

# intouch

NEWSLETTER

The Kingswood Benefice of Clothall, Rushden, Sandon, Wallington, and Weston



## KINGS WOOD BENEFICE

## Welcome to this edition of In Touch.

A touch of real spring has come this week with some very welcome sunshine and with it the news of the hopeful 'roadmap' out of lockdown and back to something like a normal life. What the new way will be none of us is entirely sure but I for one am very grateful to the staff at the vaccination centres for their unfailing politeness and care to all those trooping through to get their shots- they are absolute stars. I hope you are able to get out in the sunshine and make the most of it whilst it is here – remember March is just around the corner and that can be a fickle month weatherwise. Mike Leverton has given us a lovely icon to look at this week and we have a gentle tribute to Anne Waylett from Weston whose funeral was last week. She was very much at the heart of Weston and will be much missed by all who knew her. We continue with Lent Customs Around the World and some uplifting spring photos now that the snow has gone. Stay well and continue to stay safe – we are nearly out of the wood so don't trip up on the way out! **With blessings Fiona**

## Anne Waylett *by Richard Clements*



When I heard of the sad news of the passing of Anne Waylett, I was saddened that Weston had lost another lifetime member of our village community.

Anne's father Len Vince came from a village near Southampton and as a boy he used to go and play by a nearby river. After a while he became friendly with Col W M Pryor who used to come down to that part of the world to enjoy the leisure activity of fishing. To cut a long story short Col Pryor offered Len a job in Weston and after some discussion with his parents he came to Weston to live. After some time Len caught the eye of Nancy Gray who was working as a nursery nurse at Lannock and as in all good love stories, Len and Nancy married and they started a family.

Anne, Chris, Nigel, Marybelle and Margaret came along, and they lived at number 25 Hitchin Road (one of the newly built council houses).

Anne went to Weston School and remembered being taught by Miss Tomlin. Miss Tomlin came from Yorkshire and later married Billy Pugh; whose family ran the village shop and Garage. Anne could remember being one of the first school children to go to Baldock school (previously Weston children only received a primary education). She remembered on the first day they started secondary school, the teachers from Weston school met them at the bus stop, to make sure that they went to Baldock.

Anne left school at 14 years of age and started work. She took a great interest in the politics of Weston and remembered the campaign for the installation of electricity in the houses in the Square (Friars Road) and the building of many more houses in Friars road after the 2nd World war.

In the early fifties Anne married Don Waylett and they moved into one of the bungalows in Friars Road. After a few years, having been blessed with her two children Andrew and Caroline, Anne took her family back to her family home in Hitchin Road, where she looked after her mother. Her father Len had died a few years before.

For a number of years Anne was an active member of the Parish Council and an enthusiastic member of the Women's Institute. She was also the village post lady for many years following in the footsteps of her mother-in-law Dolly Waylett.

Anne attended Weston church all her life until her health failed her, after which she still regularly took home communion. I can remember her in church attending Evensong wearing her best clothes and one of her many hats; a tradition which has become a faded memory.

We shall miss Anne as a determined perhaps sometimes feisty life-time Weston lady, who was part of the character of our village who we shall not forget.

**God bless you Anne.**



### **A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus**

*Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from  
your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.*

If you would like to donate to any of our churches in the current crisis - details are below. We would be very grateful in your help to keep our churches going.

**Thank you.**

PCC OF RUSHDEN  
LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845350

SANDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
BARCLAYS BANK: 20-73-26 A/C 53610802

PCC ST MARYS CHURCH WALLINGTON  
LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845466

WESTON PCC  
BARCLAYS BANK: 20-41-12 A/C 40946850

PCC OF CLOTHALL  
LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845245



## Theophanes the Cretan: The Transfiguration of Christ (c.1535)



### HOLY DAYS

## LENT CUSTOMS AROUND THE WORLD – PART 2

### Ireland

When it comes to abstinence on Fridays during Lent, the tradition in Catholic countries, of course, is that fish is eaten in place of meat. The Irish typically eat fish soup on Fridays. In the Caribbean, meanwhile, the seafood of choice is cockles.

### Middle East

Among the Melkite Catholics of Jordan, Syria and other parts of the Middle East, fasting during Lent entails abstaining from meat, dairy products, eggs, fish, olive oil and alcohol.

### Mexico

The final Friday of Lent is devoted to Our Lady. Known as Viernes de Dolores, "Friday of Sorrows," altars are set up in churches and homes in her honor. On the fourth Friday in Oaxaca, called la Samaritana, aguas frescas, fruit drinks and ice cream are given to passersby in honor of the Samaritan woman who gave Jesus water at the well.

### Germany

In some parts of Germany, old Christmas trees are burned during Lent to welcome in spring (Lent being the old Germanic for "spring.") Holy Week is also honored by the staging of processions and passion plays to remind the faithful of Our Lord's suffering. The most famous of these is held every 10 years in Oberammergau, Germany, a custom that dates back to 1633 when the people of the town vowed to stage a passion play should God be merciful and end an outbreak of the plague. The first play was held the next year. Holy Thursday is known in Germany as "Green Thursday" (Gründonnerstag), for reasons that remain a mystery. The same name is used among the Czechs and the Slovaks. Normally, green foods are eaten, especially green salads and spinach.

When the people of the Old Testament wanted to speak truth they told stories, vivid, immediate and memorable. But reading through the New Testament we see the stories of the Hebrew lands steadily supplanted by the philosophy and mental abstraction of a larger world inspired by Greek thought. So when Paul writes, he does so with minimal interest in the stories about Jesus as told in the Gospels, those having been a final flourishing of the world of inspired storytelling before it sank into the desert-dry world of theological preaching, of rational explanations aimed at convincing the logical mind.

The story of the Transfiguration of Christ belongs to the storyteller's world and the eastern churches' unchanging tradition of icon painting seems best placed to depict it. Icons are not 'realistic'; they do not attempt to deceive the viewer that they do more than represent truths which are beyond human comprehension. As Mark tells it a critical moment in the Jesus story has been reached. Peter has answered Jesus' question 'Who do you say I am?' with the words 'You are the Messiah'. The veil has been pierced by a moment of recognition and divine perception, but his revelation leads to the shock of Jesus saying that he must suffer, die and rise again, an outcome Peter vehemently resists.

Then this – Theophanes Bathas, confronts us with a wall of heavily sculpted rock upon which no foothold is possible and which defies all realistic perspective – all perspective must come instead from the intuition of the heart. The figure of Christ, bright shining like the sun emerges from an almond-shaped 'mandorla' of glory. To either side stand Elijah and Moses affirming that this man is the consummation of all Israel's prophecy and history. From the Christ who stands in blessing arrow-sharp rays lance into the heads of Peter, James and John, tumbling down the mountain like they'll never stop. Both James and John lose sandals in this uncontrolled plunge of mind and spirit, heart and body, as the unbearable brilliance of the vision throws them down in distress. Only Peter on the left is able to look up at Christ, for only he has recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

All three disciples extend a hand as they try to stop themselves falling. The other they hold to their heads, Peter protecting an ear, the other two wanting to cover eyes and mouth respectively – a sign that that what they are experiencing is beyond all hearing, sight and speech; that human sense must disconnect in order to survive. One day they will look, and see, and know, as will we. But that time is not now.

### GALLERY



Martin Dingemans cows, Rushden



Crisie Flemming's pony, Rushden