

Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

April 2021



This on-line edition supports the printed version.

Please see the printed issue for full advertisements.

A list of advertisers plus their contact details is at the end of this on-line issue.

Rector's Thoughts

Being Together

I am not a big fan of slogans. Probably because I recognise how big a temptation they are for preachers. Reducing something complex to a few easily remembered words but, in the process, robbing everything of its meaning is always a temptation, but if you do that to religion or anything else that really matters you do it, and all the people involved in it, a big disservice. But sometimes slogans can have some use as long as they are trying to be truthful; and so that phrase, "Data and not Dates", that the government is using at the moment has value.

What the phrase means is that as we look forward to the time between now and June when it is hoped that all social restriction can come to an end at last the lifting of each constraint will depend not on what date it is in the ideal timetable that the Prime Minister has given us, but on what the data about infection rates, the numbers of people in hospital because of Covid-19 and the numbers of deaths from the virus is telling us. We need to have reached a level in each of these areas that our society and our health service can cope with. That will require each one of us to continue to behave responsibly for as long as we need to do so and that mainly requires us to keep a sensible distance from one another, to keep on wearing face coverings in public spaces and to keep washing our hands or sanitising them. And, of course, to co-operate fully with the remarkable achievement of the vaccination programme.

I spoke a moment ago about society's ability to cope with death and as soon as I wrote those words I began to think. And what came to mind were words written by one of the great poets in the English language who was also a priest and who became Dean of St Paul's cathedral in London. His name was John Donne and he lived about 400 years ago at a time when epidemics were a normal part of life, reaching a terrible climax with the Great Plague of 1665. Donne was seriously ill in 1623 when he wrote these words, but instead of withdrawing into himself and his problems as we can be tempted to do in difficult times, he wrote one of the greatest statements ever written about the way in which we are always connected to each other.

I leave them with you as we journey together through this trial and the world that I pray will be built as we leave it behind. I remember you all every day when I join with a faithful group of people for daily prayer and pray God's blessing upon you and all you care for.

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”

Re-Opening our Churches

Sadly, and with great regret, I have felt it necessary to keep our churches closed since the beginning of this latest lockdown in order to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. If all goes to plan it is my hope that our churches will be able to re-open in time for Easter.

What a wonderful way it will be to make your own personal act of faith in the future both your own, the people you care about, and the world's, by coming to church on Easter Day. Of course, we will still be constrained by the virus and will have to observe social distancing etc. but by being in church we can pray for a springtime to burst into full life.

We will do our best to keep you in touch with developments, but one way that you can be in touch with all that is going on in the churches near you is to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, The Message. You can do this by sending an email to our benefice administrator, Nicholas Wright, at parishes7@btinternet.com with your name and email address. Your data will be completely confidential. Not even I know who the subscribers are. All I know is that we have about 250 subscribers at present. And, of course, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Stephen Winter

Rector of St James Hartlebury
and the Worcestershire Severn Benefice

St Andrew's News
www.st-andrews.church

Happy Easter!

Spring is definitely on the way, and possibly a little more Spring cleaning? I hope you saw the ribbons on the church railings for Mothers' Day; they did look bright and cheerful with some lovely messages.

While March is likely to be the last month with purely Zoom services, it is something we are considering continuing in some shape or form, or using YouTube. Our YouTube channel is *St Andrew and St James*, do have a look and let us know if there are any issues getting there...our computers already know their way.

We would like to say a big thank you to Stephen Winter and all those who have helped to keep our services going, including Howard, Louise and John who have enabled us to sing along at home, and the Family service and Tech teams! We would welcome any budding camera/media men and women who would like to try their hand occasionally, there is potential to do a lot more; please do spread the word.

