered, probably lasting a lot longer than we would expect of our sermons today. The procession became a fixed event for many years as part of the feast celebrations.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century Redruth Feast was celebrated each year by a special service at the United Methodist Church (Flowerpot Chapel on Fore Street), and sometimes by a tea there, but not held as a special event by any other church in the town. In the early twentieth century special services were held dedicated to the feast of St Euny at St Euny Church, but it was a low-key affair compared to feast days in other Cornish towns and villages. In 1907 the Lord Bishop of Truro was invited to preach at St Euny Feast service in St Euny church and the event rose in popularity, although it was still said that it was maintained more by the non-conformist churches than by the Church of England.

Our feast this year was celebrated with an evening service followed by a special roast supper. After an ample sufficiency of roast beef and vegetables followed by hot puddings, we completed our repast with a rich fruit cake dedicated to St Euny, baked by Liz Hopgood. It was lovely to see so many people from across the benefice meeting and enjoying time together after so many cancelled events. We are now planning our next social and culinary indulgence.

Later in the week Year 3 from Pennoweth School came to find out about Saint Euny in the church, through a lively story from our Grand Bard, Pol Hodge. Pol has been researching the Cornish saints' stories and is an engaging and humorous public speaker. The children were a pleasure to host and very attentive. Redruth Old Cornwall Society supported this by funding Pol's costs, in partnership with St Euny.

Linda Beskeen

St. Andrew's Pencoys with Four Lanes Methodist Church 'FLAPJACK'

Worshipping, praying and working together as 'One in Christ'

St. Andrew's Church remains open daily from about 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with Covid-safe precautions in place. Please wear a face covering when visiting the church, use the hand-santiser and observe social distancing.

The First Sunday Evening Event on 6th February at Christchurch featured the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) with special Christingles to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Queen's accession. We thank everyone who came to support this event, at which an additional sum of £400 was raised for 'Action Against Hunger' for the vulnerable children of Afghanistan, donated via Save the Children, and we are very grateful for such generosity. The next Event, to be held at 6pm on **Sunday, 6th March**, at **Four Lanes Methodist Church**, will celebrate the great Cornish Saint, St. Piran (Feast Day 5th March), Patron of Tin Miners, and will support Water Aid, which at present is funding a clean-water project in Nepal, being promoted as match-funded by the UK Government, and whose people members of Christchurch Lanner have been helping for many years.

The weekly Benefice Holy Communion service remains on Zoom from a live church service at 9.30am or 11.15am, details in the weekly sheet or online from www.redruthchurch.org.uk. The normal pattern of 'Flapjack' services continues, with a said service of Holy Communion at 6pm each **Wednesday at St. Andrew's. On Ash Wednesday 2nd March, this will include Ashing** and will be followed by a Lent Study Course at 6.45pm which will continue each Wednesday evening during Lent.

All **Sunday morning** services are at **11.15am: First Sunday 6th March: Flapjack morning Holy Communion Service at Four Lanes Methodist Church; Lighthouse from 3-5pm. Second Sunday 13th March: Flapjack Family Event, 11.15am, said Holy Communion 12.30pm at St. Andrew's. Third Sunday 20th March**, morning service at the Methodist Church; Holy Communion at St. Andrew's at **6pm. Fourth Sunday 27th March Mothering Sunday: Flapjack morning Holy Communion at St. Andrew's and Teatime Celebration in the Hall at 4pm.**

The FIRST SATURDAY QUIZ will continue online until re-starting in the Hall in May, but please check the weekly pew sheet for updated details. If you would like to compete, please contact Fr. Peter, email: baptism66@gmail.com or on 07903 807946. Fr. Peter also hosts a last Monday Bible Study on Zoom, usually from 4.30 to 6pm, the next two being on 28th February and 28th March. Please contact him if you would like to join the group.

Unfortunately, owing to logistical difficulties, both the monthly Children's Clothing Bank and Jumblefood have been discontinued for the time being, but **Bangers & Mash** will re-start at Four Lanes Methodist Church on Saturday 26th February, then on the last Saturday monthly, from 11am to 1.30pm, (26th March) when everyone will be welcome. We hope to start a **new social event**, a "Fun Prize Bingo" or "**Fungo**" in May (more details next month) and then on each third Saturday evening monthly in the Hall, possibly including a cake raffle. We thank everyone who has generously contributed to the Community Pantry in the church porch, which is extremely well supported, and invite anyone to take fresh food before it perishes, as well as other necessities as needed.

