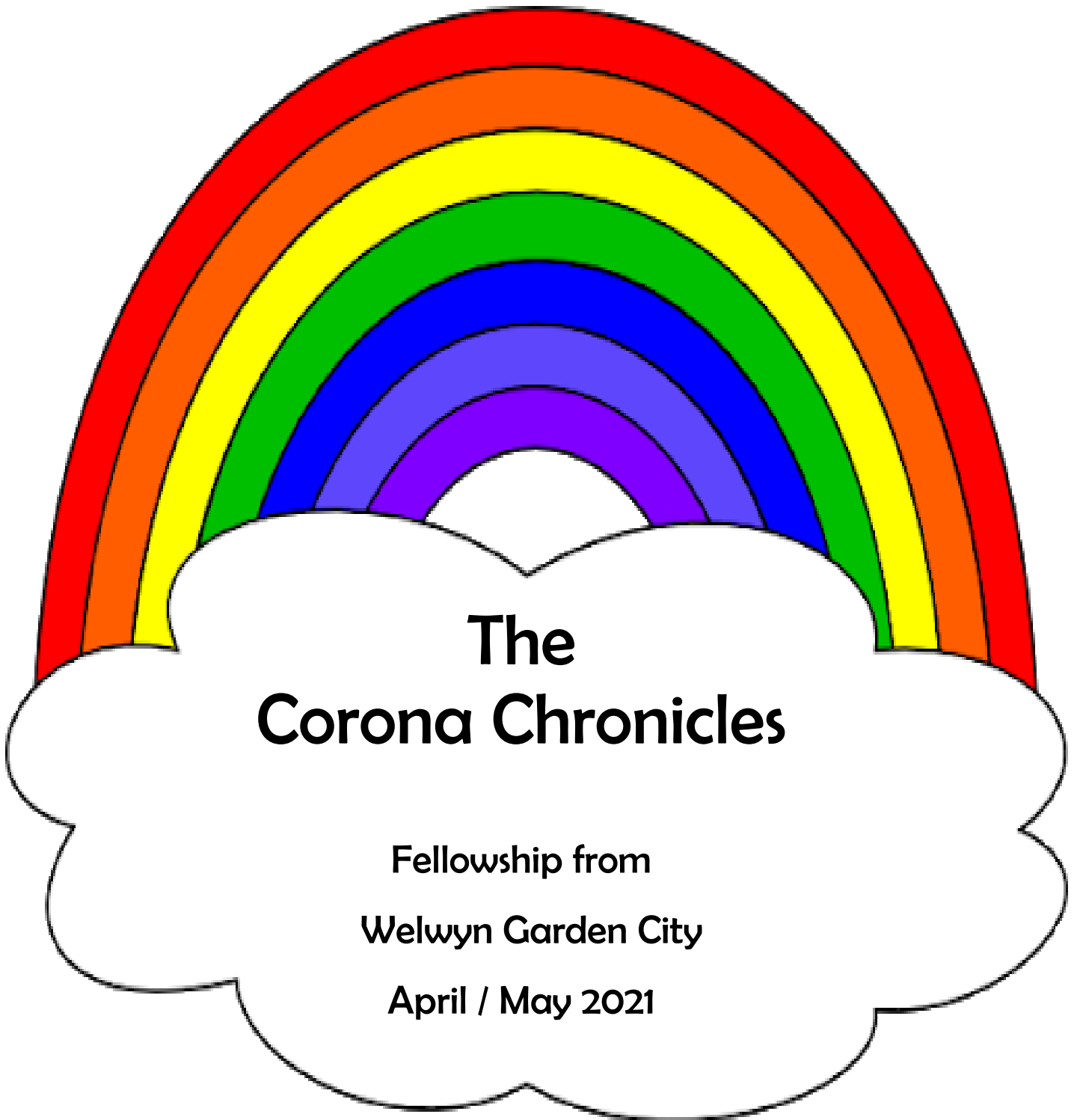


Happy  
Easter



**The  
Corona Chronicles**

Fellowship from  
Welwyn Garden City  
April / May 2021

Dear friends

Its official, Spring is here at last! I hope you have kept popping things into your Blessing Jars through the long locked down winter and now as there are signs of spring everywhere those blessings somehow seem easier to find. The beautiful pink camellia in full bloom, magnolia in bud, leaves bursting on the trees and this morning a cuckoo singing its distinctive song – the first time I have heard her this year.

I added something quite different to my Blessings a couple of weeks ago. It was out daughter Chantal's birthday. I wanted to take a photo of her with her cake and she thought she had 'got one over on me' by blowing the candles out before I had found my phone to take the picture. Undeterred I was going to light them again when the candles suddenly burst back into flame of their own accord! There was so much laughter as none of us knew they were self lighting candles – they had long lost their label and Chanty saw the funny side having thought she was so clever and not getting away with it!!!

I wonder if there is a lesson for us here for Easter? On the eve of the Passover I can just imagine the Chief Priests going to bed feeling quite pleased with themselves. Their ruse had worked, they got the betrayal they had wanted, the false witnesses had played their part on cue, the prisoner had not even tried to defend himself, the crowd was easily turned as they knew they would be and even Pilate had played ball giving them what they wanted – the barbaric Roman form of execution leaving another troublemaker disposed of and the status quo restored.

Passover that year must have been quite a celebration for them. They had taken all the precautions they could think of, so his followers didn't make any wild false claims about the dead living – wasn't that what **He** had claimed? By Sunday morning they must have thought they were home free....but...the light they snuffed out reignited, death was defeated and he truly was alive!!!

