

# *Five Alive*

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



**MAY 2024**  
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THE GREAT  
GARDENING EXHIBITION  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
10 AND 11 MAY  
10am—4pm  
AT  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, REDRUTH  
SEE ARTICLE FURTHER ON

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### **FIVE ALIVE MAGAZINE**

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Richard and Rosemary Robinson: [magazine@redruthchurch.org.uk](mailto:magazine@redruthchurch.org.uk)

**Latest date for articles: FRIDAY 17 MAY**

## Our Mission in Cornwall

I was invited to lead prayers at Cornwall Council's April meeting which was a great honour and privilege. It was nice to pray with and for those in authority whom God has called to watch over us, this great county of Cornwall. I am reminded that we don't just pray for those who are vulnerable or struggling but for those in positions of power and influence.

Remember, Jesus spent time with those in authority like Nicodemus or Zacchaeus. However, don't think for a second that I held back on Jesus' challenge and commission of us all; to help those in need and to serve and not be served. I share with you now the words I shared in the council chamber.

In the church, we are in the season of Eastertide, a time between Christ's great sacrifice and his ascension into heaven. It is a time when Jesus reminds the disciples of his great commission and imparts his wisdom and understanding. This commission, a continuation of his works, is marked by compassion and action—feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and liberating the oppressed. A mission, I would argue, not exclusive to the Church but for all humanity.

As someone working directly with those in need, I understand that feeding the poor is a vital expression of our shared humanity. It is about upholding the dignity of every person and ensuring that no one goes without basic sustenance. No one is to go without.

Likewise, healing the sick mirrors Jesus' own ministry of healing. Providing accessible healthcare and support continues the work of bringing wholeness and restoration to individuals and families, irrespective of financial status. All are to have access to healthcare regardless of their economic status.

Setting captives free extends beyond physical imprisonment. It involves advocating against injustice, economic injustice, standing up for the marginalized, the few, the last, the lost, those unseen and unheard, and striving for a society where everyone experiences true freedom and equality.

This commission, this mission has not changed and the need is as great as it has ever been. We/you are tasked with continuing this mission of compassion and justice in our communities. We are to uphold the dignity of every person and affirm the belief that no one should go without.

So, this Eastertide season, we are reminded of our calling to serve all people, pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. May this Easter season inspire us to be agents of hope and transformation in our county, reflecting the enduring message of love and service exemplified by Jesus Christ.

Amen

***Revd Chris Harrigan***

## ST STEPHEN TRELEIGH



On Easter Sunday it was wonderful to experience the church almost full as we welcomed our friends from our sister churches including Four Lanes Methodist Church. The strong, blustery wind was intent on blowing out the flames of the Easter Fire but it was successfully lit in the porch after which the 5 Paschal Candles were lit from the flame and carried high up the aisle to the Altar. 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today' was sung with great Hope as we journey on together through another church year. During the service, as is the custom, we renewed our Baptismal Vows and were 'sprinkled' with Holy Water. The church and porch had been decorated with beautiful flowers and the Easter Garden arranged in front of the altar.

Two baskets of Easter egg chicks were blessed and distributed to all in the congregation and some were reserved and taken to those of our dear friends who are no longer able to attend church in person.

It was heartening to have so many join us in the hall following the service to sample the cakes and chat over a cuppa.

Our grateful thanks go to our Ministry Team for leading us through Holy Week with prayer and reflection.

On Tuesday afternoon, 16th April the Hall was open once again for the monthly tea party for parents/carers of Treleigh Schoolchildren to come in for a cuppa, cake and chat while waiting to collect their little ones. There was a really friendly, chatty atmosphere and the next one will be on Tuesday afternoon 14th May from around 2pm.

On Thursday mornings at 10am Fr. Peter presides at our Said Holy Communion Service.

If you have a spare half an hour, we would love you to join us or pop in for a cuppa and chat following the service as we regularly keep the church open until noon, dogs are welcome too so you could combine their walk through our beautiful churchyard with a time of spiritual and/or physical refreshment. We do have a wheelchair ramp if required and a children's area if you have little ones.

