

# Upton St Leonards Life

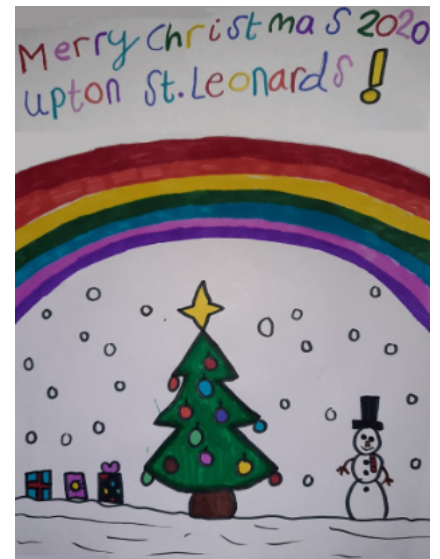
incorporating Church News

Issue 76

December 2020



The front cover of this edition of USL Life is illustrated by the three winners of our competition: *Snowman* by Aneira Sullivan, *Under the Rainbow* by Teddy Bullingham and *Santa Claus* by Charlie Leighton. See page 2 for details.



Unusual Christmas Dinners:  
Collected and arranged by  
Ann Morphew

p. 4

Times Gone By: Visitors to  
Upton St Leonards by  
Mike Stratford

p.18

The Old Farms of  
Upton St Leonards by  
Mike Long

p. 13

## EDITORIAL

What a year it has been! Despite the enormous disruption to our normal village life - closure of church, school, village hall, BMI, recreation facilities, parish council and society meetings, plus restrictions on all the other activities I haven't thought to mention here - somehow or other we have managed to keep up the monthly editions of USL Life. We thank all of you who have contributed the information, articles and photographs that have helped to fill our pages and we hope that you have enjoyed reading our somewhat unusual attempts to maintain a semblance of normality in our village.

This December's edition has few local events to report thanks to the latest lockdown. However, we have received a splendid number of entries from local children to our FRONT COVER COMPETITION as well as Mike Long's lengthy and fascinating account of the farms in our area. We are also publishing various unusual seasonal items which we hope you will enjoy reading. Furthermore, there are two quizzes and a cultural teaser to entertain our readers over the next few weeks. The answers will be published in the January edition.

Finally, we wish you all as happy a Christmas season as possible and look forward to a better year in 2021. Once again thank you to the Support Group, the Farm Shop and Rahul and Seeta at the Post Office, as well as all our friends and neighbours who have helped others during this difficult period.



On Wednesday 4th November at about 8pm, an Air Ambulance (The Wiltshire Air Ambulance based near Melksham- the Gloucestershire version cannot fly at night!) hovered over Upton looking for a safe landing spot. It finally settled on the Recreation Ground - see photo. The landing was spectacular in the dark with strong spotlights illuminating the descent. The helicopter had been alerted because of a medical emergency at the King's Head, eventually dealt with by a road ambulance from Glos. Royal. The helicopter was not needed and returned to base at about 9.30pm. The pilot, Rob Bacchus, said the Rec. made a perfect landing spot and he was very well looked after (a cup of coffee was provided).

## Congratulations to the winners of the December Front Cover competition

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Aneira Sullivan

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Teddy Bullingham

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Charlie Leighton

Highly Commended: Lily Dempster,  
Francesca-May Hughes and  
Joshua Sullivan .

**And a very big thank you to all the other children who participated. We had a total of 17 entries this year and they were all lovely.**

The other girls and boys who entered were: Cerys Ball, Poppy Blackburn, Oliver Cook, Phoebe Cook, Chloe Hancocks, Kai Harvey, Lexi Hewer, Molly Howells, Rebecca-Jayne King, Amelia Slater and Blake Winstanley.

There was only one adult entry and this has been placed on the back page along with the three highly commended pictures.

**BEWARE!**

**NEW  
TELEPHONE  
SCAM**

See page 7

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**NICEIC**  
DOMESTIC INSTALLER

## New era begins at the BMI Club



Upon receiving Alec's retirement notice in late August, the committee set about recruiting a new Steward to take over the reins of the BMI after the very successful 9 years of Alec's tenure. We knew that we must do this in a reasonable time frame, albeit in a strange year when business was just ticking over due to Covid.

Advertisements were placed online and in the local papers. These days most vacancies are filled from the internet which is where people seem to look for jobs. We had a very good response both from outside and inside the club. A panel of 5 members of the committee set about interviewing candidates.

Following this process the decision was taken to appoint Brian Dodd, who has had a wealth of experience running both clubs and pubs in past years, always ably assisted by his wife Lorraine. Recently they spent 4 years running a club of a similar size to ours in Maidenhead, during which time Brian won many awards for his beer-keeping, which is great news. They both come from the North East of England, but really enjoy living down south.

We wholeheartedly welcome them to the BMI Club, where we are sure they will be excellent replacements for our outgoing Steward. They moved in 2 days after lockdown, since when Brian has been familiarising himself with the club and is looking forward to opening in December and meeting members.

BMI Committee

## Haiku for the End of the Year

This year has nearly ended,  
Three seasons gone,  
No light yet.

Nature is not thwarted,  
Robin and Wren return to the garden  
To sing once more.

Holly, Ivy and Hawthorn berries  
Ripen in winter for hungry birds  
To feed; as always.

A New Year will soon begin,  
Seasons will return,  
Will our hopes and plans succeed then?