The old photographs are out at the back of the Church on the long table; do have a look and write some names down if you can. Looking back in time we had a request for more information on Rev. Gillingham who was vicar here from 1934 - 1953, fortunately Basil is a fount of all knowledge and knew him. He sounded like a real character with definite, but forward-thinking views for his time, and was here at the change from earning a living from rent of the Glebe lands to being paid by the Church commissioners. I gather he is also one of the few people to have swum across Worcester Cricket ground! ...and he wrote a book. Can any of our local historians tell us more?

The windows are still progressing, hopefully the last East window will have glass in by the time you get your magazine.

Have a Happy Easter!

Holy Week, Easter and Beyond

At last we are starting to return to church physically! While many of you have probably had one vaccine by now, we are aware of the new variants that are around so all the usual precautions will remain in place; you know them well.

Hands, Face and Space

Now for the good bit, as we begin the slow road to our new normal.

From Palm Sunday there will be an Easter Trail around the churchyard with an opportunity to find out about the Easter story. A QR code will be used to find videos or stories that can be down-loaded at home if needed. Find 5 letters to get the pass word for the final part. The starting post and information will be in the Lychgate.

Good Friday: 'Walk of Witness'. This starts at St Mary's Church with different people carrying a wooden cross down the A449 to St Andrew's Church arriving at about 12 noon. If you would like to join in, please meet at St Mary's Doverdale for 10am, or join in anywhere on the route. There will be a stop by Jean Dowty's house (next to the 'antique' store on A449). The walk is at a gentle pace followed by a Led Reflection in St Andrew's at 12 noon.

Easter Day

6.30 am The Bonfire will happen this year! The start is 6.30 am outside the Old Chancel, but due to Covid precautions the renewal of Baptism vows will not be in the Old Chancel.

7.15 am Said Communion in St Andrew's

10.00 am Family service, with the usual Easter eggs afterwards

April 11th Family Service 10.00am

April 18th Morning Prayer

April 25th Holy Communion; time and place tbc

Any changes will be on the Church website, or on the Church notice boards. If you would like to be added to the email list so we can keep you updated please let Liz Hooper (620827) or Nick Wright (622464) know.

Two Great Stalwarts

The sad deaths within a month of Douglas Garrad and Noel Richardson, both well into their nineties, bring a reminder of the continuing story of the village's history, of which we are all part in our time. Both were towers of strength in the church and wider community for decades. Present custodians build on what they accomplished.

The scaffolding is up now at the church to reconstruct the windows and make them watertight and decorative again. This is just the latest instalment in a story which began when Douglas took the initiative thirty years ago by founding OSCA, of which he was the first chairman. It has seen the roof, tower and spire completely restored and the church made safe, as well, some may recall, as the adoption of the name by the Kerr family spaniel. There are several houses in the village which belong to the Church Houses Charity; Douglas was chairman of that also and tackled their repair with similar energy.

The finances of the Church, then as now often delicate, were in Noel's safe hands for many years, and his legal nous kept us from stumbling over the many pitfalls which hide in ecclesiastical rules. A serious gardener, it was he who launched the Gardening Club. Both were to be found on Fête Day, along with other equally distinguished gentlemen, presiding immaculately dressed at the Bottle Stall, whilst Noel doubled as the occasion's photographer and for years was sentenced to lurk with Hazel in a darkened room counting all the coins.

Meanwhile, generations of local children have passed through Hawford Lodge School. It was begun by Douglas in 1955, starting with little but a blackboard, a dozen boys, and Mary Ann's legendary cooking on a seven-oven Aga. The flourishing establishment which King's Hawford is now, is a tribute to his far-sightedness and skill.

Of both, we mourn their passing, and salute their achievements.

Gentle Reminder - Items for inclusion in the May issue should be sent to the editors no later than 10th April.