At our recent DCC it was noted that we no longer have the 'manpower' to set up for our yearly Treleigh Fete which is being held on Saturday 6th July from 2pm in the Hawthorn Garden, weather permitting, and therefore we ask if any of our sister Parish Churches would like to join in with us this year, setting up their own stalls and helping erect the gazebos, table and chairs in the morning. We understand that Christchurch and Pencoy's/Flapjack, being part of a village, hold their own fetes but are welcome to have a stall as Christchurch have for several years now. If you are interested in helping please phone Anne Youlton on 01209 214532. We can work out the finer details eg. who benefits from monies collected once we know if this is a feasible option.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our dear friends Jim, Lez and family and with all in our church communities who need the touch of the Holy Spirit, God bless you all.

***Christine Cunningham***

## CHRISTCHURCH LANNER



Christchurch remains open 10.00am– 4.00pm and Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9.30am. The third Sunday is a Communion with new music and each Wednesday there is a Prayer Book Communion Service at 11.00am. *Due to the 'vacancy' the LAST Sunday of each month will revolve through the SIX worship settings and starts at 10.30am*

**THE CHRISTCHURCH SUPPER CLUB:** Christchurch enjoys a SUPPER CLUB every three months. There is always lots of food etc. brought by the guests and a good time, by candlelight is had by all. The next Supper Club date is: **SATURDAY JULY 13**

### OTHER EVENTS AT CHRISTCHURCH

**Margaret's Last Monday Tea Party 2.00pm – 4.00pm.** Home made cake and lots of chat!! The next tea party is on **APRIL 29.**

**TOASTY TUESDAYS:** As the weather is growing warmer, the event has returned to a fortnightly 'games afternoon'. Thanks to Linda and Margaret who provided a weekly lunch in the cold, wet winter which was much enjoyed. The first one in MAY is on **TUESDAY 7th MAY**, and the group has returned to its fortnightly time of **2pm – 4pm**

### CHRISTCHURCH FIRST SUNDAY EVENT IN MAY

**THANKYOU** so much, the event raised £270.00 For DEBRA, the 'Butterfly Skin Charity'

### THE WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

This takes place EVERY Wednesday after the 11.00am BCP service of Holy communion. The group looks at the readings for the coming Sunday and tries to relate it to their own experiences both past and present.

**THE NEW RECTOR:** The Christchurch community and the people of Lanner send their very best wishes to **The Rev'd Rebecca Bell** as she prepares to be licensed as the Rector of Redruth. In case you are not sure, Rebecca will be licensed on **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3.** The time is to be confirmed.

### SUMMER HOLIDAY PROJECT 2014

Christchurch will be hosting TWO summer events for children and young people. The FIRST event on Tuesday July 30, in and around the church, the green and the tracks around the church. The SECOND event is to Ken's Farm on Tuesday August 20.

**FULL DETAILS OF THE PROJECT ARE IN THIS EDITION OF "FIVE ALIVE"**

## ST EUNY

This year the mid-day parish vigil on Good Friday was held at St Euny with the voices of Diworth and Golon leading the first hour with a beautiful selection of music. The prayers and reflections were very much appreciated by the congregation, which numbered over fifty during the course of the event.

Easter has been celebrated at St Euny with an abundance of flowers decorating the church, with help from several parishioners who spent the morning of Saturday in Holy Week setting up the church for Easter Sunday. The dawn service was also well attended, despite it being the start of British Summer Time and the change in times shaving an hour off our sleep. Most people received the message that the time was earlier than at first estimated and we stood around a substantial fire in contemplation until the 'sun' had fully risen and the dawn broken through. The breakfast of bacon butties and hot cross buns encouraged most people to stay afterwards, with a long sociable gathering well into the morning.

St. Euny is now open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm, with possible variation depending on volunteer availability. We have had several messages of thanks from those who love to come in regularly for a few moments of peace and it is good to welcome some of those familiar faces. We now offer dog-biscuits as a part of our welcome. These are placed beneath the St Francis of Assisi window and are also available for those bringing their dogs to the services, a popular move for the Wednesday regulars.

The kitchen has been enhanced with a perfectly-sized sideboard and cupboard, sourced and donated by Charlie Bickford, for which we are all grateful. This will help us store food and serve more efficiently and make best use of the space available. Our community BBQ is planned for the evening of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, so please reserve the time and come along if you can.