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## **Meals on Wheels**

1997 saw us drive 200 miles north to spend the night of Christmas Eve in a freezing cold caravan. We then took the bird and all its trimmings to my widowed mother's where we were to cook the dinner; all went well until the electricity cut out! After a nail-biting wait, power was restored, and we all enjoyed a belated meal. Then goodbye to Mum and we were off again 150 miles on empty roads to the East Midlands for a festive tea with the in-laws; another 100 miles later we finally arrived home.

## **An Unplanned Vegetarian Christmas**

We had just moved into our new house in USL in the early seventies. We bought our turkey locally, and it was before freezers were common. We cooked the turkey, got it out of the oven only to discover that it was definitely OFF!

## **Where was the White Meat?**

Newly married and back home for Christmas; my mother became ill and my sister in law and I were faced with cooking the Christmas turkey. We spent a lot of time basting and turning the bird and finally brought it cooked to the table, and carved it for the family.

My brother kept complaining at his lack of white meat. It was only after we had served everyone that we looked more carefully at the bird, to find that we had somehow carved it upside down and found the white meat virtually untouched.

## **Dinner on a veranda**

2007: My sisters and I went to Kampala, Uganda, where we had spent a part of our childhood. We met up with a Ugandan family with whom we had kept in touch, and on Christmas Day we all went out to have our meal at a Korean restaurant, where we ate outside on the veranda; our dinner was delicious.

## **Spoilt Shoes**

Turkey cooking nicely in the oven; best dress on; opened eye level oven door; glasses fogged up; pulled turkey dish towards me; turkey slipped out of dish spilling fat over dress and all over shoes. The shoes had to be thrown away, we ate the turkey.

## **Not The Christmas Dinner I would have chosen**

On Christmas morning I walked over to my brother who was living in sheltered accommodation; the kitchen was too small to attempt to cook a Christmas dinner.

We dined off two Farm Foods frozen Christmas meals; they were not bad at all!

## **Neighbours to the Rescue**

Preparing for the family Christmas dinner disaster struck when the cork from a bottle of wine flew off and smashed into the glass oven door. Our neighbours across the road were going out for the day so kindly offered us the use of their kitchen and oven. We ferried everything back and forth across the road, and the family dinner was saved by their kind action.

## **Christmas Dinner on the Edge of a Volcano**

In 2010 the two of us were sitting together at the edge of the sea by the lava flow of a volcano on the world's remotest island enjoying a Christmas Day picnic of locally caught and cooked lobster.

## **Greedy Cats**

My mother never ate poultry, so she would cook a joint of pork on Christmas morning, but Dad and I preferred the traditional turkey. This was therefore roasted on Christmas Eve and left to cool overnight under tin foil on the worktop.

One Christmas morning, however, when we went into the kitchen, the cats were fast asleep and not miaowing for their breakfast, which was highly unusual. We shortly discovered the reason why - our pets had been feasting on the turkey. Fortunately, they had only devoured one side and the other half of the bird had remained intact, so we ate it just the same!

## Stroud and Stonehouse to become canal centres again.



The canal as it is now near Ebley Mill

So far about 5 miles of the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn canals, between Stonehouse and Thrupp, have been restored by the efforts of Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canals Trust. The work has been done both by volunteer effort and contractors.

Having an isolated stretch of restored canal is all very well, but the real benefit comes from having this bit connected to the canal network. The work on restoring the next five mile stretch between Stonehouse and Saul to connect with the Gloucester & Sharpness canal is the next phase. Problem is that there are some big obstacles. The Bristol railway line blocks the canal at Stonehouse. Then there's the M5 and the A38.

However the issues can be solved - all that's needed is £££. You may have seen what is happening at the A38 crossing at Fromebridge: the restored canal passes through the middle of the roundabout, and that work is well underway. There are costed solutions for the railway and M5 crossings and other lesser issues.

Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canals Trust can now announce that Stroud and Stonehouse are set to become canal towns once again, following The National Lottery Heritage Fund's decision to grant £8.9 million to the Cotswold Canals Connected Project. This grant will cover a very substantial part of the costs for the work described above.

Stroud District Council reckons the connection will bring very large benefits in terms of added tourism, jobs and leisure opportunities.

If this project sparks your interest, you can become a member of the Cotswold Canals Trust. This gives you the chance to donate, do some voluntary work yourself, e.g. keeping the towpaths tidy and clear, small maintenance tasks, raising funds, helping run boats, etc. The Trust also publishes a wonderful quarterly magazine illustrating progress, and some books about the canal's history.

[www.cotswoldcanals.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldcanals.org.uk)



The A38 roundabout

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***Village Walks booklet - new edition available now,  
and you can purchase a wall-mountable copy of the painted footpath map***



The eighth edition of the Village Walks booklet has now been published. It adds the new paths that have been established in the past year to Prinknash and at Nut Hill. There is a new section on how you can use your smart phone on your walk to navigate, see detailed maps and routes, and make up your own routes for reference.

Thanks to Stuart Tedaldi and the Nutty Badgers for this section. Sue Aristide's amazing painted map is printed in it. The new booklet costs £2.50 (discounted to £1.50 for those who recently bought the "interim" 7.5

edition).

Sue's painted map has been on display outside the Village Hall and the Shops for many years, but now you can get your own copy, printed professionally to high quality on A3 size gloss card, for £10.



To get your copy of the booklet or map contact USL Life via the web site.