PRAYING THE PARISH APRIL 2021

PRAYING THE PARISH

If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know:

Rev Stephen Winter 07773 760899 mail@stephenwinter.net

Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com

or James Homer 01299 851637 ajfhomer@btinternet.com [lay reader with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes]



If you would like a place of quiet to pray, or think, or just rest, the church is currently open on Wednesdays and Sundays during the day – using the main door

Areas for April:

Sunday 4th April – Lincomb, The Winnalls, Acton, Mount Pleasant

Sunday 11th April – Sandys Road, Wellington Road, Chestnut Walk, The Hamptons

Sunday 18th April – Main Road North, Oakfield Road, Woodhall Lane/Close

Sunday 25th April – Ombersley Medical Centre

From the Archive: February 1957: A row of medicine bottles

If you are doubtful or depressed – Read Psalm 27

If you are lonesome and unprotected – Read Psalm 91

If you find yourself losing confidence in men – Read 1 Corinthians 13

If you are getting discouraged in your work – Read John 15

If you are feeling all out of sorts – Read Hebrews 12

Ombersley Endowed Primary School

Everyone at Ombersley First School were so excited and happy to welcome all the children back on March 8th. They came back to school happily and ready to settle back into their classes. Many of the children had been learning from home since the New Year and were so excited to see their friends again. Their teachers were very happy to see them. It now feels like they have never been away from us.

Over the February half term, a group of very kind and generous volunteers from our village gave up their time to clear an area of field next to the school to enable us to extend our playground and car park. We would like to say a very BIG Thank you to: Frank Cody, Laura Blakemore, Gaynor, Peter and Chrissy Reynolds, Paul Jones, Paul and Sally Ludlow. We really appreciate all your hard work and support.

We have also been very lucky to be able to continue with our 'Open the Book' assemblies via Zoom. The children get great pleasure from these assemblies and it is a lovely link with the Church during a time when we are unable to welcome people from our local community into school. The children have also enjoyed daily assemblies from Mrs Moore; usually a lovely story assisted by a variety of puppets. These fun gatherings have given the children something to look forward to after lunch.

The whole school decided to delay 'Book Week' until we were all back together. The children throughout the school had a fun week reading books, acting out stories and carrying out lots of creative art activities.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Easter all together this year. We are sad not to be able to have our usual Easter Celebration in Ombersley Church, but we are planning lots of fun activities at school for all the children to take part in. Take Care and Stay Safe everyone!

Book box in the Lychgate You are welcome to help yourself to any books in the box. You can also leave books that are in good condition for others to enjoy, but please don't leave a pile of books from a spring-clean of your bookcase!

OMBERSLEY GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS

Since the start of the pandemic, the Friends of the Guiding Committee have been meeting via Zoom. The last meeting was held in February when ten members met to discuss Hut maintenance. Sarah Scotford chaired the meeting and Debbie Stephens, recently elected secretary, took the minutes.

It has been a difficult year for the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, but respective leaders have done their very best to maintain contact with their groups via on-line tools. Hopefully, very soon, the girls will be able to meet up on a weekly basis again and resume their normal activities.

Members heard that several maintenance jobs had been carried out, including replacement guttering and extra lighting. Finance was discussed and future fundraising. It was agreed to defer fundraising until the next meeting when the promised lifting of lockdown restrictions becomes a reality, thus enabling such events to take place again.

A big "Thank you" to all the girls and their Leaders for remaining so positive over the last year.

Ombersley Memorial Village Hall

Community Events 2021 - Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 22nd May 2pm-4pm – Rabbit Run Trail

(Please note, due to Covid restrictions, this event replaces the Easter Egg Trail that was planned for 3rd April)

Starting at the hall at 2pm, free of charge entry to families

No need to book, tea shop open

Saturday 26th June – Veteran, Vintage and Classic Car Show

Why not join us and display your car?

Don't delay – book your place with Lesley:

cherrytrees.1@btinternet.com or 07773 114830



OMBERSLEY
MEMORIAL
VILLAGE HALL

For more details see our website and follow our Facebook page

www.ombersleymemorialhall.co.uk



Update: April 2021

Our Neighbourhood Plan draft document has been submitted to Wychavon. It has taken over 3 years of work to reach this point and we are very grateful to everyone who has helped and all of you who have engaged with the process. Your comments and answers to the questionnaires and surveys have shaped the plan policies. If the plan is adopted after a community referendum, your views will help to decide on future developments in the parish.

