

# Footprints

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May 2023.

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Copy by 15<sup>th</sup> of month, please.

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## Monthly musings from Rev Anne Potter

The month of May was named after the Greek goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman Goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May. Roman Poet Ovid however offers another origin – May is named after the Latin for ‘elders’, *maiores*, and June for the ‘young people’, *iuniores*. (*Fasti VI,88*). The first naming resounds with me as in our first week as the new owners of Offenham Village Shop and Post Office a lovely lady came in and asked me if I wanted to join the Maypole dancing team.

That was back in 2006 and I was a good few years younger but still over 40 and perhaps not the fittest person! However, I agreed and enjoyed the next eight years practising for a few weeks in the spring for our performances on Mayday (May 1<sup>st</sup>) and Wake Day which takes place on the second Saturday of June. The first of these occasions, Mayday, is steeped in the pagan history of when the young women of the village danced round the maypole as a sort of fertility dance linked to the first days of spring. I always used to chuckle at the origin of this dancing as most of the women in our maypole ‘team’ were well beyond their prime with most of us being mothers and even one or two grandmothers. In the Victorian times, apparently, the culture of Maypole dancing having roots in fertility flirting was ‘cleaned up’ and sanitised into a rural ritual of children dancing with ribbons.

Wake day in Offenham witnessed both the children of the local schools and the older women (with the odd younger one) taking a slot dancing round the maypole. In case you were wondering Wake Day in Offenham is basically a well-established village ‘fete’ (touch of the Alfrick show) down the main street leading to the permanent Maypole standing tall. I believe it is the second tallest ‘working’ maypole in the country. Wake day starts with a ‘Flower Service’ in the church with the May Queen and her attendants chosen on Mayday. A wonderful opportunity to thank God for the past and the traditions carrying on in the village.

In our Christian calendar the month of May sees Jesus leaving his disciples forty days after Easter to ascend to his Father in heaven. In many countries Ascension Day is a public holiday with a variety of traditions. In Germany Ascension Day is sometimes known Fathers day whilst in England Ascension Day is no longer a public holiday yet it has associations with various traditions ranging from Well Dressing in Derbyshire to the planting of the 'Penny Hedge' at Whitby.

Ascension Day is usually the Thursday after Rogation Sunday, which this year falls on May 14<sup>th</sup>, when traditionally the boundaries of a farm, or manor, or church, or parish are beaten. Today this often involves walking round the boundary praying for all within the 'bounds'. Traditionally the custom of 'beating of the bounds' involved beating boys with willow branches as they were driven along parish boundaries, not only to purify them of evil but to teach them the limits of the parish. I think there would be many an issue today – ranging from abuse to safeguarding! Good thing some of the traditions have seen better days replaced by, hopefully, Christian customs rooted in loving our neighbour as Jesus loved us and demonstrated in his sacrificial death on the cross.

The first weekend this May we will witness another long-established tradition in our country – the crowning of the next in line on the English Throne due to the death of the previous monarch. A day full of pomp and circumstance. A day steeped in tradition. A day to give thanks for and to pray for the reign of King Charles 3<sup>rd</sup> who has a tough act in following the service and commitment of his mother, Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> to God along with the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Wishing you all a blessed May.

# Events Diary - May

2023

## MAY

1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	11.00am	Royal British Legion - Talbot Hotel, Knightwick
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	12.30pm	W.I. - Lunch at the Royal Oak, Broadwas
4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs		Local Councils Election Day
	12 - 2pm	Lunch in Company (L in C) - <b>Martley Memorial Hall</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Sat		<b>Coronation of King Charles III</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.30am	Coronation Service - Broadwas Church
	12 noon onwards	<b>Big Lunch</b> at Broadwas Village Hall, bring your own Picnic, drinks provided - Come and make this a Parish-wide social event to celebrate the Coronation.
10 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.15am	Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun	11.00am	Rogation Service - Hill Farm, Wichenford
	3.00pm	Evening Worship - Knightwick Chapel
17 <sup>th</sup> Wed	9.00am	Morning Prayer at Cotheridge Church
18 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	2.00-4.00pm	Cupper and Chat - Cotheridge Church
21 <sup>st</sup> Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion - Broadwas Church
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer - Broadwas Church
24 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.15am	Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley
	1.00pm	W.I. 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch - Apple Tree Kitchen
25 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	10.30-13.00	Warm Welcome & Natter at Broadwas Village Hall
	2.30pm	Pastoral Tea Party - Martley Memorial Hall
28 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.30am	Morning Worship - Broadwas Church
	3.30pm	Forest Church - Almhouse Wood, Suckley

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## L in C

Due to the local elections in May , LinC on **4th May** will be held at **Martley Memorial Hall., 12-2pm**. All who usually eat on their own are very welcome . If you haven't been before come and enjoy an excellent 2 course meal in good company - a Coronation special!

**We regret that due to increased costs we have had to increase the price to £7.00.**

For further information please ring Jennifer Whittaker - 833897

The **Friends of St Leonard's Cotheridge** Coffee and Hot Cross Bun morning raised £128 for charity.

Thank you to everyone who came to our charity event on Good Friday morning. It was so good to see the wonderful support from our community and to know that, as well as having an enjoyable time ourselves, we raised a magnificent total for the DEC appeal. This means that the money we raised can provide emergency shelter for four families affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria as well as providing emergency food for a family for ten days.

Thank you all for your support and generosity.