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE UPDATE

Because of Lockdown there is little to report this month in USL Life. We have, however, received the notice below and this may be of interest to members who have not already seen it:

### Tim Poole Cup 2021

Entries are invited for the next Tim Poole Cup. For this we want you to think back over your time in the WI, possibly even to times BC (Before Covid!!) We invite you to create a visual image of something you have done with WI which could come under the heading:

#### 'Fun and Friendship'

This image must be on a flat surface and can be any size up to A4. It can be in any style of your choice - cartoon, drawing, painting, photograph, etc. It can be in colour or monotone and must be self-explanatory.

**Closing Date: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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## SERIOUS TELEPHONE FRAUD SCAM



On 6<sup>th</sup> November I received a text message from what I believed to be my bank, saying they had noticed an out of the ordinary transaction and that they might need to decline my card. Naturally I telephoned the bank and explained the situation. I was told as a security measure that a new credit card would be sent to me. I received this new card in a couple of days and thought that was the end of it.

On 17<sup>th</sup> November I received a call from what I believed to be a 'member' of the Fraud Department at my bank. I was asked if I had been aware of any fraudulent activity on my account. I explained that there had been a minor incident recently but I believed that the matter had been solved. I was then asked to confirm 3 recent transactions that were read out to me, all of which were genuine and then 4 further transactions, each for £600 to people unknown to me. Further questions followed about my personal banking details followed by the question 'Had I requested a loan today?'.

My response was no I had not, but then I was told that my youngest daughter had taken out a loan of £10,000 in my name. I asked the caller to tell me the account number and sort code into which this money had been paid and it **was** my daughter's account. I told the caller I would contact my daughter and he was anxious as to how long it would be, so I asked him to call back in an hour; which of course he never did.

I then telephoned my bank and listened to the familiar procedures before being connected to an advisor. I asked if they could verify an 'Andrew Johnson' from the Fraud Department and was told that I had been a victim of an App Scam. Unbelievably my daughter discovered that £10,000 had been put into her account from myself.

This was a highly sophisticated scam, starting with a fake text message and followed up 10 days later with a very plausible conversation and concerns over 'pending transactions'. The matter has been reported to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) and a response received whereby further investigations are ongoing.

**If you get a call from anyone purporting to be from your bank, terminate the call and ring your bank after a delay or on a different phone, calling the phone number your bank has supplied on a statement or other correspondence. If your caller gives you a number to call, don't use that.**



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# Arts Page - December 2020

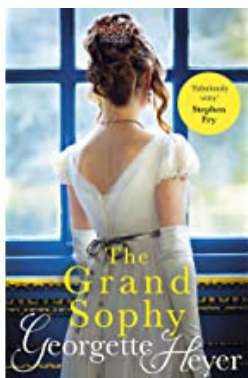
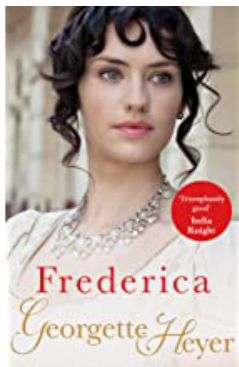


## THOUGHTS FROM GREAT THINKERS

I have just learned to love a hyacinth. (Jane Austen)

Air and cleanliness are the most important things in this life. (D.H.Lawrence)

If you want to see a man offer him something to eat, it's the same with a mouse. (Lewis Carroll)



## The Computer's First Christmas Card by Edwin Morgan (1920-2010)

jollymerry  
hollyberry  
jollyberry  
merryholly  
happyjolly  
jollyjelly  
jellybelly  
bellymerry  
hollyheppy  
jollyMolly  
marryJerry  
merryHarry  
hoppyBarry  
heppyjarry  
boppyheppy  
berryjorry  
jorryjolly  
moppyjelly  
Mollymerry  
Jerryjolly  
bellyboppy  
jorryhoppy  
hollymoppy  
Barrymerry  
Jarryhappy  
happyboppy  
boppyjolly  
jollymerry  
merrymerry  
merrymerry  
merryChris  
ammerryasa  
Chrismerry  
AsMERRYCHR  
YSANTHEMUM

## Adrian Henri's Talking After Christmas Blues (1932-2000)

Well I woke up this mornin' it was Christmas Day  
And the birds were singing the night away  
I saw my stocking lying on the chair  
Looked right to the bottom but you weren't there  
there was  
apples  
oranges  
chocolates  
...aftershave  
but no you.

So I went downstairs and the dinner was fine  
There was pudding and turkey and lots of wine  
And I pulled those crackers with a laughing face  
Till I saw there was no one in your place  
there was  
mincepies  
brandy  
nuts and raisins  
...mashed potato  
but no you.

Now it's New Year and it's Auld Lang Syne  
And it's 12 o'clock and I'm feeling fine  
Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgotten?  
I don't know girl, but it hurts a lot  
there was  
whisky  
vodka  
dry Martini (stirred but not shaken)  
..... and 12 New Year resolutions  
all of them about you.

So it's all the best for the year ahead  
As I stagger upstairs and into bed  
Then I looked at the pillow by my side  
.....I tell you baby I almost cried  
there'll be  
Autumn  
Summer  
Spring  
.....and Winter  
- all of them without you.

**BOOK REVIEW** – Georgette Heyer (1902-1974) was a novelist and short story writer in historical romance and detective fiction genres. She wrote Regency romance inspired by Jane Austen. The level of detail in her work is impressive – Margaret Drabble considers Georgette Heyer her favourite historical author. As a starting point for you we recommend 'The Grand Sophy', 'Devil's Cub' and 'Frederica'. As always, we would value your feedback.