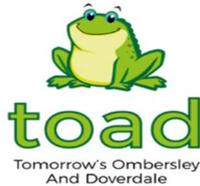
Wychavon District Council is currently holding a further public consultation on the plan (Regulation 16), which will finish at 5pm on 16th April. Details of how to view the document and make comments are in the poster on the next page. This is your last chance to make comments before voting at a referendum stage.

Wychavon will arrange an independent inspection of our draft plan to check it complies with national and local planning policies and we have followed procedures correctly in our preparation. If we pass this stage the draft will be the subject of a community referendum, but we will keep you posted as to when we are at that stage.

From the Archive: September 1896

A Chemical Experiment

When James Hopper, a member of the Society of Friends, met a boy with a dirty face or hands, he would stop him and inquire if he had ever studied chemistry. The boy would answer "no". "Well then, I will teach thee how to perform a curious chemical experiment. Go home, take a piece of soap, put it in water, and rub it briskly on thy hands and face. Thou hast no idea what a beautiful froth it will make, and how much whiter thy skin will be. That's a chemical experiment; I advise thee to try it."



**Your opportunity to comment to Wychavon on our submitted
Neighbourhood Development Plan**

26th February to 16th April 2021

You can view the plan on our website

www.toad.works

or visit <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/ombersley-and-doverdale-neighbourhood-plan>

Paper copies are available by contacting policy.plans@wychavon.gov.uk or telephone 01386 565430

Comment forms are available on the Wychavon site. Email to:
policy.plans@wychavon.gov.uk or post to

Planning policy, Wychavon District Council, Civic Centre, Queen
Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr.R.Coppini	Tel: 620963
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr.Richard Jeynes	Tel: 620441
TREASURER:	Mr.D.Hawkins	Tel: 620059
SECRETARY PCC:	Mr.G.Crow	Tel: 772850
Sidesmen:	Mrs V. Harris, Mr. C. Harris, Mr G.Crow, Mrs S.Crow, Mr J.Chapman, Mrs A.Chapman, Mrs W.Hawkins, Mrs S.Rees	
Organists:	Mrs L.Moyse, Mr D.Terry	

PEW POINTS

CLEANING ROTA: APRIL: Alison Best, Sue Rees

FLOWER ROTA: Easter weekend: Jean Dowty

SERVICES OVER EASTER

Tuesday March 30th. Short Compline at St.Mary's at 5.00p.m. led by James Homer (Licensed Lay Minister).

Good FRIDAY April 2nd Walk of Witness to St.Andrew's Church

10.00 a.m start from St.Mary's Church

Easter Sunday April 4th Holy Communion (BCP) at 11.00 a.m. led by Archdeacon Nikki Groarke.

Covid-19 restrictions according to government guidelines will apply. Bread only given at the Eucharist, face masks to be worn plus social distancing'

FUTURE SERVICES

It is hoped that services will begin to take place from some of the churches in the Benefice from Easter weekend onwards. Here at St.Mary's, we would like to resume regular, monthly services but, of course, this will be subject to clergy availability. Please consult Nick Wright's weekly MESSAGE for confirmation of services and their times to be held in the Benefice in the coming weeks.

“TOGETHERNESS”

I happened to switch on to BBC Hereford and Worcester one Sunday and heard the recently appointed Archbishop of York being interviewed about his new book.

When Stephen Cottrell (the now 98th Archbishop of York) had stopped to buy a drink at Paddington Station, he certainly wasn't expecting a conversation that would spark a book-length letter to the nation. It started with a question from the proprietor who served his flat white coffee: “What made you become a Priest?” The answer he writes in “Dear England”, the book prompted by the exchange and which boils down to two key truths: “It is because I believe in God and I want to change the world”.