Elizabeth Winscom

Next "Coffee & Chat" - **May 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### A Tribute to Derek Grubb – "Uncle Derek" to Wendy

Uncle Derek, our amazing Uncle Derek, what an amazing man he was,  
Always caring, considerate and kind.

Uncle Derek was all the good things, all combined.

Hearing whistling down the garden path, Meant an exciting day ahead.

The Land Rover on the road ready, - "All aboard, jump in" that's what he said  
- Off to a steam gala or a country show, a train station or a museum.

Everyday out a great surprise.

Uncle Derek had so much knowledge, Uncle Derek was so wise.

Never a trip too small, Uncle Derek thought of it all

A dedicated train driver and railway man.

In Africa was where his career began.

A passion for engines, nothing too big or too small,  
from steam engines to motorbikes to tractors

- Uncle Derek could fix it all.

Time would pass and again, A whistle down the garden path.

A big day out, another Land Rover trip

We could walk this time, All so excited we had to skip

Always wearing a cap, A whistling you would come,

A song when you played your banjo.

Uncle Derek, we had so much fun, Uncle Derek, time for you to rest,  
you were simply the best !

I can thoroughly recommend our speaker, Jack Boskett, who came to share his amazing photos and anecdotes with us. Jack has been a train enthusiast from a very young age, supported by dad and at the age of 5 received his first camera and so started developing his photographic skills. He set up his own business 13 years ago at the age of 19. Jack showed us some amazing photographs and the commentary was excellent, humorous and interesting. Jack loves taking photos of trains, some of which are on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway where he volunteers his time, being near his Tewkesbury home.

He also has an interest in Royalty and went to Hereford Station to get some photos of the Queen when she visited. Jack told us how on this occasion his mother told him to wear a suit. After misgivings he took the advice and arrived in Hereford to join the photographers in the Press Enclosure, everyone else in shorts and T-shirts on this warm day! As luck would have it the Royal Photographer was unable to attend and needing someone to take this position, a Royal Aide approached Jack to ask him if he would do the job. Apparently he was selected because he was the only photographer dressed appropriately for the job. This privilege gave Jack the chance of a lifetime and he got some amazing pictures. Thanks to mum!

Jack told us he intends to do another 'Talk' featuring King Charles III's Coronation so we will have to invite him back. He gave such a good talk and the photos are incredible.

Broadwas WI is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and members are planning to have afternoon tea at Apple Tree Kitchens which will be a real treat. May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> lunch at the Royal Oak 12.30pm.

*Susan Reeve*

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## **Bowls at Broadwas**

Broadwas-on-Teme is blessed with a lovely Sports Ground, tucked away up Stoney Ley just off the A44. The Village has developed an enviable reputation for lawn sports - particularly croquet, where it has attracted players from other local villages and now punches well above its weight in many of the Midland and Southwest regional croquet competitions.

Now the Village is looking to excel at another lawn sport, Federation Bowls. The game itself can be played on the same lawns as croquet, but woods, jacks and mats replace the mallets, hoops and coloured balls of croquet.

Bowls is an easy game to pick up, though much, much harder to master and Broadwas's gently sloping lawns add to the fun, though a steady arm and good hand/eye coordination will always outsmart brute force.

Bowls at Broadwas is very sociable and relaxed. What could be nicer after a Monday or Friday Evening Bowls Roll-up than to enjoy a few light refreshments in the pavilion with friends whilst watching the sun set over Ankerdine Hill.

If you'd like to get involved at the beginning of the season, you could be playing Bowls at Broadwas as soon as the lawns are open in a couple of weeks or so.

If you want to know more, then please get in touch with Chris Croft on 07919 400401 or 01886 821664 for a chat and a trial run. Don't leave it too long though: coaching is limited and starts as soon as the lawns dry out. What's more, interest could be widespread so we may need to introduce a policy of First-Come-First-Served.

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***COME FOR TEA!***

**The Pastoral Team of Martley, Wichenford and the Lower Teme Valley**

is hosting a ***TEA PARTY***

**on**

**Thursday 25th May at 2.30pm**

**in**

**Martley Memorial Hall**

***All Welcome***

Revd. Jennifer Whittaker.

01886 833897

# Village Information

## **Church Officials:**

Team Rector - vacant

Team Vicar - Rev Anne Potter 01886 832355

Assistant Priest - Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897

Churchwardens – Lower Teme Valley Parish

Rob Pearce 01886 821959

Peter Walker 01886 822137

## **Parish Councils**

Broadwas & Cotheridge : **[www.broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk)**

Chairman – Richard Burrows

Clerk – Email : [clerk@broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk)

Knightwick & Doddenham

Clerk – Geoffrey Brewin 01886 821386

**Village Hall - Broadwas** Georgina Tabberer, Chair,

Email : **[Broadwasvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:Broadwasvillagehall@outlook.com)**

## **Clubs and Societies**

Broadwas Sports Assoc. Sec. - David Creed-Newton - 01886 880534  
[davidcreednewton@btinternet.com](mailto:davidcreednewton@btinternet.com)

Croquet Club – John Guy 01905 748192

Royal British Legion – Sue Ganderton 01905 422711

W.I. – Barbara Lloyd 01905 333635

## **Schools:**

Broadwas C of E Primary School - Secretary 01886 821347

Bumblebees : Pre-school/Out-of-School Care 07817637241

**Community Website - [www.broadwas-cotheridge.com](http://www.broadwas-cotheridge.com)**

## **Footprints Production Team**

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