One of the quiet helpers at St Euny are the volunteer gardeners who maintain the area at the West end of the graveyard, at the foot of the tower. An interesting range of flowering plants are cultivated lovingly and without fuss for us all to enjoy. As well as doing this, they have planted out our Christmas trees to help them to survive until next winter – we hope they do!

Last year we lost Margaret Rowe, a much-loved regular of St Euny for many years and a loyal support of the Open Café. Margaret and Fred, her husband, lived in sight of St Euny tower and loved to listen to the bells when they were rung at practice or events. They frequently went into church to watch and listen quietly to the rehearsals or guest ringers, and this was a regular walk from their home in Trevingey Close. In memory of Margaret, and in accordance with her wishes, Fred has made a significant donation to the Bell Tower to ensure that we continue to hear and enjoy this special contribution to our well-being and our church life. The ringers and the congregation are very grateful to Fred for this.

***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 10am until 4pm with optional Covid-safe precautions in place. Please take care, as Covid is still with us!

Our sincere thanks go to Revd. Chris and the members of the Ministry Team for all their work to ensure that the whole Parish shared the meditations, services and celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. It was wonderful to worship together on Easter Day at Treleigh with so many fellow Christians from every church, (marred only by one stupid driver (guess who?) who carelessly drove her vehicle into a camouflaged gravestone, ruining a front tyre and having to wait for the RAC man to arrive. But thank you, FP, for your patience, and Trish and Robin, for the picnic provided during the wait!)

Following the First Sunday Evening Event on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, a total of £270 has been raised to support DEBRA, the charity working for those suffering from "Butterfly Skin", an extremely painful skin condition, and we thank all who came and have donated to this very worthy cause. The next Event will be held at 6pm on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at St. Andrew's Church Pencoys**, supporting **The Prostate Cancer Appeal**, to which all are welcome.

Flapjack services and events during **May** will be:

Said Holy Communion each Wednesday at 6pm at St. Andrew's, Pencoys.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | Quiz in Pencoys Hall 7pm   |
| <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>    | Flapjack Holy Communion Service 11.15am Methodist Church<br>Flapjack Meeting 12.45pm Methodist Church<br>Lighthouse Young People's project 3– 5pm Methodist Church<br>First Sunday Evening Event, 6 p.m., St. Andrew's Pencoys |
| <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>    | <b>Bring &amp; Share Supper Pencoys Hall 6pm</b> (replacing Patronal Supper in November, postponed due to snow in Four Lanes!)   |
| <b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>ASCENSION DAY Parish Holy Communion 7pm at St. Andrew's Pencoys</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>   | <b>Flapjack Family Event</b> 11.15am with Holy Communion St. Andrew's Pencoys  |
| <b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>Games Evening (Bingo): 6–8pm Pencoys Hall</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>   | <b>PENTECOST</b> Methodist Service 11.15am Methodist Church<br>Holy Communion 6pm St. Andrew's Pencoys   |
| <b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b> | Bangers & Mash Methodist Church, from 11am   |
| <b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>   | <b>TRINITY SUNDAY Parish Holy Communion 10.30am</b> St. Andrew's Pencoys<br>Teatime Celebration Pencoys Hall 4– 5pm  |

The Wednesday Social afternoons continue at Four Lanes Methodist Church on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, when all are welcome.

*Jill Tolputt*



## ST ANDREW REDRUTH

Maundy Thursday was again marked at St Andrew's with a Seder meal and washing of feet as a way of remembering the days which led to the crucifixion and resurrection. This year attendance was high, with around 50 people sharing food and prayer, including several families. Many thanks to Lez for overseeing this again this year.

On May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's will be hosting a new venture, the parish "Great Garden Exhibition", where we will bring the outside in with all things "gardening." Lez has organised this and it should be a popular event.