## St Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

Priest in Charge:  
Rev Clodagh Ingram

Curate: Rev James Turk



*Please note that due to James' work commitments, calls, texts and emails will be answered evenings and weekends*

2020 has seen such upheaval and uncertainty because of what we have all had to face because of Covid 19 and I think it is fair to say that this year has been a dreadful year. The world feels very frightening for many people right now, it feels divided and this feeds into the sense of uncertainty and anxiousness we have all felt at times these past months. I think this year there is a sense we not only *want* Christmas, but that we *need* Christmas. At some point in our lives, we've all gestured towards the sudden appearance of Christmas trees and decorations in shops in early September, rolled our eyes and told our friends "*It gets earlier and earlier every year!*", but this year, it feels a little different. This year, it has felt like we're ready for it!

The allure of Christmas has a strange power, even for the unbelieving and seemingly secularised. The season has a kind of draw – a type of "spirit" or "magic" - that makes the winter solstice festival every bit as big today as it was generations ago. Christmas generates emotions and feelings in us like no other. It reaches into a world that is starving deep down for something beyond the normal, but rarely admitting it, and not really knowing why. Christmas taps into something hidden in the human soul and draws us in, even when it's inconsistent with a mind that professes unbelief.

Why does Christmas have this magnetism in a society that has tried to empty it of its true meaning? The real magic of Christmas is not in gifts and goodies, new toys and familiar traditions, indoor cosiness, and outdoor snow. What lies at the heart of Christmas, and whispers to all of us – believers and unbelievers alike - is the stunning fact that *God himself became one of us*. The God who created our world, and humanity as the pinnacle of his creation, came into our world as human not just for show but for salvation. And make no mistake, this was an event beyond scientific and human understanding, and it changed the world forever.

We've had so much time this year to question our values and the things that really do matter in life, and this Christmas will be an important one for all of us, after a long year of uncertainty, worry and some very unprecedented times. I think we are all ready to hear again the message of hope that Christmas brings and what that hope means for us all. For the hope of Christmas is not just that God himself came from heaven as man. And it's not just that he humbled himself as a servant to meet the needs of others. And it's not even just that he came to die. The hope lies in that he came down, and did all those things, to rescue each one of us, and he did it out of love. An unconditional and freely given love for each person on this troubled planet. And whatever you have faced this year, or whatever you may face in the future, the promise is that the love God has for you is never changing.

So, my prayer for you all this Christmas is that you hear again that promise, and you will hold on to that promise this festive season and into the years ahead. And ...

May the joy of the angels,  
The gladness of the shepherds,  
The worship of the wise men  
And the peace of the Christ child,  
Be yours this Christmas.  
Amen



*James*

### *Christmas Services*

Unfortunately due to the ongoing COVID situation our Christmas services will be curtailed and the usual festive gatherings will not be happening this year. As it stands at present there will a communion service at 11.00pm on Christmas Eve and a Family service with shortened communion on Christmas day morning at 9.00 am.

Please let James know if you would like to attend either service as soon as possible as spaces will be limited. At the time of writing we are in the midst of the second lockdown and things may change again so please keep watch on the notice boards and the church door for any updates



*Answers to last months quiz*

*Thirty Books Of The Bible*

This is **A MOS** re**MARK**able puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu **LU, KE**eping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on it while fishing from his **JOHN**boat. Another friend studied it while playing his ban**JO.EL**aine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **JUDGES** the **JOB** of solving this puzzle so involving s**HE BREWS** a cup of tea to help her nerv**ES. THER**e will be some names that are really easy to spot. That is a f**ACT.**Some people however will soon find themselves in a **JAM ES**pecially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. **TRUTH**fully, f**ROM ANS**wers we get, we are forced to admi**T IT US**ually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of the **M AT THE W**orse. Research has shown that something in our **GENES IS** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph.

During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **PHI LEMON**ade booth set a new sales record. The local paper The **CHRONICLE** surveyed over 200 patrons who responded that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **DANIEL** Huma**NA HUM**bly puts it, the books are all right there in plain view hidden from sight. **THOSE** **A**ble to find them will hear great **LAMENTATIONS** from those who have to be shown.

One **REVELATION** that may help is that books like **TIMOTHY** and **SAMUEL** may occur without their **NUMBERS**. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are nor**MAL. A CHI**pper attitude will help you com**PETE R**eally well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mad **EXODUS**, there really are thirty books of the bible lur**KING S**omewhere in this article waiting to be found.



*Merry Christmas*

*and a Happy & Peaceful New Year*

*To all our Parishioners*

*And congregation*

*Best wishes from*

*Clodagh, James and the PCC*



This year our chosen charity is the Food Bank. If you are wanting to make a donation rather than sending out Christmas cards this year, please contact Dorothy Cox for details

## *Tower Floodlighting 2020*

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, the Church Tower was lit in memory of Sally Tucker, who died on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019. She is sadly missed by all her family.

The Tower Lights in December are sponsored in loving memory of Joe Stubbs, still so sadly missed by all his family and friends.

The Church Tower will be lit on 11<sup>th</sup> December in memory of Mrs M.A. Devereux (Nan) who sadly died last March. She would have celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on this day. Sadly missed, but warmly remembered by all her family and friends.

Remembering with love and many happy memories on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, my husband Pete on his birthday, Jenny

*if you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday/anniversary/ Baptism or in remembrance of a loved one please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation this will help us too.*

***Please note that the deadline of the Church Pages of USL Life is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.***



*Upton St. Leonard's Mothers Union*



Following such a strange year with us being unable to meet, I would like to wish all the Mothers' Union members & readers of this magazine a very peaceful & blessed Christmastide and hope that you may find this prayer of use during the festive season.