The book, however, contains much more than personal testimony and addresses the country at a time of great uncertainty amidst the current pandemic. He mentions communities and how many people, when asked, are full of pride and admiration for their local church whilst expressing frequent frustration with the Church of England. The BBC interview conveyed the message of “TOGETHERNESS” amongst us a word which, I feel, has resonated within our Benefice over the past 12 months. There are many examples of this. Foremost, is how people have found a way to come together and worship despite the unprecedented closure of their churches. The wonders of technology and the hard work of those who have organized hymns, prayers, readings and music for us to access each week have been truly inspirational and a life-line to so many cut off from their family and friends. Shopping, telephone calls or just a friendly wave have been given by many caring neighbours and passers-by to those in need of a little support.

If anything good can come from a pandemic, it has to be the “TOGETHERNESS” which we have been lucky enough to experience.

Perhaps the phrase (much used in the media) “the rebuilding after the pandemic” is an opportunity for all of us to maybe do things in a different way; to find hope, to take heart and to try to make a difference, however small, in the way we live.

Valerie Harris

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

READY, STEADY, GROW – enjoying the journey together!

Be Respectful; Be Kind; Be Honest; Be Determined; Believe!

CIF (Condition Improvement Fund) Bid

The school has now submitted its bid to replace the worn out Portacabins (which house our KS2 pupils) with a brick building. Planning Permission has now been granted which is wonderful news. We are now awaiting the outcome of the Bidding Process and keeping everything crossed!

National Cochlear Implant Day 25th February 2021

On 25th February, we celebrated International Cochlear Implant Day. International Cochlear Implant Day takes place every year on February 25th. The date is special because it marks the anniversary of the day in 1957 when, for the very first time, two French doctors (André Djourno and Charles Eyriès) electrically stimulated the auditory nerve by placing an electrode outside the cochlea. Of course, the technology has come a long way since then and what a difference it has made to people's lives all around the world. At Sytchampton, we think it is incredibly important to raise awareness of this issue and to support our students who need implants to be able to hear. One of our students made a wonderful video about what it is like to live with Cochlear Implants and this is available to view on our Facebook Page.

<https://fb.watch/45KvpASwFI/>

World Book Day 4th March 2021

Thursday 4th March was World Book Day, and normally we would all dress up as our favourite book characters. However, due to this taking place during Lockdown this year, we celebrated it in a slightly different way! On Monday 1st March we released a Mask Reader Challenge, whereby our staff read books wearing different disguises. The children had to guess which teachers were behind each mask! We also dressed up on Thursday 4th March in our pyjamas to read our favourite books and held a Star Reading Challenge throughout the week. The winners of the Star Reading Challenge will be the first children to win a token for our new Book Vending Machine, donated to the school by our amazing PTA! The children are so excited about it!

Preparations for Return to School

Thanks to the generosity of our Key Worker families, we spent Friday 5th March tidying up our outdoor areas and planting some lovely pots, ready to welcome all of our children back into school on Monday 8th March. We have also been busy refurbishing our Reception Classroom with new storage and a wonderful Reading Loft which is currently set up as a Vet's Surgery! Over the next few weeks, we are planning an exciting Sytchampton Safari Whole School Topic to engage and excite our pupils as they settle back into learning, and we have invested in some exciting IT to give our work a real purpose! We are looking forward to having lots of budding 'David Attenboroughs' in school!



From The Archive: May 1900

Report on Sytchampton School

The Mixed Department is admirably conducted. The tone, aim and discipline are excellent, while the instruction is both skilful and successful. The written work, Geography and Singing, and also the Recitation of the Upper Standards, deserve special praise. The infants are making very good progress with all their work.

* Fascinating – Does anyone know what the “Upper Standards” referred to are?

From the Archive: Summer Number 1946

Lloyd's School Charity Report

Governors appointed.... The funds they have to administer have accumulated from the modest endowment which Richard Lloyd (together with Thomas Tolley and Thomas Baker) made over 200 years ago for the purpose of educating the children in this village. Apparently, **no conditions** were laid down as to religious instruction. But it is significant that the incumbent of Ombersley, together with the Lord of the Manor, was to be a perpetual trustee under the indenture of Richard Lloyd, dated 17th October 1723.