Jill Tolputt

CHRISTCHURCH LANNER

Christchurch remains open 10.00am – 4.00pm and Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9.30am, except on the second Sunday when an informal all age event (CHAMP) is held and Holy Communion is at 3.00pm. The weekday Communion remains on Wednesday at 11.00am and follows the Prayer Book rite.



FIRST SUNDAY EVENT



THANK YOU so much if you were able to be in Christchurch for the February Event, and were able to donate before, during or after the event. A fantastic **£400.00** was raised. That amount follows on from the **£200.00** that was raised at the January Event. This total of **£600.00** will support the appeal for the people of Afghanistan as they face a severe winter and a worsening food crisis. **THANK YOU SO MUCH**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Before the pandemic it was the lay people who distributed the Blessed Sacrament in BOTH kinds. At a recent Church Council Meeting, it was decided that this tradition should be reinstated. The practice is based on the theology that it is the job of the laity to take God's love out into the world, to schools, work places, families and communities. It is the job of the priest to consecrate the elements and to thus strengthen both the laity in their job, and those who receive the Sacrament from their hands.

THE PLATINUM YEAR

There are bound to be LOTS of services and events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. So just WHAT is platinum: **It** is a lustrous, malleable silver, white metal; **It** is less malleable than gold; **It** has an excellent resistance to corrosion; **It** is resistant to wear and tarnish and thus suitable for jewellery; **It** has been found in ancient Egyptian burial sites; **It** is valuable and associated exclusivity and wealth.

HAVE A HAPPY PLATINUM YEAR YOUR MAJESTY!!

TIDDLERS 2

The group continues week by week, including a cooking activity (jam tarts) . **MANY THANKS TO MARGARET D. & LINDA J.** who lead the group.

THE OPEN PANTRY

The pantry is used frequently and donations in cash to FP. or food straight into the pantry will ALWAYS be welcome. We can also use your TESCO vouchers (together with your Clubcard) to increase our supplies. **THANK YOU**

FILM NIGHTS

The very popular film nights on the LAST Friday of each month are due to start again on **FRI-DAY MAY 27**, doors open at 6.30pm., film starts at 7.00pm. Please keep watching the weekly sheets and 'Five Alive' for details of membership, entrance cost and the film title.

CHRISTCHURCH 105

Why not 'tune' into CHRISTCHURCH 105 on the THIRD SUNDAY of each month at 9.30am. New music to sing and a communion service that moves between the music prepared by **JULIA**, the musical director.

FP

ST ANDREW REDRUTH

Saint Andrew's is open for more days in the week than it remains closed and many activities are returning to usual.

Crafty club meets on Monday afternoons and Tiddlers on Thursday mornings. Plans are in place for TOAST to re-start, probably on Friday afternoons, confirmation to follow soon.

The Tiddlers group has been growing in numbers since October and we have a regular attendance of families who have all expressed their gratitude for the fact that we are 'there', as little else is available at little or no cost for young parents/carers and children of this age in Redruth. We are considering the possibility of opening for a second morning as there is so much interest. With the gift of the soft play materials from Par church, which closed its toddler group, the new padded protection of the pillars made by Lez and the reduction of furniture moving, the morning is much easier to set up and put away, making it much less strenuous for helpers. We are able to enjoy the company of the youngsters and their accompanying adults in a more relaxed fashion. If anyone would like to consider helping out, offers of occasional help or something more regular would be much appreciated. We meet from 9.00am to 11.15am on Thursdays. The introduction by Caspar of a selection of '80s disco music in the background helps jolly us all along, but if this is not your favourite 'muzak', I'm sure he would be open to suggestions in return for some volunteer time.

The church will be open on St Piran's Day, 5th March 2022, 10.00am – 12.00pm, where there will be a 'BIG BOOKSALE' event. We have had many donations and this is an opportunity to shift some of the stock we hold. Volunteers would be welcome to assist in selling books, helping with refreshments or supporting the event in any other way. Please contact Lez if you can give some time.

Lez continues to work on the plans for renovation of the 'Jubilee Hall' at the east end of church. Some kind people have volunteered services such as plumbing and electrical work, but there is some way to go before we can move into reconstruction with confidence. Plans have been on display in the North Aisle and Lez is keen to talk to anyone who has ideas or offers. Please do consider whether you could help in any way with this exciting development, which will help us to give so much more to our local community.