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

Luke 2:1, 14

Loving Lord,  
in the quiet of your presence  
we name those for whom we care.  
whether we are filled with hope  
in this most holy season  
or in a place more attuned  
to the hill of Calvary  
than the stable of nativity,  
in your mercy open our ears  
to the eternal echo of angelic voices  
proclaiming tidings of comfort and joy.  
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Kate Gale  
Branch Leader

## *December Readings*

### ***Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December***

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Mark 1:1-8

### ***Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December***

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

### ***Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December***

Romans 16:25-end  
Luke 1:26-38

### ***Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December***

Isaiah 52:7-10  
John 1:1-14

### ***Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December***

Luke 2:1-14 ( 15-20)

## *Who's Who in the Parish Church*

**Priest in Charge**

Rev Clodagh Ingram

**Curate:**

Rev. James Turk

**Churchwardens:**

Gill Howell

**Vacancy**

**PCC Secretary:** - Sarah Kent

**Church Treasurer**

Vacancy

**Baptism & Wedding Enquiries**

**Church Administrator** - Jenny Cunningham

**Safeguarding**

Dorothy Cox

**Bell Tower Captain**

Charlie Burnett

**Mother's Union:**

Kate Gale

**Church Cleaning Rota:**

Claire Appleyard

**Church Flowers:**

Jenny Cunningham

**USL Life (Church pages) and Pew News**

Rachel Middleton

### *Shoebox appeal 2020*

I would like to say thank you so much for the generosity shown recently since I asked for extra help and support for the Shoebox Appeal. I have received hats, gloves, scarves, flannels, soap, toothbrushes, combs, pens, pencils, crayons etc., soft toys, socks and many more items, as well as cash donations. I have been able to put together 33 Flannel, Soap, Comb and Toothbrush Sets and 20 Pencil Cases, as well as being able to fill more Shoeboxes.

To date, I now have 55 shoeboxes in my home (exceeding all expectations this year) which includes 12 sponsored boxes and 16 boxes where the transport has been paid.

Due to lockdown, the new date for shoeboxes to reach me is the **5<sup>th</sup> December**, so there is still time to prepare a box, or sponsor one. Cost to help with transport is £5, the cost of sponsoring a box is £15, plus £5 towards transport.

My grateful thanks to you all, the Shoeboxes will bring so much joy and happiness to the children who receive them.

*Jenny Cunningham*



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## DREARY

by anon.

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
I'll sanitize the doorknob and make a cup of tea.  
I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,  
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.

There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu  
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.  
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay  
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.

I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye  
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.  
Across the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go  
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.

And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,  
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.  
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends  
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

*There are, we think, 12 references to poems and prose passages within this piece. Perhaps you would accept our challenge and identify as many references as you can?*

## Easy quiz

### Christmas Quiz - All the answers are appropriate for this time of year

- What C is an island in the Indian Ocean?
- What H has the Latin name Ilex?
- What R eats (mostly) lichens in winter?
- What I is made from sugar and egg white?
- What S brings the presents?
- What T sparkles on the Xmas Tree?
- What M is made from pastry, suet and dried fruit?
- What A announced to Mary she would have a child?
- What S is a carol about quiet after dark?

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## Quiz Time

*The answers will be in the January edition.*

## “Out of context!”

Here are a dozen brief phrases. There is something in common to all of them, but can you add some appropriate words to each to make this clearer?

Holly bears  
Rude and bare  
Stay by my side  
Drain the barrel  
Gone astray  
Bring me wine  
We won't go  
Dreamless sleep  
Down to such a world  
Bitter perfume  
Silent stars  
Like a stone