Our benefactors evidently only contemplated one form of religion, that of the Church of England and from the first, the children regularly attended church every Sunday under the superintendence of the Master or Mistress of the Schools. This is made clear by the Charity Reports covering this period and set forth in the reign of King George 3rd. All three founders were closely identified with the Parish Church... and in the day, of course any other religion than that of the Established Church was unthinkable. Roman Catholicism was proscribed and dissent was practically dead. John Wesley had not yet been heard of, and Methodism was unborn.

It was unfortunate that when money was required to build schools in accordance with the 1870 Education Act, the Trustees should have been forced in return to agree a new scheme for Lloyd's Charity, the wording of which has given rise to the notion that any form of religious teaching (even Mohammedanism, forsooth!) might be permissible. The present Governors (and it is hoped those of the next generation) will be loyal to the memory and mind of Richard Lloyd, and oppose any Government Educational Authority that threatens to undermine the foundation.

GW Gillingham, Rector

Note: Since the 1944 Education Act, the teaching of religious education (and a daily act of collective worship) is compulsory in all maintained schools according to an agreed syllabus. The syllabus includes all the major religions of the world and is regularly reviewed.

The impatient Himalayan Balsam



Leaves have serrate edges, up to 15 cm long, and grow in whorls of three



Shallow root system, reddish stems



Large pink, orchid-like flowers and elongate, explosive seed pods

Walkers around the Parish in late summer to early autumn may have noticed that the margins of some verges and footpaths (e.g. down to Woodall Lane, Turn Mill, and the Severn Way footpath), have become host to a large plant species, up to 2m high, with darkish green, finely serrated leaves, stout succulent, hollow reddish stems, and large pink flowers shaped like a bonnet, later followed by hanging, green seed pods. This is Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), an invasive species.

Where did it come from?

Himalayan Balsam, sometimes referred to as 'policeman's helmet', 'kiss-me-on-the-mountain', 'poor-man's orchid', is an invasive, non-native, annual species, initially introduced as a garden plant in 1839 (legend has it that its seeds came to Britain in cotton bolls from India and were shaken out to colonise accidentally the canals and riversides of Lancashire mill towns!). Whatever its origins in Britain, the species soon escaped and has become widely naturalised, particularly along riverbanks, ditches, and derelict areas.

Why is it a problem?

The plant grows and spreads quickly, invading habitats at the expense of other, native flowers. Its spectacularly explosive seed pods (seeds can be 'shot' up to 7m) aid its spread by sending the seeds into rivers, causing

further dispersal downstream. A single plant can produce over 800 seeds per year. Germination occurs between February and March, followed by rapid shoot extension and leaf expansion from April. Plants flower from July to October, setting seed from mid-July onwards. There are no natural predators in the UK and dense colonies can quickly establish causing a range of problems: outcompeting native plants (it is the tallest annual species growing in Britain); erosion of riverbanks and waysides as it dies back in winter exposing bare earth; increased flood risk due to congested water flow, and negative impacts on invertebrate biodiversity.

Responsibilities

Legal responsibility – Himalayan Balsam is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it an offence to plant it or cause it to grow in the wild. This includes intentionally moving contaminated soil or plant cuttings, subject to fines and/or imprisonment!

Private land. If Himalayan Balsam is already growing on your own, private land, including estates open to the public, or private gardens, then the plants are not considered to be intentionally kept or cultivated, so you're not committing an offence. However, you cannot intentionally plant listed species on your land, or intentionally cause existing listed plants to spread and there is an obligation to treat or dispose of them where possible.

In waterways. If it is already growing in ponds, lakes or waterways, either private or open to the public, the species is not considered to be intentionally kept or cultivated. So, again, you're not committing an offence. But, you should not intentionally allow the species to grow or spread outside your land and there is an obligation to remove it.