Due to difficulties with pianists and rehearsals, the March show planned for St Andrew's has been moved to April. Dates will be confirmed but you will now have longer to look forward to the enjoyment.

Linda Beskeen

LENT COURSES

The Wednesday Evening Lent Course will be at the home of Robin & Trish Knight. We are looking back to a medieval mystery play “The Passion” and will watch it together over the five weeks, stopping in appropriate places for prayer and discussion.

The original production, performed by the National Theatre, was broadcast by the BBC in the mid 1980s with a wonderful cast including Breda Blethyn, Robert Stephens, Brian Glover and Don Warrington and not forgetting Jack Shepherd of ‘Wycliffe’.

Amongst other things will be

- thinking about how ordinary people heard and received the Good News hundreds of years ago and comparing it with today.
- Seeing if the interpretation of the characters around the Passion agree with our own
- Considering our own response to this very different way of hearing the story.
- What we think has changed in the three and a half decades since it was filmed. And so on.

Although there are three plays in the cycle of the Wakefield Mysteries we will only have time for the passion but the group will be given links to “the Nativity” which begins with creation and “Doomsday” which takes us from the resurrection to the end times.”

Booking essential through Jim, Trish or Robin.

Wednesday Mornings in the Crypt at 11.00am with Margaret

This group will be using Stephen B Dawes book **Looking On – Reflections Around the Cross** as a focus for discussion. We will hear of the reactions of ordinary people in and around Jerusalem during the events of Holy Week, look at and listen to what they have to say about Jesus of Nazareth and what his life, death and resurrection might mean.

Featuring are:-

Sameel – sent to bring the donkey back, **Shalimah** – a pilgrim from Galilee

Centurion Jason of Naples, **Alexander** – Principal Secretary to Caiaphas

Michael – Purveyor of Unblemished Lambs, Goats and Pigeons.



WEDNESDAY LENT COURSES *continued*

“Through their eyes”

This LENT the Wednesday course will look at the passion narrative through the eyes of: **Judas, Caiaphas, Pilate, Herod & Barabbas**. Through Bible study and catechesis (relating the past to the present) the course will seek to understand why these five characters, traditionally portrayed as being against Jesus, acted as they did and how their actions inform our own. The course will meet on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 16, 23, 30 & APRIL 6** at **CHRISTCHURCH / 11.45am & PENCOYS CHURCH / 6.45pm**. The material studied will be the same in both settings so you could alternate as your diary allows.

Hope to see you at all or some of the meetings, HAVE A GOOD LENT **FP**

REDRUTH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Now that St Andrew's Redruth, St Euny and Pencoys / Flapjack are operating under a single PCC, we are having just one Annual Meeting covering the work of all three churches - on Wednesday 9th March at 7pm, at St Andrew's. A really important aspect of this meeting is that we must elect two full churchwardens, as well as a new PCC with representatives from all three congregations. Under the terms of our memorandum of understanding, two PCC places will be reserved for each congregation (that makes six in total), but the other three elected places can be of people from any of the three churches. Please do consider standing for one of these elected places - look out for nomination forms and please return them to Jill Tolputt by Sunday 6th March.

Are you a Jig-Saw Enthusiast? Then read on!!

Many of you will know that I love Jig-Saws and head straight for those stalls at all our fetes. It occurred to me that there are other people who love Jig-Saws in our communities and perhaps we could benefit by sharing them through a Jig-Saw Library without taking anything away from our fetes.

I have got a good supply of Jig-Saws to start us off so I don't need any more donations thank you [other than Rob's which I have already accepted]. I hope anyone who is interested will be willing to pay a registration fee of £1 and will be happy for me to have their contact details, plus a fee of 50p for each Jig-Saw borrowed. If you would like to join please contact me on 211775 and I will let you have a list of Jig-Saws to choose from. When you have made your choice we can arrange collection or delivery. In time it is hoped to store the Jig-Saws in the crypt which will be a good place to exchange from and perhaps develop a social occasion too. Don't forget this is open to anyone who enjoys puzzling. I look forward to hearing from you.

Margaret Saville

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

18 February	2022	Lilly and George Munn	St Andrew Redruth
19 February	2022	Millie Wynter Judy Davies	St Stephen Treleigh

FUNERALS

10 January	2022	Anthony Davis	St Andrew Pencoys
11 February	2022	Roy John Harrison	St Stephen Treleigh
18 February	2022	Edith Mary Willis (Mary)	St Stephen Treleigh

REEF COLLECTIONS

As a result of the collections taken at our Benefice service on 30 January added to REEF monies already collected we have been able to send £350 to Unicef to support their work in Tonga following the devastating volcanic eruption.