All those who had set themselves against him had forgotten about the uniqueness of this man. They had forgotten the miracles, the awe and wonder with which the things he did were received. They had forgotten how he treated people and the things that he taught. They had forgotten or chose to ignore all the things we now know are true – the Messiah had to die but on the third day he would rise again – his resurrection defeating even the barrier of death and

bridging the gap between God and creation – the perfect Passover lamb whose blood was shed to atone for us all.

The guards awoke to find the stone rolled away – they were terrified by what they saw and made us a story to cover their backs. The angels in the tomb – not an everyday occurrence by itself – they were there with the folded grave clothes and asked why the women were looking for the living among the dead?

The 'gardener' revealed his true identity and Mary knew – what he had said was true; even death could not hold him – resurrected he could meet with them, talk and share with them still.

And so we celebrate with eggs and bunnies for new life; simnel cake to remember the faithful disciples and crosses 'greened' with daffodils to remind us of the dead wood once again becoming green. We wish each other a Happy Easter and share in remembering, with bread and wine.



Best of all we remember that his light will never go out. It shines in each one of us and even on the darkest night it can still be found.

May his light shine brightly for you this Easter and fill you anew with awe and wonder and the absolute certainty of Christ with us. Alive! Risen from the dead. And once again we can shout:

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!



Happy Easter and every blessing with love from

Jane

Back in the days of tanners and bobs,  
When Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs.  
When football team families wore hand me down shoes,  
And T.V gave only two channels to chose.  
Back in the days of three penny bits,  
when schools employed nurses to search for your nits.  
When snowballs were harmless; ice slides were permitted  
and all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.  
Back in the days of hot ginger beers,  
when children remained so for more than six years.  
When children respected what older folks said,  
and pot was a thing you kept under your bed.  
Back in the days of Listen with Mother,  
when neighbours were friendly and talked to each other.  
When cars were so rare you could play in the street.  
When Doctors made house calls; Police walked the beat.  
Back in the days of Milligan's Goons,  
when butter was butter and songs all had tunes.  
It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea,  
and your annual break was a day by the sea.  
Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green,  
Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream.  
When children could freely wear National Health glasses,  
and teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes  
Back in the days of rocking and reeling,  
when mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling.  
When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools,  
and everyone dreamed of a win on the pools.  
Back in the days when I was a lad,  
I can't help but smile for the fun that I had.  
Hopscotch and roller skates; snowballs to lob.

Back in the days of tanners and bobs. 

An anonymous poem seen on FaceBook.

## WGC URC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenirs

In this our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year we would like to produce some souvenirs to mark the occasion but need your help.

Our first idea (thanks to a suggestion from Philip Read) is to produce a Calendar for 2022 with photographs of people and events past and present.

Can you help by sending any photographs which we could include?

If they are actual photographs you would like to be returned please put your name and address on the back. If the photographs include people we will obtain their consent, where possible, before including them in the published calendar and sold to the wider public. Photographs can also be sent by email to my email address. (see below)

We will get a group together to select the photographs to be included and arrange for the calendars to be printed and made available for sale.

The second suggestion is to produce a Church Recipe Book which contains favourite tried and tested recipes from you all. You can send in as many recipes as you wish from Cakes and cookies to soups, main courses and desserts all will be welcome.

The success of these two ventures will depend heavily on your support so please participate and send photographs and recipes to me ASAP.

If you wish to send items by post please contact me on 07886392602 and I will be happy to give you my address. Otherwise send them by email to [joycen2@hotmail.com](mailto:joycen2@hotmail.com). I look forward to being inundated with photographs and recipes.

Thank you in advance for your support

In anticipation

Joyce Nicolson

Easter anagrams quiz – The following are anagrams of famous rabbits (and hares!) but can you identify which famous rabbits they are?

**1. The Rump**

**2. Nubby Guns**

**3. Bribe Patter**

**4. Okay Cherub**

**5. Hitter With Babe**

**6. Brat Briber**

**7. Teeny Sunbather**

**8. Riot Grabber**

**9. Very Ha**

**10. Heath Charmer**

## **I'm a Grandma!**

My granddaughter was born on 2 March, Annabelle Ethnie Rose Laing. I am really looking forward to meeting her towards the end of May and feel so blessed so be a Grandma.



## **Alpha**

On 27 January we hosted an Introduction Session to Alpha. The weekly Wednesday evening groups are facilitated by 5 hosts and our final 15<sup>th</sup> session will be held on 19 May. A total of 13 people attend, which includes hosts, two regular visitors from the Community Cafe' , a lady from Wendy's parent network and a few from our church family.

With the grace of God we will be starting our second Alpha course in autumn.

## **Online WGC United Reformed Church Book Club**

The first meeting of the Book Club will be on Thursday, 8 April at 10.30 am. The Shack written by WM Paul Young is the first book that has been chosen and the readers will have an opportunity to discuss their views and the content of the book at the first Zoom meeting.

The objectives of the book club are to encourage people to share experiences of Christian fiction or non-fiction books that they read and help them to develop their spiritual journey by understanding and questioning the content of the book. It is also an opportunity for like-minded people to meet online and interact with people they might not usually chat to.

## **Hall Hirers**

The building will be opening for hall hirers to return as from 12 April. Several have already shown an interest to start their groups again within the next few months. Prior to their return, risk assessments will have to be completed,

updated hall hire contracts to be signed and Hall Hire Fire Evacuation procedures to be covered.