The St Andrew's Arts Festival, usually held in June, will not be going ahead this year in the same way as before, but there might be some whole parish events planned in its place. Once again the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival will be holding a gala concert at St Andrew's at 7.00pm on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>. This is the final concert in the series before the Grand Finale and promises to be an excellent evening of entertainment once again. Altogether over fifty choirs participate in this, the largest of its kind in the world in which choirs can participate. The event is held biennially, and it is a privilege to be one of the hosts. Rev. Roger Bush, friend and previous rector of this parish, has joined the board of trustees and will be active in promoting and supporting the event. Our concert has our local Four Lanes Choir as well as choirs from Dublin, Warrington, Weybridge (Surrey) and Cirencester. Look out for posters in each of our churches and invite anyone who might be interested. It promises to be an evening to remember. Tickets are available from Hall for Cornwall and can be purchased on their website, or on the door subject to availability.

Monday morning Warm Bank breakfasts have been increasingly popular, a record high of 30 breakfasts being cooked on 8<sup>th</sup> April. This was in the school holiday and some of those attending were young families. There are times in the coming months when we will be short of volunteers, so if you are able to volunteer to cook or serve on a Monday morning, for a one-off occasion to help out, that would be most welcome. Please let Father Chris or Joan Doble know if you can offer some time. We could also accommodate more on a regular basis for the rota, so please do consider this.

Future events to look out for are a Folk Cabaret on 16th May and a play on 25th May, both planned and produced by 'The Ladder, the organisation running the old Passmore Edwards building. Further information and tickets can be obtained from them.

Looking back a while – in 1924 a talk by F.F. Beringer (Jeweller & optician) to the Redruth Old Cornwall Society on pre-Reformation churches in Redruth mentions that there were three pre-Reformation saints associated with chapels or churches in Redruth. We know about St Euny and St Rumon, but little or nothing is known about a supposed chapel of St Christopher. Sinns Barton is one potential location, but nothing certain has been discovered. Does anyone have any other ideas?

**Linda Beskeen**

## News from the Ministry Team

We are now seven months into the interregnum but with light at the end of the tunnel as we look forward to welcoming Revd Rebecca Bell and her family in September. These last seven months have been very busy for the whole ministry team and it has made us think about the workload that will be currently expected of our new Rector. We are very much aware that Father Chris will be moving on to pastures new within the next eighteen months as he comes to the end of his curacy and that has highlighted the profile of the rest of the team. Our two PTO's, me and Father Peter as well as Jim are in our early to mid-seventies and Jason, our other Reader works full time. Jason is currently seeking guidance on his future ministry and if selected for ordination training will be less available for helping in the Parish.

Since this all came to mind, Jim has unfortunately had to take time out to recover from a stroke which adds to the realisation that the ministry team is quite fragile. In fact, it is quite possible that within two or three years our new Rector, Rebecca could find herself being the only priest to cover our six worship centres – St Andrew Redruth, St Euny, Christchurch, St Stephen, St Andrew Pencoyes and Four Lanes Chapel. We may be lucky to be asked to train another curate of course, but this is also extra work for an incumbent.

So, all of us on the ministry team have been looking at how we might make things a little easier as we wait for Rebecca to come and also help her settle into Redruth Parish in a more gentle way, giving her an opportunity to get to know each of our church congregations without rushing around too much.

The one Sunday of the month that is particularly demanding for us is the first Sunday of the month when each of our priests has to do two services, one after the other. This is because there are two 9.30 services and three 11.15 services. St Andrew Pencoyes and Four Lanes Chapel have been joining together for some time now at 11.15, always on the first Sunday at the Chapel, so we can take them out of the equation. We are proposing that the two 9.30 churches, St Andrew Redruth and Christchurch should come together to worship, alternating between the two churches. likewise the 11.15 services at St Euny and Treleigh.

During April we have consulted with each congregation to hear their views and concerns before taking the proposal to the PCC for a decision. If you haven't had an opportunity to air your thoughts please speak to one of the ministry team [except Jim at the moment whilst he is recuperating]. This is **not** a fait accompli and if our proposal does not get a positive consensus we will have a re-think.