Richard Robinson

ADVANCE NOTICE

Cornwall International Male Choral Festival

At

ST ANDREW'S REDRUTH

ON

SUNDAY 01 MAY 2022 AT 7PM



With two UK Choirs, one International Choir

And our own Four Lanes Choir

MY MIND

I walk along the path of thought
That leads me to my mind;
It is a place of sanity
That no-one else can find.

And all the thoughts that dwell therein
Belong to only me,
And they produce the visions there
Which I alone can see.

The mind it is a wondrous thing
That no-one can explain,
It gives birth to emotions such
As Love and Joy and Pain.

And should I feel the need to leave
earth's turmoil all behind,
I concentrate on happy thoughts
Engendered in my mind.

At times when faced with problems and
I have to make a choice,
My mind controls how I react
It is my inner Voice.

But even so my Inner Voice
Can oft lead me astray
And I pray to You , O God,
Your Voice I will obey.

My mind belongs to no-one else
As God meant it to be:
It was designed by Him and makes
Myself uniquely ME.

OUR LOCAL HOSPITAL(s)

Just like a pack of cards being shuffled, the buildings and functions of our local hospitals have changed, buildings have closed, new buildings have been added and unfortunately administration has increased. Apart from the staff, who are still loyal and dedicated to the caring of the patients within their care, the objectives of the Guild of Friends has remained the same.

The Friends began as the Women's Guild in 1909 making bed linen, uniforms and gowns for the hospitals. With the advent of the National Health Service, the Women's Guild disbanded and on the 18th February 1949 the Guild of Friends of Camborne, Redruth and Barncoose Hospitals was formed. Their aims were and are the same as they are today.

A meeting, sponsored by Mrs Bickford Smith and presided over by Mrs. Holman, was held in the Camborne Community Centre on the 18th February 1949. It was unanimously decided to form a Guild of Hospital Friends in the Camborne Redruth area. The objectives being to give patients and staff of the Camborne Redruth and Barncoose hospitals the little extras and comforts not provided for under the National Health Service, to visit patients and to help in any way, including fund raising for major requirements.

To become a member of the Friends, an annual subscription of 1/- was fixed. The members were the committee and a wonderful team of collectors. The collectors volunteered to cover the district the hospitals served, asking for the public's support by making a donation to the Friends.

The first officers elected were:-

President Mrs Joyce Bickford Smith

Chairman Mrs W. E. Phillips

Secretary Mrs Molly Forbes

Treasurer Mrs Violet E. P. Paul

In the first year the funds raised were £272 12s 5d.

If anyone would like to join the Friends, you would be very welcome. The Friends do not have a band of collectors now, just a working committee to carry out what our constitution states. Please contact 01209 217141.

Juliet M. Jenkin

AN EXCERPT FROM A DAILY JOURNAL—1986

by Michael Tangye

Sept 3. 1986 'to South Crofty Mine for 8.00am with Raymond Sprague to choose underground sites for staging the Mining and Rescue First Aid Competition. We appear to be making history as such a realistic site has never been chosen before in Cornwall. We changed into drillers and wellingtons with steel toe-cap before proceeding to Robinson's Shaft where we were equipped with helmets and lights, the latter worked by a battery suspended from a belt. At the shaft head we chatted with two mining students from Zimbabwe, based in London, and were joined by our guide Steve Lay from Praze the mines work planner.

The gig, or cage, proved to be of a pattern mentioned in local newspapers of the late 19th century—a narrow rectangular cage divided into an upper and lower compartment; we squeezed into the latter, seven in each section. The lower was filled first, then moved down to fill the upper. The descent was slower than I expected. The walls of the shaft, and the entrances to the different mine levels clearly seen as we passed them. We eventually descended to the 400 fathom level to choose the site for the competition. The area is excellent, with ore shutes of timber and stopes dug upwards off the shaft where casualties can be placed with good effect. One problem will be humidity and lack of air.

The site chosen, we were taken on a tour by our guide, walking carefully along between the tram-rails of the ore trucks with the stream of hot water flowing alongside back to the main shaft. Until recently miners placed tins of beans in the water to warm them for 'croust' - until the radiologist, on a visit to the mine to record radioactivity and radon gas levels, along with another testing for movement within the mine suggested not to do so.