## **Outreach**

I am facilitating two Zoom coffee catch ups weekly and I am also part of a WhatsApp group, to stay in touch with some of our Community Cafe' visitors.

## **Foodbank**

During February I collected 1338 items from the Sainsbury's Donation box and @22/3/21 collected 836 items for the New Zion Foodbank. There are between 40-50 families who visit the NZ Foodbank weekly. These collections are all part of my volunteering for the church.

## **Centenary Celebrations**



This is a very exciting year for us as we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Mary S is going to prepare the history of the URC for us and Philip R will organise the original building plans which will be displayed for the wider community as well as our church family to see.

It has been proposed that we have the celebrations in September and we have already had a few suggestions as to how we can commemorate this special occasion. I would also welcome any ideas that you may have, as to how we could make this a truly momentous occasion. Please let me have these no later than 9 April 2021.

We are well known for our hospitality, so we will need a few volunteers to help bake or serve on the day. Please let me know if you are available to help.

## **Facebook**

Please like **The URC Community Group of Welwyn Garden City** Facebook page and feel free to share any of the posts that you feel may be of interest.

**Thank you for reading my article. God Bless you and your loved ones – Liz (Mission Developer)**

## Kenneth Everard ( **Bertie** )

Kenneth was born in York 14 July 1926 to parents Hugo and Helen who were Scottish. Kenneth became known as Bertie at the age of 7. Whilst at Oundle School he became fed up with a banging window in his dorm, and deciding he could solve the problem, he did just that. As his classmates thought Kenneth was not a suitable name for a handyman, they called him Bertie and the name stuck!



After Oundle he went on to Magdalen College, Oxford where he read Natural Sciences and gained a First-Class Honors Degree which led to a BA, B.Sc. and MA followed by a D.Phil. in 1951. During his time at Oxford he rowed, becoming Head of the River and stroked a University Trial Eight. Many of you will remember the oar in pride of place in his sitting room.

Bertie went on to work for ICI in the Plastics Division, and by the time he left, in 1982, he was ICI's Education and Training Manager. He had first become inspired by the benefits of outdoor learning in 1966 when he visited Lakeside YMCA as part of his job in ICI, here he saw first-hand the transformative effects a fortnight's outdoor residential training had on young lives.

He pursued his interests in education and training, school management and outdoor learning and was particularly interested in the links between industry and education, innovations in learning, and developing young people for a new society.

Two people were tremendously influential on his career, Lord Hunt, who devised the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; and Lord Fleck, Chairman of ICI who sought to enable young people who had not been to university to realise their potential and have successful careers. Bertie became Lord Fleck's PA from 1957-60.

He went on to found the Development and Advisory Training Group and became a very respected and influential expert in training managers. He was



one of the founder members of the Welwyn Hatfield YMCA and was active in the YMCA in the decades that followed.

Jane discovered that he had taken a group of residents from here to Kenya to help build accommodation and a training school for young men and women to learn trades. When she was visiting Kenya taken to see this project when she mentioned where she was from and that she was involved with the YMCA there she was taken to meet a cow named Bertie!

In the 1980's Brathay, which works with young people to improve their life chances by offering them residential outdoor education, invited him to become a Governor. Their high ropes course was opened just in time for Bertie's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and naturally he was one of the first to try the course!

In 2004 he became the founding Chair of the Lambourne End Outdoor Centre which played a similarly influential role in the lives of young people from deprived areas of East London and Essex. Our own young people from Churches in Welwyn Garden City had an Alpha weekend there at Bertie's suggestion; they had a brilliant time and wanted to go back.

He was also an Elder and active member of the United Reformed Church which played a large part in his life. He was christened in the Scottish Episcopalian Church, confirmed in the Anglican Church, worshiped in the Presbyterian Church at University and afterwards. After it amalgamated with the Congregational Church, he did some consultancy to improve the way it worked. He also worked extensively for the Methodist Church from 1977 onwards. He says that he belongs to a broad church! His own faith was enhanced when he became a founder trustee of the Christ and the Cosmos Initiative where leading Scientists and theologians were able to discuss the increasing interplay between science and religion. For example, the application of Stephen Hawking's work to the Big Bang coupled with the principle of Occam's Razor comes close to a scientific proof of the existence of a Creator God.

He was a founder member of the Welwyn and Hatfield Inter Faith Group and eventually became its Chair. Valerie Skottowe, former secretary and present trustee said "I could always rely on Bertie's wise words and on his trustworthy

confidentiality. His legacy is one of the most active and respected inter faith groups in the country.”

Christine Novelli – also former Chair wrote that ‘the group began when people from different faiths kept meeting each other at Local Strategic partnership meetings and were encouraged to start the group. ‘We turned out to be a significant, yet gentle force, that went on to shape other IFG groups across the region and nation, under the care of various chairpersons, celebrating our unity in diversity, and standing together on matters of public concern; this was one of the legacies of Bertie. You would expect him to come to a meeting armed with one of his 'papers', that challenged and gave us food for thought. Bertie was one of those rare people with a quiet yet powerful passion for change. He was a true gentleman who persevered with grace to make things happen, then stepped aside for others whilst still supporting wholeheartedly; such was the case with the IFG.” For Christine personally, Bertie was one of her strongest supporters and influencers. “He encouraged me to be part of the group and as a church we eventually went on to sponsor a part time post to develop interfaith work with schools which is still ongoing.’