Public land. If you spot Himalayan Balsam on land which you suspect may be public rather than private, for example verges at the side of lanes, then responsibility falls to the Local Authority in which case report incidences to Cllr. Judy Goodman (judygoodman33@outlook.com) who will liaise with Wychavon District Council.

What can be done to control it?

Himalayan Balsam regrows annually from seeds which are viable for 2 years: therefore, any control efforts must be carried out before the seed pods are produced for maximum effect. Controls depend on the scale of the problem and its location. The options include:

Hand-pulling: Pull up young plants when the soil is moist - not too arduous since the root system is poor. The best time is in May/June before the plant has flowered. New plants may grow the following season by germination from the seed bank in the soil, so removal may have to be repeated.

Cutting: The species can regrow from the lowest node in the same season so ensure the cut is below the lowest node (the 'node' is where the leaves join the stem). If the flower spike has already formed, remove it before the seed pods develop. For larger local infestations on more open sites, mowing or strimming may be more appropriate, but must be done prior to the seed pods developing. Uprooted plants can be left to air dry and decompose on a non-permeable membrane or burnt on site.

Herbicides: Judicious use of chemical controls (e.g. Roundup) work well if applied before the flowering period. Herbicide application will not kill seeds in the seed bank and follow-up control must be repeated annually over 2-3 years to eradicate new plants growing in subsequent years. Herbicides are not allowed to enter waterways and Environment Agency permission must be sought and given before spraying near water courses.

What should you do if you spot it?

In all cases notify the Parish Council (judygoodman33@outlook.com). If the infestation is on public land the PC will notify Wychavon District Council who are responsible for removal of the infestation. On private land with low levels of infestation you should try to remove and dispose of it using any of the above methods. For more extensive infestations on private land, the council will advise the landowner of appropriate actions.

James Callow

Ombersley and The New World

Reprinted from the August On-Line Issue

Many places in the USA and UK celebrated the 400th Anniversary of the sailing of the 'Mayflower' from Plymouth on 6th September 1620. It carried amongst its passengers the Pilgrim Fathers, with Droitwich based Edward Wilmslow well known for being one of them. His story was very well told by Howard Robinson in the December 2020 issue of the Parish Magazine.

However, less well known is the role of the Sandys family in encouraging and funding this famous journey, as well as their links with some of the Puritans on board. The tale naturally starts with Dr Edwin Sandys from Hawkeshead, born circa 1519. A Cambridge educated cleric who rose quickly through the ranks. It is through that three of his sons had links with the famous sea journey and the New World.

As Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, he became a prominent advocate of the Protestant cause. This included supporting the claim of Lady Jane Grey's right to the throne. The 'Queen for 9 days', reign was abruptly ended by her beheading, along with many of her followers. Edwin managed to avoid the same fate, but life under the staunchly

Catholic Queen 'bloody' Mary proved very difficult for him. He eventually fled to the Protestant-friendly Netherlands and later to Zurich.

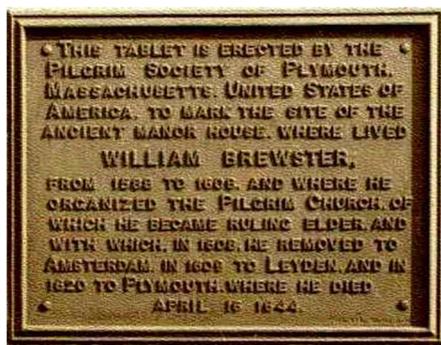
Upon the death of Mary, Edwin was able to return to England – coincidentally arriving on protestant Queen Elizabeth's Coronation Day – becoming one of her chaplains shortly afterwards. Although reluctant to take the post, he was consecrated as Bishop of Worcester in Dec 1589, not wanting to incur the Queen's displeasure in turning the offer down. As Bishop, he had the run of the Palaces at Hartlebury and Worcester, but also chose to repair the manor house at Ombersley, eventually purchasing the lease in 1587. Edwin was the first of the Sandys family to have an association with Ombersley.