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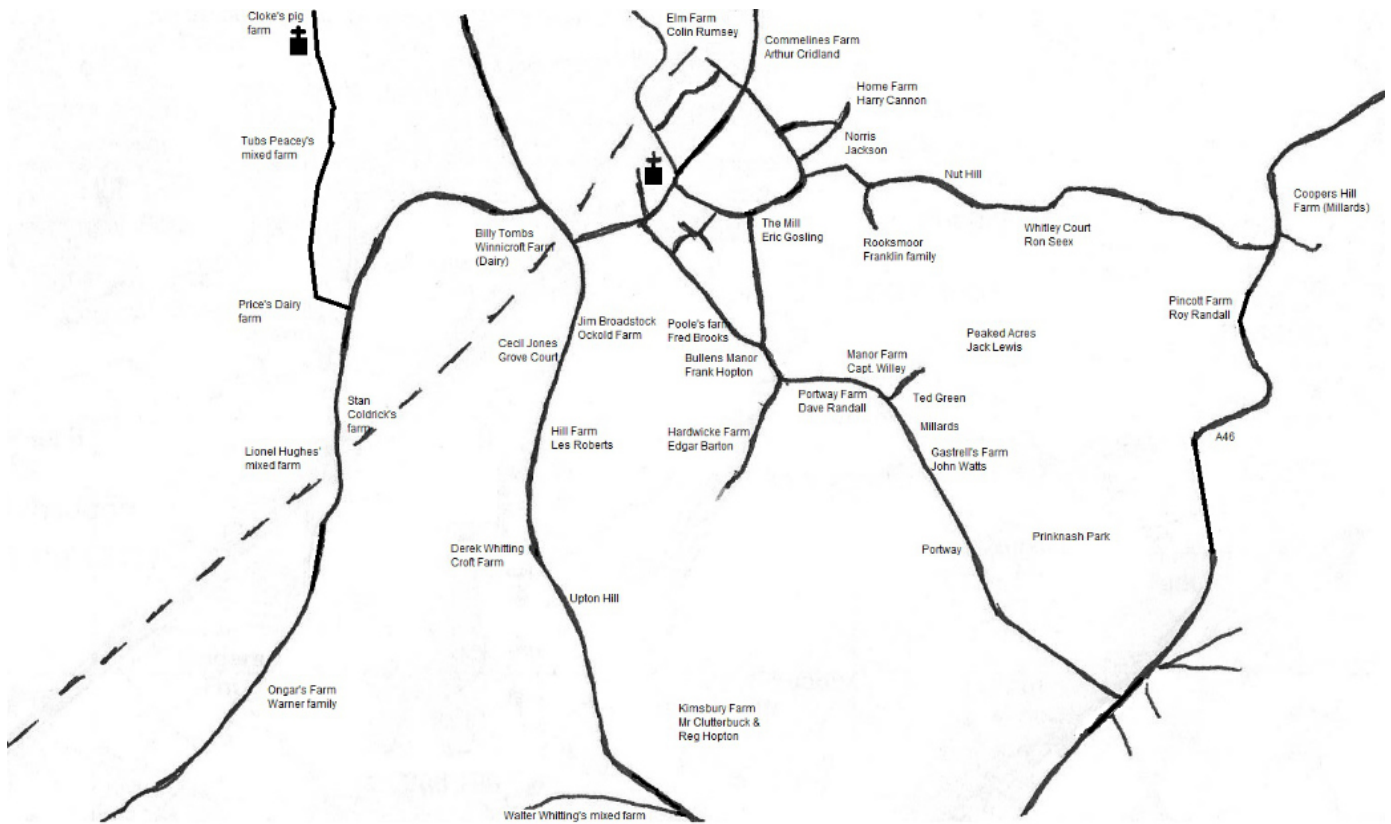
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## A History of Old Farms and Farmers of Upton St. Leonards

by Mike Long and with thanks to Andy Russell for the map

I remember reading in the edition of USL Life that Keith Pearson edited, that he remarked on the number of farms that had disappeared from the village. This started me thinking of the farms and farmers I can remember in our area, when I was young and here they are. Let's take a look.



If we start at Matson and head towards the Country Club, on the right-hand side before the church was Mr. Cloke's pig farm. Past the church on to the Country Club was Captain 'Tubs' Peacey's mixed farm. Tubs Peacey played cricket and soccer for Upton and was a keen BMI man. On down the road and into Sneedhams Green. On the far right of the green was Mr. Price's dairy farm. On towards Brookthorpe, just before the motorway, on the left was Mr. Stan Coldrick's small farm and on the right was Mr. Lionel Hughes' mixed farm. After that, on the right was Mr. George Warner's 'Ongers Farm' now farmed by his grandson Jason. About turn and back towards Upton. On the last bend before the Painswick Road was Billy Tombs' dairy farm: Winnicroft Farm, later farmed by his housekeeper, Gwen Horgan, and her husband Ken. They had a lovely herd of Friesian cows.

Out on to the Painswick Rd and up past the Kings Head, the first farm on the left was Jim Broadstock's 'Ockolds farm'. Jim had four brothers, Alf, Jack Albert and Edgar and one sister Bertha. All the boys apart from Albert had spells of farming in Canada. Jim and Edgar returned, but Jack and Alf stayed in Canada.

Bertha married Wally Walton, a Crypt school master. They built 'The Gables' in High Street and lived there for a long time. Wally was church treasurer for many years, hence 'Walton Close' on Churchfield Road.

The first farm on the right past the Kings Head was Grove Court and was farmed by Cecil Jones, my Grandfather, and this is where I was born.



Jim Broadstock



Grove Court

## A History of Old Farms continued

Just up the hill on the left was Hill Farm farmed by Les Roberts. Then beyond Hatton Court is Croft Farm set up by Derek Whitting. After the WW2 Belmont Ack-Ack camp was demolished, Derek built a new house and with his boys, Nick and Guy, started an agricultural contracting business.

On up the hill was Kimsbury which was farmed by Mr. Clutterbuck and later by Mr. Reg Hopton. Some older residents may remember Reg delivering eggs around the village.

There also used to be a farm on Cud Hill but this was before my time. Turning right on to Cud Hill, you can see on the left what was the mixed farm of Mr. Walter Whitting, uncle of Derek.

Let's about turn and free wheel back down to the village. Turn right into High St, the first farm we see on the right is Pooles Farm. This was farmed by Mr. Fred Brooks and, after that, for many years by Lionel Stanbury. Lionel was very well known in the village and chaired the Parish Council and the BMI for many years. Lionel had a Guernsey herd of dairy cattle and also ran a lorry on churn collection from farms over a wide area. I know because I drove it for two or three years.

Next up on the right was Frank Hopton's Bullens Manor Farm, father of Reg. Into Watery Lane was Edgar Barton's Hardwicke Farm, a mixed farm, and it was later farmed by his son Ray. Back down out of Watery Lane, we turn right and come to Portway Farm which was farmed by Mr. Dave Randall.

During the late '50s a lady called Mrs. Young bought the house in Watery Lane where Robbie Phelps now lives. She bought Portway Farm and also Bullens Manor Farm and tried to buy several other farms in the village. I think Dave Randall regretted selling Portway Farm from day one. He moved in to Capertons in Watery Lane.