At church we were also used to his challenging papers Ensuring we remained Non-Conformist! These thoughts were sometimes shared as part of worship and someone wistfully recalled his sonorous voice booming from the pulpit. When we looked at fresh expressions of church, He suggested we could solve the local skateboarding problem. By putting a half pike skateboard ramp up in the church and if not inside at least in the grounds.

Bertie lived in a house he designed himself in Welwyn Garden City in 1960. When he did his gardening he was as always in his shirt and tie! He shared his house with lodgers and it took him a while to become appropriately registered, but once the registration happened, he was tickled to discover his home designated ‘A common boarding house!’ Many of his lodgers – like Alex, became lifelong friends. Alex’s experience of Bertie was literally lifesaving as he was very ill after returning from South Africa. It was Bertie who took him to hospital appointments and continued to encourage him when even his friends began to fall away.

Bertie travelled abroad widely when it was less fashionable than it is these days. He had been to - China, Thailand, Australasia, Poland, Switzerland, North America, North and South Africa, Turkey, Greece, India, Norway, Japan.

He belonged to a rambler's group which met for weekend rambles in different parts of Britain and he spent 2 weeks every year with a group of friends in Switzerland on walking and railway trips.

He was someone who would always greet you smiling and be interested in what you'd been doing. When his friends in Cumbria arranged for him to wear a boiler suit and become a train driver on the Eskdale Railway he was in his element. He was also thoroughly enjoying canal holidays with them when he was approaching 80.

Jane recalls visiting Bertie in hospital and being directed to the end bay where she found Bertie surrounded by piles of papers! Apparently he had collected all his paperwork and asked for an empty bay to work in whilst having his heart attack.

He enjoyed political, educational and faith debates, practical jokes, cakes and cream, board games and people. We all enjoyed him too. We hope heaven is ready for the piles of papers and new innovations we all knew Bertie for.

I wish to thank everyone for the very kind messages and telephone calls asking about my daughter and her progress through her cancer treatment. I am delighted to report that Carolyn is now through her chemotherapy treatment and just awaiting surgery to reverse the stoma in the next few weeks/months. She is looking extremely fit and is already getting back into work mode gradually. Your prayers and thoughts have been a great source of support for all of the family.

Love to you all

Jean H (WGC URC)



## Christian Aid Week 2021



This year Christian Aid is focussing on the effect of climate change on people trying to grow enough vegetables to feed their children and themselves. Long droughts and heavy rainstorms have made this more and more difficult.

Christian Aid is raising money this year to help people like Rosa, a grandmother who is the sole carer for her 6 grandchildren. When she was a child, there was plenty of rain that fell at the right times. Now she spends 6 hours a day walking to fetch water, "because I am old and cannot walk very fast."

I have set up a Justgiving page for donations. I am not very computer literate and it took me some time to find out that you cannot Google the web address! You go to Google and then enter it at the top of the page. The web address is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Robert-HarveyOR326817>. Or you can also put a lower case r, h, o and r. (The OR326817 is our Christian Aid number.) For those who would prefer to put a donation in a Christian Aid envelope, I have plenty of envelopes available (Tel: 01707.322339).

Thank you,  
Robert  
WGC URC

Happy Easter in different languages – Can you identify which languages the following wishes are in? (answers on back page)

1. Frohe Ostern
2. Joyeuses Pâques
3. Buona Pasqua
4. God påske
5. Felices Pascuas
6. Vrolijk Pasen
7. Feliz Páscoa

8. Veselé Velikonoce
9. Gleđilega páska
10. Pasg Hapus

## CHURCH FAMILY CORNER – WGC

There are 12 birthdays to celebrate in April with both Mary D. and Melvyn D. starting us off on 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by the twins, Howard & Xander who will be 7 on 9<sup>th</sup>, Derek G. on 12<sup>th</sup>, Margaret T. on 15<sup>th</sup>, Karen Mc. on 18<sup>th</sup>, Skye N. who will be 13 on 20<sup>th</sup>, Sanjay J. on 21<sup>st</sup>, Graham D. on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Arthur T. on 26<sup>th</sup> and Pat D. on 29<sup>th</sup>. Moving on to May, Margaret K. on 1<sup>st</sup>, Luke A. who will be 10 on 5<sup>th</sup>, Laura F. on 7<sup>th</sup>, Joyce D. on 16<sup>th</sup>, Nano W. on 20<sup>th</sup>, Marianne S. on 25<sup>th</sup> and Theresa R. on 26<sup>th</sup>. A bumper number of birthdays for this edition of our magazine so we wish everyone a very happy and enjoyable day when their date comes round.

April was also a popular month for weddings and we have three to mention. First out of the blocks are Joyce and Bruce Nicolson with their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 12<sup>th</sup>, then Janet and John Mortimer with their 40<sup>th</sup> on 18<sup>th</sup>, but the champions are Roger and Irene Simpson, celebrating their 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 17<sup>th</sup>. Wow!!

Joyce tells me that she and Bruce first met when they were both 15 and growing up in Aberdeen and were married when they were 23. Following their wedding in Belmont Congregational Church (now a night Club!!) they moved down south and set up home in Camberwell, London with Bruce working as a surveyor and Joyce teaching in a primary school.

Janet and John met while they were both students at Lanchester Poly, (now Coventry University) and members of the Christian Union there. They set up home in WGC after John started work at British Aerospace and Janet worked in Social Services.