***Margaret Saville***

# Venues for our Joint Parish Services

## 2024

May	26	St Andrew Pencoys
June	30	St Andrew Redruth
July	28	Christchurch Lanner
August	25	St Euny
September	29	St Stephen Treleigh
October	27	Four Lanes Chapel
November	24	St Andrew Redruth
December	29	Christchurch Lanner

## 2025

January	27	St Euny
February	24	St Stephen Treleigh

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### WEDDING

23	March	2024	Aaron Robert Rowe and Charleigh Grace Booker	St Euny
20	April	2024	Paul Stuart Radford and Ruby Louise Brush	St Stephen Treleigh

#### WEDDING BLESSING

23	March	2024	Anthony Gerald Aldridge and Vanessa Rose Jeanette Aldridge	St Stephen Treleigh
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#### FUNERAL

04	April	2024	Patricia Anne James	St Euny
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# Treatment of cash collected at Sunday Services

At their last meeting Redruth PCC asked me to respond to queries about how cash collections are handled and recorded at our churches.

Each church has someone responsible for counting, recording and banking cash receipts, these are:-

St Andrew Redruth—myself

St Andrew Pencoys—Brian Gannaway

St Euny—Linda Beskeen

Christchurch Lanner—Geoff Knights

St Stephen Treleigh—Juliet Jenkin

I receive a return from each church of the monies collected and these are recorded by me under that churches name as follows:-

Individual giving envelopes - Recorded separately for each giver so I can acknowledge their gift at the end of the tax year.

Other cash - recorded as a receipt for that church.

There are joint Benefice services each month, as previously, the cash collection which is not in envelopes for a fifth Sunday is added to our REEF fund which is donated periodically to support an emergency situation somewhere in the world. If the benefice service is on a fourth Sunday the collection will go to the church where the service takes place

Please contact me if any further explanation is required.

***Richard Robinson***  
***Treasurer***

## Spring Clean

As we say goodbye to the cold, damp, dark days of winter – well maybe! Here are eight ways to give your health a spring clean.

### **1. Improve your sleep**

Sleep is vital to our wellbeing; it helps to restore and repair our brains as well as our bodies. It's important to be consistent with our sleep patterns, going to bed at the same time each night and getting up at the same time each day can have a big impact. Make your bedroom environment quiet, dark, relaxing and a comfortable temperature – not too hot. Try to remove electronic devices from the bedroom. Avoid caffeine, alcohol, and large meals before bed. Get some exercise. Being physically active in the day can really help you to fall asleep more easily.

### **2. Eat with the season**

Make the most of nutrient-packed fruit and vegetables that are in season during spring. You'll be able to enjoy plenty of in season leafy greens such as spinach, cabbages, purple sprouting broccoli as well as radishes, watercress, asparagus, and rhubarb.

### **3. Ease hay fever**

Spring also heralds the start of the allergy season. Some foods can help to block histamine and reduce inflammation. These include garlic, onions and blueberries, carrots are also good for giving your immunity a boost. Regularly eating local honey can help your immune system to cope with allergens. Now is also a good time to stock up on some Antihistamines.

### **4. Reduce mental clutter**

Journaling is recommended as a great way to get mental clutter out of your head. By writing our cluttered thoughts on a piece of paper we can free up more energy for the rest of our day. Drawing is another good way of calming our thoughts and focusing our minds. You could also try practicing mindfulness to reconnect with your body and refocus your mindset. There are many good mindfulness Apps and websites including Headspace and Calm.

### **5. Show your gut some love**

Seasonal bugs and antibiotic-requiring winter infections may well have left your gut in need of support. Replenish friendly gut bacteria with a good-quality probiotic and include live bacteria in your diet with yoghurt and fermented foods such as sauerkraut, kefir and kombucha."

### **6. Focus on fitness**

Feel more energised as the weather starts to warm up by heading outdoors to get some exercise. It's recommended that we do at least 150 minutes of exercise a week, this can include a brisk walk, dancing, mowing the lawn or heading to the pool for a swim.

### **7. Top up your vitamin D**

Vitamin D supports healthy bones and immunity and is made by the action of sun on our skin, so our levels can drop quite significantly during winter. Many of us come into spring low in Vitamin D and it can be difficult to get enough from our food. Therefore, keeping our vitamin D levels topped up with a supplement can be a good idea through the spring months.

### **8. Get sun savvy**

Sunscreen is not just for summer – it helps protect your skin in spring too. Choose a high factor sunscreen (30 SPF or more) and apply 15 to 30 minutes before going out in the sun and reapply every two hours and after swimming.

I hope this gives you some ideas to boost your physical and mental health this spring!