Fortunately, Manor Farm, which was next up on the left and farmed by Capt. Willey, came up for sale and Dave bought it. Jean Randall, who still lives there, built up a wonderful herd of prize-winning Jersey cattle, which she showed all over the country with great success.

Returning to Portway Farm, in about 1962 Peggy Young disappeared to Ireland. This gave John Herring the chance to buy Portway Farm, Brian Warner to buy Bullens Manor Farm and Jenny and I to buy our cottage, which also belonged to Mrs. Young. She also left owing me for milking her Jersey cows! Andrew Herring later took over Portway Farm. He and his wife Ann opened the farm shop 30 years ago and now he and his two sons farm vast acres over a wide area, they also run a contracting business.

I've covered Manor Farm, so if we pop in to Valley Lane, at the very end was Jack Lewis's Peaked Acres. Jack had a herd of Guernsey cows and he and his wife ran a milk round each.

Back on to the main road and turn left, on the left was Mr. Ted Green's small farm. Ted was a keen huntsman with the Cotswold Vale. Next up also on the left was the Millard's, a very well-known village family, renowned for their cider making. Then just a few steps up through the big iron gates, you came to the monks' farm which was managed by John Watt.

Back down the road into the Stanley, along to Bondend Road. Turn right there, on you see The Mill on the right hand side. This was farmed by Ernie Gosling and he was also our local coal man. Grampy Gosling, as he was known, was Brian and John Warner's Grampy.



## A History of Old Farms continued

Carry on along Bondend and turn right towards Coopers Hill. On the right in Rooksmoor is Martin Franklin's farm which he set up with his Mum and Dad, but this is since the time I am covering. Martin's Mum Michaelyn was Norris Jackson's daughter. Continuing up the lane, you find 'Whitley Court' on the right. This was farmed by Ron Seex and is now run by his son Rob and his son. They have a lovely dairy herd.

At the top of the lane you reach the Cheltenham Road, and almost facing you just up the road towards The Cheese Roll, was another of the Millards' family farms, 'Coopers Hill Farm'. This was farmed until this year by a relative, David who earlier this year was tragically killed by a cow he was trying to calve. Back on the main road, a couple of hundred yards towards Painswick, was 'Pincott Farm' farmed by Mr. Roy Randall brother of Jean.

Back down to the bottom of Nuthill Lane, turn towards the school and right towards Bowden Hall. On the right in front of the entrance towards Bowden Hall was Mr. Norris Jackson's farm. Many of you will have seen the lovely photo of Norris transporting voters to the old school with his lovely shire horse and hay cart, voters sitting on hay bales, no safety belts. Health and safety - oh dear! Norris was Martin Franklin's Grampy. On the left was Harry Cannon's 'Home Farm', later run by his sons David and Robert. Robert sadly died many years ago.

If we about turn and go down past the school to the crossroads and turn right, there was Arthur Cridland's 'Commelines Farm'. Arthur farmed a lovely herd of pedigree Friesian cows.

Now let's go back up Churchfield Rd to the Ash Path. If you asked most villagers which was the first Post Office they can remember in the village, they would say it was in Painswick Rd, run by Mrs. Moore, but the first I can remember was the first bungalow on the right as you enter the Ash Path, and it was run by a Mr. Norris.

On along the Ash Path and into The Wheatridge, on the right was Mrs. Rumsey's 'Elm Farm' run by her son Colin. Further along on the right was Mr. Richen's dairy farm. This farm stood roughly where The Ridge and Furrow now stands. In those days before the development of the motorway, the Wheatridge ran straight on and down Awefield Pitch. If we could travel straight on, we would arrive back on the Painswick Rd where we started.

Hope you have enjoyed my trip.

Mike Long.



Norris transporting voters to the school

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Regular weekly events are only shown for the first month here

# VILLAGE DIARY

## DECEMBER

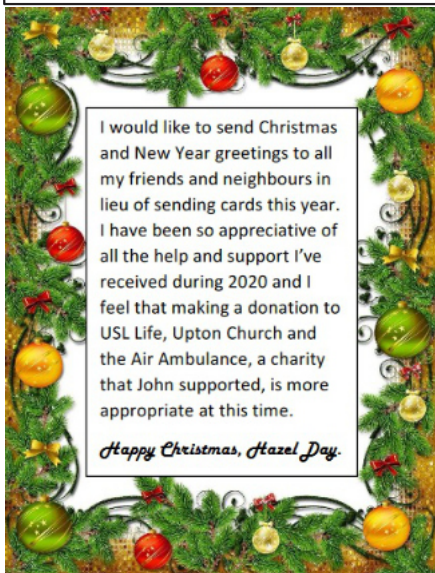
Please note, some details below are still provisional due to coronavirus

1	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week. Garden Waste for those with brown bins	
3	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex..... 1.00p.m.
4	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex..... 9.30a.m.
6	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion ..... 10.00a.m.
7	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions) .....	Village Hall Annex..... 10.00 and 11.00am
7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion or Zoom..... 7.30p.m.
8	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week	
8	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex..... 10.00a.m.
8	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall..... 8.30-10.30p.m.
9	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI ..... 8.00p.m.
10	Thu	Copy date for January issue of USL Life	
10	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex..... 1.00p.m.
11	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall Annex..... 9.30a.m.
13	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion ..... 10.00a.m.
14	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions) .....	Village Hall Annex..... 10.00 and 11.00am
15	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week.	
15	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex..... 10.00a.m.
15	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall..... 8.30-10.30p.m.
16	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI ..... 8.00p.m.
20	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion ..... 10.00a.m.
21	Mon	Yoga (2 sessions) .....	Village Hall Annex..... 10.00 and 11.00am
22	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week	
29	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week	

## JANUARY

4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion or via zoom ..... 7.30p.m.
10	Sun	Copy date for February issue of USL Life	
25	Mon	Lady Downe Trustees Meeting.....	School..... 7.30p.m.

**Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary**



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

USL Life has been asked this year to print Christmas greetings from a few villagers who have generously decided to support USL Life as well as charities of their choice instead of giving Christmas cards to their many friends and neighbours in the village. Hazel Day's thank you notice and greetings are on the left; Pam Tickner also sends her wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happier New Year; David and Jackie Hunt would like to take this opportunity of letting their acquaintances know that they wish them all a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

## FREECYCLE

This tree is looking for somewhere to spend Christmas.

Free to a good home!

Collect from Upton.



Please note that this is the first time USL Life has been asked to print Christmas greetings. As it is a new idea, it is currently under review.

## Visitors to Upton

At this time of the year we would all be expecting family and friends to visit us, but this year this might not be possible. Looking back in the history of Upton we find that there have been a number of notable visitors here over the years. Some more welcome than others.

Some of the first visitors would have been Romans, living in or near Glevum. They could travel from the East Gate towards Upton and up Portway to the top of the Cotswolds. They would collect timber, clay for pottery and stone for building or just move onwards to Cirencester.

Our next significant visitors would have been the Normans. In 1085 the Domesday Book was being prepared after King William visited Gloucester for Christmas. The Domesday Book records Upton as consisting of four men and their families, which would indicate a settlement of around twenty persons. They were living off one hide of land or about 120 acres.



Our first royal visit was in July 1535 when Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn visited Prinknash. It is not recorded whether they stayed the night. Their visit was part of a tour of several counties. Poor Anne was only to live another year, as she was executed in the Tower of London in 1536.

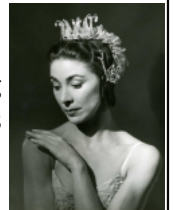


In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries visitors or strangers were not always welcome. One definition of a stranger was a person whose grandparents and parents were not buried in the local churchyard. Anyone arriving in Upton was a foreigner, especially if they hailed from across the Severn. It is reported that men from nearby Brookthorpe and Whaddon regularly disrupted Upton's Cherry Fair. Sometimes this led to fights breaking out and the local constable had to get involved. Villagers did not want strangers becoming a burden on the resources of the village. If a lad from Painswick tried to go courting a Cranham girl, he would be in for a rough time.

During the siege of Gloucester during the Civil War, Prince Rupert commander of the Royalist Cavalry stayed at Prinknash, while his father Charles I stayed at Matson House. Royalist soldiers were also billeted in houses in Upton. They were not always welcome guests as in the case of Bowden Hall Farm, where the owner wrote a letter to the commander requesting his troops did not damage his house.



In 1942 Queen Mary (widow of George V) came to Upton when she visited troops based at Belmont Camp on Upton Hill. She also visited Gloster Aircraft Company. She was staying at Badminton House during the Second World War. Another visitor during the war was Margot Fonteyn, who stayed at the Black and White House in Bondend.



Coming nearer the present day in 1995 on 21<sup>st</sup> January the BBC came to Upton to televise the National Lottery Draw. The draw was televised live from the Village Hall with Anthea Turner and Gordon Kennedy for fifteen minutes on a Saturday night. While the draw was taking place chef Keith Floyd was enjoying himself behind the bar of the BMI.

We all hope that in the near future we can welcome visitors from anywhere, even if they do come from over the Severn.

Mike Stratford

# Upton St Leonards Advent Windows



After the great success of the Advent Windows in the last two years, Karen Morris and friends have again got together to make window displays around the Village. It's not just 24 windows for the days of Advent this year: in fact there will be 33 specially decorated windows.

### Normally

we'd be printing a map here, so you can plan a route to see all the windows

### However, this year

The organisers are asking you instead to collect your map from outside the School, during school hours, or from the Post Office, and make a donation to the School PTA.

The PTA would usually be running a Christmas Fayre at this time, but they can't - this is one way to make up for the loss of income from the fayre. Please help the PTA raise funds for school projects.

Do get out and enjoy the Advent Windows!



Windows for days 6 and 7 from last year's displays

## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://usllife.org.uk>

To contact us, use the website above or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:

This month's editor: Barbara Swindin  
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Andy Russell  
Barbara Swindin  
Peter Wilson

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Treasurer: Owen Stinchcombe

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Christina Caldwell  
Linda Munnoch  
Ann Morpew

Church pages: Rachel Middleton

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The editor next month will be  
Andrea Dawson



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## 2020 draws to a close.

Although there was no Village Hall bonfire night in November and various other annual events had to be cancelled because of lockdown, we can record here that neither Hallowe'en nor Remembrance Day were forgotten.



Remembrance Day 2020



Hallowe'en Window

## USL LIFE FRONT COVER COMPETITION



The front cover competition for the December issue was the idea of our very own features writer, Linda Munnoch, and the picture above is her own work.

Below, you can see a number of the children's entries. You have already seen the three winning pictures on the front cover.

Well done everyone and thank you for all your contributions.

The three pictures below were highly commended in our front cover competition. They are from L to R by Francesca-May Hughes, Lily Dempster and Joshua Sullivan (Reindeer).