Finally on to Irene and Roger. They met at a Sunday School Teachers Conference in Northampton when they were both 18. As Roger lived in Welwyn and Irene was in Blyth, Northumberland, a lot of letter writing featured in their early courtship! After their wedding in 1954 they set up home in W.G.C. where Roger had been born and brought up as had his parents before him.

We send our congratulations to you all and thank you for sharing your stories with us. We continue to remember Laura, Nano and Howell, Melva and others in need at this time and pray for God's Blessing on them all. Please let Jane or any of our Elders or Pastoral Friends know of anyone else in need of our prayerful or practical support.

Thank you, Ann M.

Muriel, Lady Menzies

15<sup>th</sup> December 1917 – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Muriel was born to the Langton family in 1917 in Southend-on-Sea before she and her family moved to Hornsea in Yorkshire. As children, sometime probably in the late 1920's or possibly early 30's, Muriel was seared by the experience of their very close and hard-working family being put out of their home for falling behind with the rent : it was an episode that formed and forged a sense in the young Muriel Langton, a conviction, really, for her, both that no one owed you a living but also that staying together as a family, working at and making personal sacrifice for that, was not just a duty, but a dedication and an essence of who she became and how she lived her life.

What happened not long afterwards showed this. Muriel won a place to study English or History at Oxford University. Her father had gone up to Cambridge as an older student in his 30's, to get the Chemistry degree that he realised he needed to make more of his inherent abilities and ambition ; and so Muriel, who always put great store by good education, aimed as high herself. But in the end, she did not go up to take her place at Oxford, knowing that she needed to choose instead to get a salaried job to support her family – and thus to start on what – though she could hardly have known it through her early work with the literary agent in London Faber and Faber– would eventually become a solid and, in those days, pioneering job in the City as a top-flight Personal Assistant to successive brilliant, demanding – and often assertive – Chairmen of both the Central Electricity Generating Board and the Electricity Council, which of course is where she first met Sir Peter Menzies.

Her nephew Richard retells the story of that interview 'She tells the story of getting her very first interview for that work – not with Sir Peter but with Sir Christopher Hinton, probably the most assertive and intimidating of them all : having been warned that he did not take kindly to people wearing colourful clothes at work, particularly disliked bright nail varnish, nor very much cared for women in the workplace at all – she showed up at that interview in a bright green suit and sporting very bright *orange* nail varnish ! Needless to say, she got the job ...'

Muriel was a hard-working, ever-dependable fixer, sorter and peerless organiser – thorough, always efficient, completely consistent. During the Second World War, she served in the WRAF at Tempsford, where she sent the brave men and women of the SOE into enemy territory. Thanks to her, they all almost always got there, made the drop and the pick-up and got safely back. She was awarded two medals at that time, the 1939 – 1945 War Medal and the 1939 – 1945 Defence medal. Muriel kept up her connections with Tempsford, acting as secretary to the Association, personally organising reunions of the SOE and resistance survivors in both France and England until the mid-1990s. It is highly likely that she may well prove to have been the very last surviving member of the select SOE which committed itself so bravely to fighting for our freedom in the Second World War : many, *many* women and men were truly sacrificial heroes in their number – and Muriel never forgot them or failed to commemorate and recognise them all.

In the 1977 New Year's Honours she was awarded The Member of the Order of the British Empire, Civil Division, for her services to the Electricity Industry.

Muriel also had a keen interest in the arts, travelled in Europe extensively, most often to Italy and Portugal, and never missed a chance to visit the opera either abroad or at Covent Garden. She was a great letter writer and had a tremendous sense of humour.

Muriel, moved to Welwyn in 1994 after marrying Sir Peter Menzies who was knighted for being the chairman of the Electricity Council. The pair lived in Harmer Green until they moved to Welwyn Garden City in 1995.

Sunday mornings would find Muriel sitting in her favourite spot, enjoying the music and always very interested in the flower displays. She was a generous contributor to the flower fund and would always write to Joyce after receiving the flowers that would be sent to her at St. Andrews. Joyce fondly recalls taking her magazine and spending time chatting with her.

Her family remember her as ' a devoted daughter, a loyal and staunch sister, and a loyal friend to many'.

## News from Wheathampstead

The Chapel Gym work is proceeding very well. We now have an insulated and beautifully painted ceiling, no more very old cob webs we have been looking at for many years as unable to reach them. We have on going work on the floor and a lot of digging going outside to resolve the damp in the walls. The site has been cleared of so much plant and small tree overgrowth and there has been much outside painting and it is all beginning to look very smart once again. Another crowdfunding campaign is doing very well.

Our congregation were so happy to meet once again on Palm Sunday for a walking service on the edge of a football pitch. We hung readings on trees and asked people how they would have felt if they had been in Jerusalem on that day and hosannas featured a lot! It was very windy but despite this we had a good turn out, some even walking quite a long way up the hill to get there!

We are hoping to meet up again on Easter Sunday in the church yard at St Helen's and perhaps have another outside service later on in April.



Lots of lovely naughty chocolate prizes, flowers & goodies to be won

£2.00 per ticket to be drawn 5<sup>th</sup> April at 9.15pm

Follow the link below

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/the-chapel-gym-easter-raffle>



## **Wendy – our Community and Families worker at WGCURC**

My role at WGCURC is to engage more families and children with the life of the church – and help the church become more engaging for families! So pre-COVID I was involved with running toddler groups and worshipful activities for families. I also lead the Whisper project taking visitors from different faiths into schools, have picked up the role of Chairperson for Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith, and been co-opted onto the Herts County SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education). The URC synod grant which funds my role runs for 4 more years and has an interfaith component, though recently I am on flexible furlough.