***Anya Dolling***

***Parish Nurse***

# SHP 2024

Welcome to the '2024 Summer Holiday Project'.

Because of the cost of coaches and entry fees to attractions are expensive, all the outings this year are local and rely on participants being brought and collected.

## OUTINGS:

Early drop off: 9.00am Late collection: 5.00pm

Standard drop off: 10.00am Standard collection: 4.00pm

**COST: £3.00 / child / outing which pays for the ice-cream!!**

**THEME: The Olympics**

**ADVENTURE WEEK TO PORTHPEAN ADVENTURE CENTRE**

**COST: £200.00 / child which is HALF of the cost charged by the centre; Transport by coach**

## PROGRAMME:

*Tuesday July 30 / Christchurch, Lanner + Mary's sheep!!*      *Friday August 2 / Portreath Beach*

*Tuesday August 6 / Hayle swing park and beach*                      *Friday August 9 / Portreath Beach*

**ADVENTURE WEEK: Monday August 12 – Friday August 16**

*Tuesday August 20 / Christchurch + Ken's Farm*                      *Friday August 23 / Portreath Beach*

*Tuesday August 27 / Hayle swing park and beach*                      *Friday August 30 / Portreath Beach*

**BOOKING IS OPEN      Please contact Fr Peter 079 038 079 46**



**FP**

## NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER

At the recent Tower AGM, chaired by Rev. Margaret Saville, Ian Self agreed to continue as Tower Captain, Charles Green as Vice Captain, Bryan Llewellyn continues as our Steeple Keeper, Mel Brown as Secretary, Clive Reynolds the Wedding Secretary and Sue Solway continues as Treasurer.

The Tower funds have been swelled by a very generous donation in memory of Margaret Rowe who sadly passed away last summer. Margaret and her husband Fred often came to our practice evenings, where they both watched us and enjoyed listening to the bells being run.

***Clive Reynolds***

# The Great Garden Exhibition – Friday 10<sup>th</sup>/Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 10:00am – 4:00pm in St Andrew's Church Redruth



Thinking is a dangerous thing! Sitting in church at the Needlecraft exhibition last year I started thinking about the next exhibition that we as a Parish might do.

As I looked around at the beautiful quilts, sewn and knitted items on display, I noticed how many of them depicted the natural world and suddenly the penny dropped. I thought how wonderful it would be to fill the church with amazing greenery, flowers and all things gardening – an “Eden” project of our own, if you will.

I floated the idea to a couple of people and received a good response – always a bonus! – so put out feelers for anyone else in the parish who might be interested in getting involved with the organising.

Two wonderful and willing volunteers later we are now ready to present to you The Great Garden Exhibition.

There will be: \_

Garden on a Plate Competition – local Primary Schools

Plant and Garden Items Displays – Trevenson Moor and Warrior Lanner Garden Centres

Gardening as a Career – Rosewarne College

Gardening for Health – various participants

Creation Care – Joan and Dave Doble

Display of old and interesting gardening implements

Plant Stalls; A Seed Swap Stall; Craft stalls with all sorts of garden gifts



## ***A Raffle***

***Refreshments – including, of course, Carrot Cake!***

So come along, bring your friends and family, enjoy spending time among the beautiful green and floriferous displays, and – please – if you see me looking as though I'm thinking just warn me to be careful!!

***Lez***



# BENEFICE BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our May book is to be *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

*Kambili, a 15 year old girl lives in fear of her father, a charismatic yet violent Catholic patriarch who, although generous and well respected in his community is repressive and fanatically religious at home. Escape and the discovery of a new, liberated life come when Nigeria is shaken by a military coup, and Kambili and her brother go to live at their aunt's home, a noisy place full of laughter. The visit lifts the silence from her world and in time, unlocks a terrible bruising secret at the heart of her family.*

*An extraordinary debut, Purple Hibiscus is a novel about the blurred lines between the old gods and the new, childhood and adulthood, love and hatred – the grey spaces in which truths are revealed and true living begins.*

Apparently this book is a good read but very challenging and you may need to read it in small chunks! But give it a try anyway – look out for it on our bookcase near the coffee corner in St Andrew's church.