As at Wheel Jane I found the workforce is scattered. Only occasionally does one come across a pair of miners setting up a long mechanical drill, or sitting for croust, bodies gleaming with sweat in the moist heat. We came across a friend of mine, Michael Osmond, and his mate—the top stopes in the mine, each producing about forty tons of 'stuff' from clay. We gazed down deep winzes (**Note: Minor shafts linking levels**) looked up raises and stopes, descended 60ft of iron ladders and wondered how Victorian, and earlier miners had managed climbing down 100 fathoms or more carrying a heavy drill.

It is certainly an education to experience the actual conditions of a mine when one is writing on the subject. Here one sees all the sources of danger, and is not surprised that so many accidents occurred in the past, when the only light available was from a dim flickering candle.

The miners are no longer superstitious like their former family members in the field of mining. Friend, Terry Mankee, the engineering boss, mentioned 'nuggies' the former well known spirits which could be heard digging for ore and our guide spoke of a 45 years old miner who would certainly not whistle underground (a well-known superstition), or come to work on a Friday the thirteenth of a month.

We came to 'grass' (surfaced) in the cage at 12.00pm, showered and discussed what we would arrange. The mine is anxious to surpass the competition stages by the Irish in Ireland—so no expense is being spared!

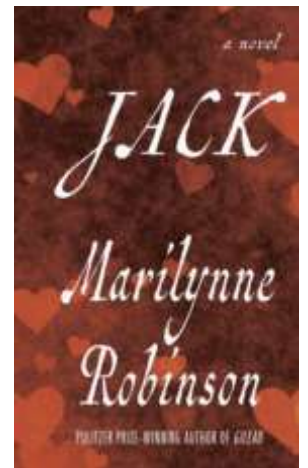
(That result will provide this writer with another article from his journal!)

Benefice Book Club

We had a great meeting on the 4th February to discuss the book by Matt Haig – *The Humans*. Everyone had enjoyed reading about Matt's insight into what it means to be human and the developing relationships of the 'alien' Andrew with his wife Isabel, son Gulliver and the family dog Newton. Sharing our thoughts and reflections on the book took us in a variety of tangents which I thought might encourage you to join us one day. The topics included bile research, aquamation, climate change, human behaviour, relationship with God and other people, refugees, and the different languages we use; body language, the language of sighs and silent moments and most significantly, the language of frowns. This led us on to think about how our eyes speak for us which has become very important during the time we have been wearing masks. Needless to say we learn a lot from one another.

Our next book that we will share thoughts is *Jack*, by Marilynne Robinson, the final story in her trilogy of Gilead.

Jack is the grieved-over prodigal son, a drunkard and a ne'er do well who has left home for St Louis, Missouri. In that segregated city Jack falls in love with an African-American high school teacher, also a preacher's child, Della Miles is a woman with a discriminating mind, a generous spirit and an independent will. Jack is their fraught and beautiful love story.



To give you an added incentive to join us our book for discussion in April will be *The Whale at the End of the World* by John Ironmonger, previously published as *Not Forgetting the Whale* – a gentle and uplifting tale of warding off apocalypse in a remote corner of Cornwall.

It all began with the whale. When a young man washes up on the sands of St Piran in Cornwall, it is clear to the villagers that this is not a regular day. What has brought him here? And what is the crisis only he understands, that threatens not only their community but all of civilisation? With a global pandemic on the horizon, and a whale lurking in the bay, the villagers of St Piran must band together to survive. Intimate, funny and heart-warming, John Ironmonger tells a compelling story about the important things that hold us together and how hope can be found, even at the end of the world.

Please contact Margaret on 211775 if you would like to join us on March 4th or April 1st at her house.

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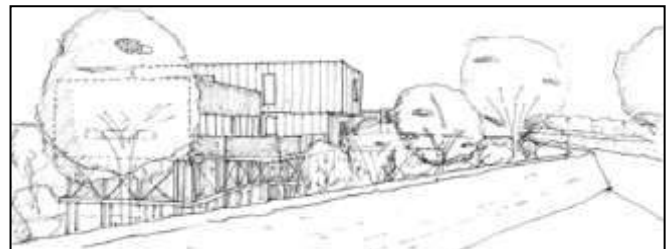
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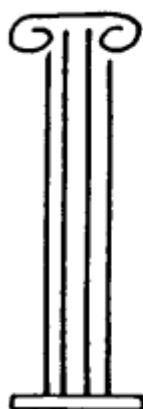


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