I have two children aged 23 and 20 who are both on track to graduate this summer, please God, and we have recently moved to Aston near Stevenage though they are currently back at uni. Now seems a good time to write up a bit about myself for people who may not know me – as Feb 4<sup>th</sup> marked 6 years since I began working full-time with WGCURC...

So to rewind a bit....

After graduating in Science and Theology, I worked for a decade in software development based in London, ending up as Head of IT department with an insurance organisation. My husband and I wanted to start a family, and moved to Harpenden where he was going to stop work and look after the children....until they came along! Instead, when our son Henry turned six months, I teamed up with a consultancy firm specialising in project management to work flexibly and part-time. Between the assignments with large organisations (usually 3 days per week), I found some of my own projects: e.g. standing in for 6 months as MD for a technical repair company with 250 employees – bit stressful(!), and helping a hardware testing start-up grow from 3 employees soon after Georgia was born – main stress getting back to nursery

in time for her lunchtime feed! My assignments were a mix of project reviews, mentoring project managers, leading workshops and strategic planning.

With High Street Methodist church and the surrounding circuit, I preached and led worship and bible studies, and junior church groups for many ages, having been accredited as a Methodist Local Preacher in my early twenties. I filled many church volunteer posts, including serving on the management group for two church community workers. In 2007, I felt God prompting me to offer to help with the Friday youth group – just before the other leaders all needed to give up (I didn't know in advance!) and my son used to bring his friends...I find in so many things God's timing is perfect!

The biggest challenge in my life has been my husband's brain tumour, finally diagnosed when Georgia was six months old and removed just before her baptism. It left him with the slow and difficult recovery phase, and a rather different personality: finding cerebral pursuits like scrabble and crosswords therapeutic but social and family situations very taxing. Thankfully, he was able to return to work after a year, and once came runner up in the National Scrabble championship. We adjusted, with the help of some insurance money to get a bigger house, extended family, lots of prayer, and various childcare arrangements, enjoying the company of several au pairs who lived with us during the junior school years allowing me to travel with work. In due course, the children moved to secondary school and David moved into the spare room for more peace and quiet and internet scrabble. He has a youtube channel with prolific commentary videos on matches and international tournaments and we are all very proud of him!

In 2010, the Lord called me to leave the business world and look for a ministry role, and I started as Community Worker with St John's Potters Bar in Sept 2011 to run a three-year christian outreach project. And I loved it! This was great experience in outreach, mission and discipleship along with the research and reflection around 'mission-shaped church' within methodism at the time. And I met many young families through the nursery school at St Johns. That completed in 2014 and I was pleased to take up my post with WGCURC.

And our lockdown experience to date? Quite busy all spring and summer, as we were decluttering and selling our house to downsize (33 viewings and we are not usually tidy people so that was discipline to the max...), besides all working/studying/taking exams(!) from home in Harpenden, then me holding some activities in WGCURC garden when we were allowed. And in November/December moving...me to Aston and David to his own flat in Harpenden. There was little choice for renting, but as usual God was ahead and I keep discovering more things which will make this particular rural house a great base for us in the next few years.

Just now I feel kind-of 'homesick' for both Harpenden and WGC, not to mention coffee shops – but that is partly the lockdown. I have experienced God's provision in all my life to date and am trusting God for the next phase. Many thanks to many of you who have offered supportive messages this year, and appeared on zoom with your smiling faces. It is great to be sharing life's adventure with you....

"Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord!"

God Bless, Wendy

[wendy.lidgate@outlook.com](mailto:wendy.lidgate@outlook.com) 07904 517384

**We would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Liz Laing, who has gone above and beyond for people struggling during this pandemic. She has put herself at risk at least twice a week to go into Sainsburys, load up the donations, sort them and then meet with the Foodbank collectors.**

**Also to Joyce and the pastoral team for the lovely Easter bag of Palm cross, daffodils, egg and card they delivered. I'm sure it was a ray of sunshine and hope to us all.**

Please let me know if you would like to have someone else mentioned in the above and beyond corner



## **Why does Easter change every year?**

*Confused? Yep, me too. I think a certain egg manufacture is too.... They seem to believe 3 days into the New Year is when Easter starts!!*

Many other festivals are on fixed days, however Easter is a movable feast based on the lunar calendar, and is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after March 21.

## **Who decides when Easter is?**

The First Council of Nicea was a council of Christian bishops convened in Nicea in Bithynia by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in AD 325. They made decisions in an effort to attain a consensus on several Christian topics.

Based on the paschal full moon, it was decided by the bishops that Easter Day would fall on the next full moon after the spring equinox.

This was because Easter must fall on a Sunday as it was the day of Christ's resurrection.

The paschal full moon was chosen because the date of Passover in the Jewish calendar, and the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) occurred on the Passover. Therefore, Easter is the Sunday after Passover.

But since the paschal full moon can be on different days in different time zones, it was decided that the full moon is always determined to be the 14th day of the lunar month.

Even though the spring equinox can occur on March 20, the church also fixes the spring equinox as March 21.



March 23<sup>rd</sup> marked a year since Lockdown 1. It has been long year. Every statistic is a life lost, a family left without a loved one; it is all too much for us to take in. So in remembering everyone who is suffering, grieving, exhausted from frontline working, everyone volunteering to get the vaccine programme rolled out, everyone keeping us afloat – in fact everyone we say Thank you and thank God for each one of them.