Getting ready for June why not join us in reading ***The Novel in the Viola*** by Natasha Solomons – the start of an affair, the end of an era!

*In the Spring of 1938 Elise Landau arrives at Tyneford, the great house on the bay. A bright young thing from Vienna forced to become a parlour maid she knows nothing about England, except that she won't like it. As servants polish silver and serve drinks on the lawn. Elise wears her mother's pearls beneath her uniform, and causes outrage by dancing with a boy called Kit. But war is coming, the world is changing, and Elise must change with it. At Tyneford she learns that you can be more than one person – and that you can love more than once.*

Ring me, Margaret, on 219059 for further information if you fancy coming along – you will be very welcome.

**Margaret Saville**

## CANDLES FOR UKRAINE

I am supporting the Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership, through Rotary and the project is to collect candles, these will be sent to Swindon where some are made into trench candles and others melted down into large blocks of wax and sent to their volunteers in Ukraine who then make them into candles for the community. The infrastructure in Ukraine is under immense pressure and large areas of the country are often without electricity hence the desperate need for candles both for light and for warmth especially for the young and the elderly. The candles do not need to be new, partly used ones are fine.

**Many thanks**

**Bernard Williams**



# My Way to Compostela — Day 10

## Logrono to Azofra Continued

We pass under the N-120 by way of the pilgrim's tunnel which takes us onto farm tracks and through vineyards ( again no grapes) heading towards an old gravel works, before crossing a foot bridge over the Rio Yalde. Here we find a graffiti poem that asks the pilgrim a question 'Pilgrim who calls You' A question worthy of contemplating as we approach the town of Nàjera the guidebook's recognised stage stop. We however decided not to stop here as Andrew and I had discussed the idea if possible, that we would help the smaller towns and villages by spending our money in those local communities rather in larger towns and cities. As luck would have it, the town of Nàjera turned out to be unfriendly and not welcoming to the pilgrim. It lacks any redeeming features and is to say the least a little run down. Staff in the café where we went for lunch were unhelpful and rude, particularly to a lady who was walking the Camino with her dog. She was the first pilgrim that we had met who was accompanied by a dog. As we were to find later, dogs were not the only animals that we would come across walking with their owners.

Nàjera has a long historical past with the Camino dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. As well as being the Capital of Navarre, it was the beginning of stage V of the Cordex Calixtinus, so maybe they have become disillusioned with the numbers of Pilgrims that pass through or stay in the town? So having had lunch and consulted the guide book in reference to a possible stop for the night, we said goodbye to the dog and his owner and made our way out of the town, heading for the village of Azofra 5.8Km away. Following the route we head out of town entering a Zona Natural (nature area) climbing steadily up to a high point of 410meters through pine trees and wide red earthed tracks to descend to a road which we cross passing farm buildings to join quiet side roads and dirt tracks heading towards Azofra. A town of about 500 people its continued existence relies on the Camino and to that end it has a purpose built hostel, which provides for 60 pilgrims in cubicles of 2 beds, which was ideal for Andrew and I. It once had several pilgrim hospitals in medieval times, it now has 2 shops and several bars that compete for pilgrims. So after a well deserved hot shower and short rest we headed out to find a suitable bar for some food and we were not disappointed with our choice. The meal with the standard pilgrim menu starter of either soup or mixed salad followed by either chicken or fish, with a tart or yogurt for dessert. This feast is always accompanied with the local wine and bread, so enough to sustain the hungry pilgrim and there was always the beer, accompanied with free nuts or crisps before the meal!. It was in this bar that we met a Canadian couple of Mother and son, she was 87 and walked with a stick and her son was 52. It had taken them 15 days to get to this stage having started in Pamplona to avoid crossing the Pyrenees. A testament that age was no barrier to doing the pilgrimage. Having returned to the hostel in the rain we found the dog lady and her faithful friend in the lounge of the hostel where they were to spend the night. So to bed at 8.25 after a long and tiring day to start afresh tomorrow.

***Len Cunningham***



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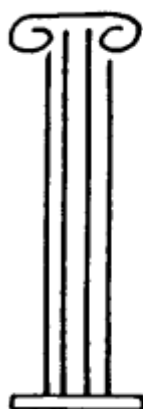


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