Edwin was later promoted to be Archbishop of York in 1576. Along with great kudos of the post came several properties including the Manor of Scrooby in Nottinghamshire. In 1582, obviously through open competition, Edwin granted his first son, Sir Samuel, a lease on the Manor house which continued down the Sandys line.

William Brewster was appointed as bailiff and postmaster to Scrooby Manor. Brewster eventually sailed on The Mayflower and was a signatory to the famous 'Compact'. This starts one of the many links of the Sandys family to the Pilgrim Fathers. William, a devout Christian and Separatist, had to resign his position of bailiff after being outlawed for his radical religious views. His brother was a curate locally, also holding similar radical views and even holding illegal secret services at the Manor House. William fled to the Netherlands, settling in Leiden which soon became a Puritan haven.

The second son of Dr Edwin, confusingly Sir Edwin (born 1571), was educated at Oxford, a writer and politician. Knighted by King James 1 to whom he was a trusted advisor. He became interested in Mercantile adventures and was treasurer of the Virginia Company of London.

This company had a Royal charter to colonise, and effectively exploit, a coastal area from what is now North Carolina to Massachusetts.



Sir Edwin became the driving force for emigration to Virginia, also being well known to the various dissident groups ranging from Puritans to Separatists. The Leiden group approached Edwin for permission to settle in the new colony. These religious zealots were BIG trouble makers, so King James would be happily rid of them from Europe as long as they went to the far north of the colony. A 60-ton vessel, the *Speedwell**, was bought by Edwin through an intermediary. Fifty three of the Leiden Puritans boarded the Speedwell on 22nd July at Delfshaven intending to rendezvous with the larger *Mayflower* at Southampton. The *Mayflower* was chartered by the Merchant Venturers and carried about 70 'normal' emigrants. Both ships set sail for Virginia on 5th August from Southampton.

The *Speedwell* sprung several leaks putting in at Dartmouth for repairs – some think this was a deliberate act. A similar thing happened on the second trial leading to the Speedwell being abandoned after putting in at Plymouth. Most passengers crammed into the *Mayflower* leaving 18-20 souls behind. Faulty navigation and strong winds took them 250 miles north of the planned Hudson river, to Cape Cod Bay. The first settlement was named Plymouth and the first Puritan settlement in New England.

Sadly, for Sir Edwin, he fell out of Favour with the King and was not re-elected as Treasurer of the Virginia Company. However, he continued with other speculative adventures to Bermuda and Asia with The East India Company.

Dr Edwin's youngest son, George, was a great writer and scholar known as 'the greatest English Poet of his age'. He was not interested in politics, but certainly in foreign affairs, becoming treasurer of the Virginia Company after his brother's inglorious departure.

He moved to the colony, buying a plantation, and running it very successfully for 10 years. At his house in Jamestown (naturally named after the King), the good and great of the area met. George drafted the first constitution for Virginia, completing the work started by his brother. This constitution became a model for other East Coast colonies, and was also used by George Washington as the basis for the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Apparently, his portrait hung in The Senate House in Washington DC until the late 1940s.

He returned to England and was appointed 'Gentleman of the Bedchamber' to King Charles 1st, thereby becoming a trusted and personal friend to the Monarch.

Therefore the Sandys family had a role in:-

- a. Employing one of the founding Pilgrim Fathers at Scrooby, and turning a 'blind eye' to their radical views and meetings.
- b. Financing the Speedwell, the original ship carrying the Puritans from Holland.
- c. Drafting the first Constitution of Virginia, which later became the basis of the Declaration of Independence.

*The Speedwell, was one of the ships fighting the Spanish Armada in 1588

Chris Gait

Note: Images associated with the original article can be found in the August 2020 on-line issue of the Parish Magazine.

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