Here also is a thank you to encourage you. Whatever you have done this year God will have used to bless another. Thank you.

**T**o all of you who have done so much to help each other and keep our churches afloat this year – Thank you.

**H**aving the knowledge that we are all lifting each other in prayer has been awesome and I hope has helped everyone to know they are loved -Thank you.

**A**lways knowing that when we have a need there is someone on the end of a phone to answer our call. Thank you.

**N**ever feeling we are in this alone is priceless. Thank you.

**K**nowing that our church families are full of friends who will support us as we work out how we can be church and grow as disciples under our current circumstances. Thank you.

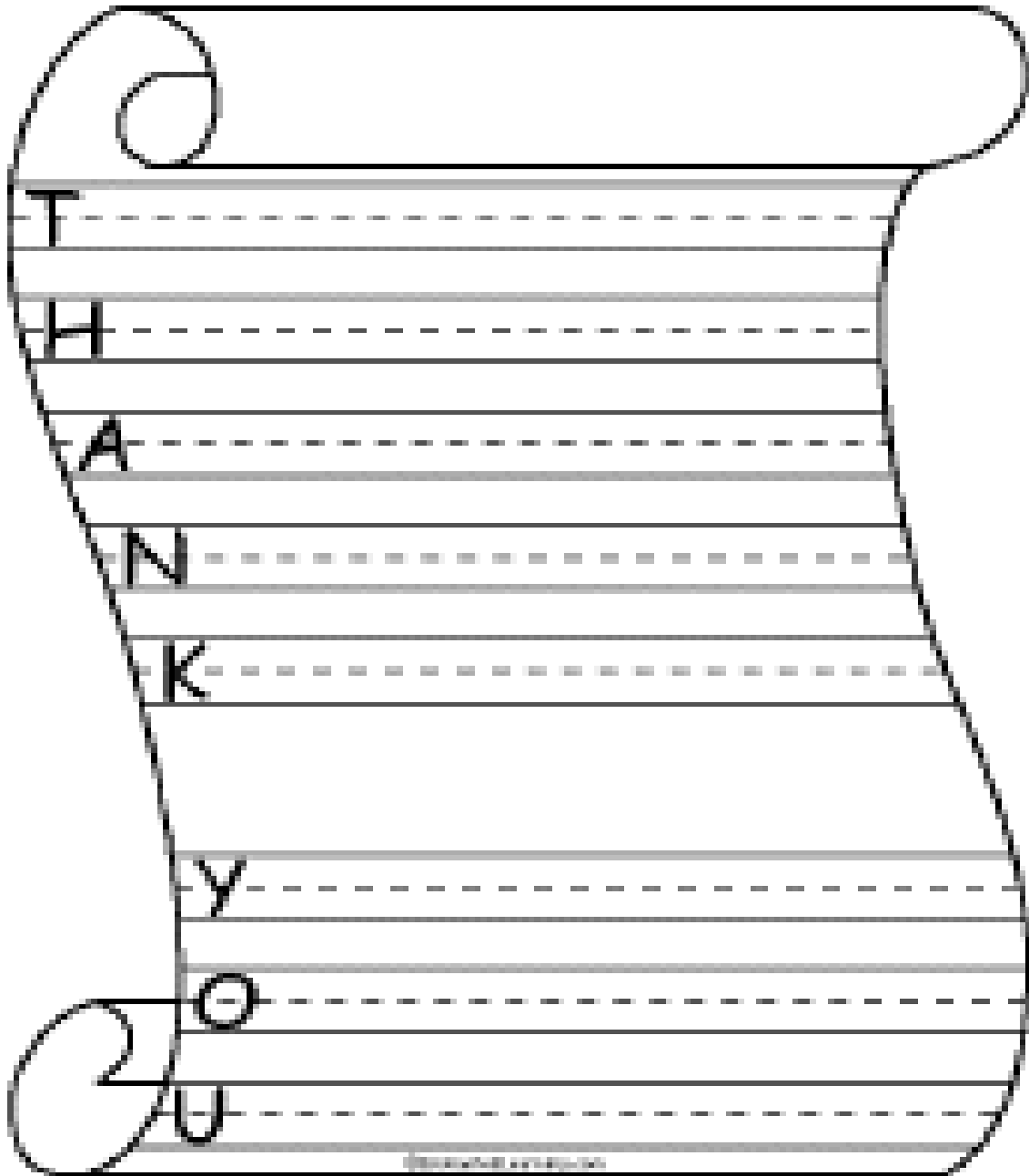
**Y**ou make a huge impact on people by sharing God's love in real and tangible ways. Thank you.

**O**ur Elders, group leaders, worship teams, tech team and employees have shared time and talents to help us share Gods Word in new ways- Thank you.

**U**nder the shadow of Gods wing we have helped others, provided for peoples basic needs and cared for our emotional and spiritual health. Thank you.

*Thanks to Streetsalive for the idea*

If you would like to write your own acrostic of Thank you – this may help!



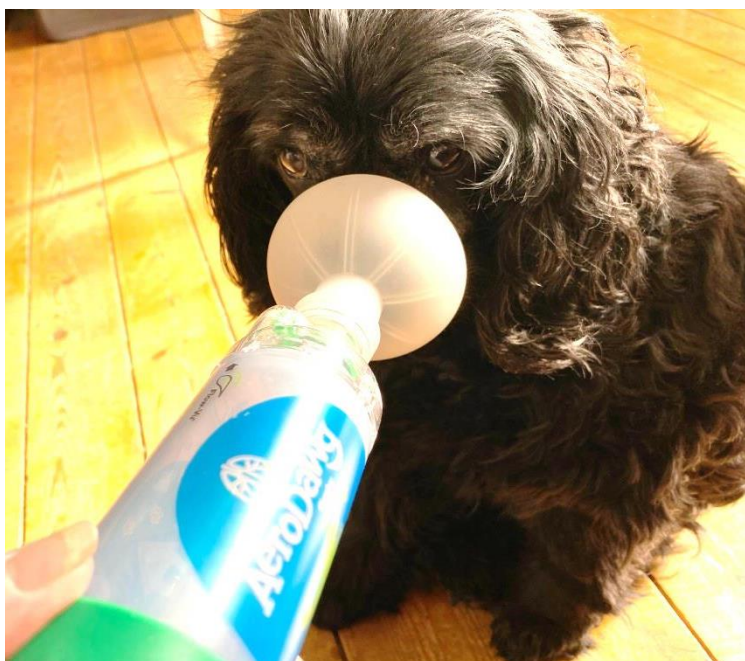
The following are chocolate bar slogans or slogans associated with chocolate. Some are from the past, some the present – but can you identify which type of chocolate they are the slogans for?

1. The lighter way to enjoy chocolate.
2. Feel the bubbles.
3. The taste of paradise.
4. Get Some Nuts!
5. Why have cotton when you can have silk?
6. It's not for girls
7. Soft on the outside, crunchy on the inside
8. Take it easy.
9. It's not Terry's, It's mine.
10. And all because the lady loves...

Happy Easter everyone.

It hardly seems possible that it was nearly two months since I wrote about mine and David's surgeries. And here we are out the other side doing really well and still speaking to each other!! Abi's interest in cooking hasn't improved but her skills have. In fact she had a lesson on zoom with her brother, it was lovely to hear the laughter but I was still finding bits of pizza dough in my keyboard a week later! David had a few bumps along the way but I am delighted to report there is no need for Chemotherapy as they are as certain as they can be that they got everything. He will have a reversal of the ileostomy in due course given the delay from covid. I would like to thank everyone for the messages and cards that we received, they were really lovely and comforting to have.

But of course it wouldn't be my life without something happening... Picture the scene ...Abi has taken David to the hospital for a check-up and I am waiting for a phone call from the vet as the coughing and sneezing is still happening. So the phone rang, and "Hi Mrs Giles its Anish from the surgery" we exchanged pleasantries and the he said "How's the patient?". Well that's where I launched into the previous discussion we had had regarding an asthma inhaler. And I ended with "Her nose is warm and dry but her coat is looking great since the steroids". There was a pause and then he said "ell I don't know much about dry noses but I can give you the name of my vet who is really good". It was then that I realised that it wasn't the vet but the doctor who had rung to check up on us!! His name was Dr Manish not Anish. The only saving grace was I hadn't



launched into my symptoms/procedure to the vet!!

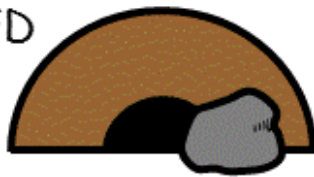
And here is Bailey using her inhaler. It was traumatic for the first 2 days, but she now comes running at appearance of it as she worked out it means treats. In fact if she hears mine puffing she comes in the hope of more treats! I did use hers once by mistake but no signs of a tail yet, so all good. Keep safe.

Allison G .xx

# Easter Word Search

T H O R N S W Y S M L A P N G  
K R I S E N Y C E N O T S E C  
R E T S O O R D R K H O T V R  
B E L I E V E S E O N H B I U  
Y T P M E Z D X S Y S O C G C  
E C I F I R C A S E A S D R I  
E V I L A L N B M O T R B O F  
S I N U I N N A I L S C T F Y  
W V G F A E N P I L A T E E S  
B R E A D E Y A R P D I E D B

ALIVE  
BELIEVE  
BETRAYED  
BREAD  
CROSS  
CRUCIFY  
DIED  
DONKEY  
EMPTY  
FORGIVEN



GETHSEMANE  
GUARDS  
HOSANNA  
LIFE  
NAILS  
PALMS  
PILATE  
PRAYED  
RISEN  
ROOSTER



SACRIFICE  
SIN  
SON  
STONE  
THORNS  
TOMB



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I hope you have enjoyed reading this magazine. If you have please consider sending us an article, I'm sure we would enjoy what you have to say. If you would like to contribute and are not really sure what , please contact one of the people above, who I'm sure could give you some suggestions.

Please can I have any articles for the next magazine by the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Please send by email or contact me by phone for WGC URC & Wheathampstead articles. For Harpenden URC articles please contact Sarah Connor Many thanks,  
Allison Giles

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## Quiz answers

1. German
2. French
3. Italian
4. Danish
5. Spanish
6. Dutch
7. Portuguese
8. Czech
9. Icelandic
10. Welsh

1. Thumper
2. Bugs Bunny
3. Peter Rabbit
4. Bucky O'Hare
5. The White Rabbit
6. Br'er Rabbit
7. The Easter Bunny
8. Roger Rabbit
9. Harvey
10. The March

1. Maltasers
2. Aero
3. Bounty
4. Snickers
5. Galaxy
6. Yorkie
7. Dime Bar
8. Cadbury's Caramel
9. Chocolate Orange
10. Milk Tray