

Clenchwarton Your Village News

JULY 2022



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH



Clenchwarton Church.

Rector; Reverend Barbara Burton

Church Wardens;

Richard Brown – 01553 775200

Debra McGowan – 01553 773467

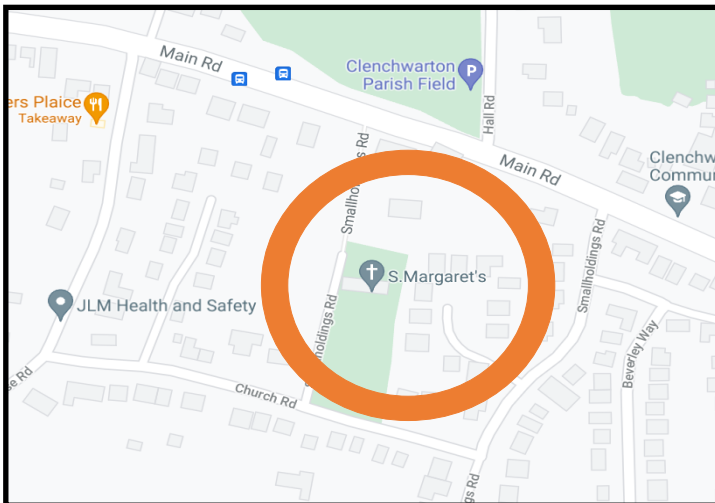
warden@clenchwarton-church.org.uk

Please contact Debra McGowan for Baptisms, Marriages, etc

Our church address is :

**St Margaret's Parish Church, Church Road,
Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, PE34 4EA**

Website <https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk>



Welcome to your Magazine

This is a monthly magazine and contains adverts from local businesses near you, village and church news and “what’s on in the village” as well as articles from our parishioners and the church community.

We hope it is a valuable resource for newcomers to the village as well as our long-standing residents.

Village Diary

To all those organising events in the village, please let us know the date place and time so we may publish it in the Village Diary. Thank you.

Save
the
Date

Parish Council meetings are the first Thursday of every month.
Coffee Mornings St Margaret's Every Thursday 10-12 noon
(except 2 June as at the Methodists)

Walking Group. Saturday 9th July starting at 10.30am from the school.

Quiz Night. Friday 29th July – 7.00pm at the Chapel

To all those organising events in the village, please let us know the date, place and time so we may publish it in the village diary.

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Coffee Mornings at St Margaret's Church Thursdays From 10-12 noon

Do come along for a drink and a friendly chat.

Please contact Debra if you require transport to get to the coffee morning. We look forward to seeing you.

(Debra McGowan)

Walking Group



The next walk is on **Saturday 9th July starting at 10.30am** from the school. The walks will generally be on the second Saturday of the month, at 10.30am , but will be cancelled in the event it is pouring with rain. Anyone can attend, there is no cost, walking and talking are free.

Methodist Chapel Services

Our Services as follows:

Sunday 3 July Action for Children Service 10.30am

Sunday 10 July No service at Chapel. Joint service at Parish Church 10.00am

Sunday 17 July Family Worship 10.30am

Sunday 24 July Songs of Praise Service 10.30am

Sunday 31 July Family Worship 10.30 led
by Judith Semmens

All services at the Chapel begin at 10.30am.

All are welcome at any of our services.

Any queries please ring 07792 677891



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St Margarets Church Services

All ages are welcome to our Services starting at 10am and every Sunday.

Sunday 3 July Communion 10.00am

Sunday 10 July Morning Prayer 10.00am

Sunday 17 July Communion 10.00am

Sunday 24 July No service at church. Joint Service at Methodist Chapel at 10.30am

Sunday 31 July . No service at church. Joint Service at Walpole St Peter at 10.00am.



We look forward to seeing you there

Bible Study Group

Meetings are usually on Wednesday Afternoons starting at 2.00pm.

If you wish to join us, and it is open to all, please contact Penny Snape on 01553 773142.



Please continue to sign up with easy fundraising to help St Margaret's Church raise funding.

They will give you a £5 shopping voucher once you have raised your first £5, PLUS we will get a bonus £5 donation.



Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for St Margaret's Church Clenchwarton

You can visit our website at
<https://clenchwarton-church.org.uk>

Pastoral Letter July 2022

Reverend Barbara Burton writes.....



How rich am I? How rich are you? There was an occasion during a family get-together when one of my sister's grandchildren threw out the question "What would you do if you won the lottery?" There were shrieks of horror from some when one suggested giving most of it away, not necessarily out of generosity but more that it would be too stressful to have so much money. Another laid out a careful plan of 'some for me, some for others'. One had an exceedingly long wish list including cars, yachts and several houses, another pondered savings and interest rates and the best long-term plan, and some debated the benefit of setting up a charity. All of us wonder sometimes about what we would do if we had a little money.

Money is always a difficult subject for the Church, which is often described as wealthy. And whilst the Church of England has much wealth in land and property, most churches across the country are struggling to meet their running costs. The big question, as a church and as individuals, is surely 'what should we do with the money we have?'

We are living in a very uncertain world when it comes to money and income. Most of us have enough to live on, but maybe only just enough, and many are worrying about the rocketing cost of living. A recent survey of 2,000 individuals conducted over five years found that the people who identified themselves as very happy were those who volunteered for over 5 hours a month, those who gave away over 10% of their income (the Christian act of 'tithing'), and those who gave without any expectation of controlling how their gift was used. It can be easy to read that and think 'well it's all right for them, they don't know my situation, and for those who are on fixed and limited incomes the idea of giving money away is just impossible in today's economic climate. Even so, we are undoubtedly better off than so many others around the world. There is a website called "How rich am I" which enables you to find out how rich you are compared to the rest of the world. If you are feeling brave, then take a look – it might change the way you think about what you would do if you won the lottery.

Quiz Night

Friday 29th July – 7.00pm at the Chapel

Teams of no more than 4 members
£1 entry fee for each person.
Refreshments available



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From the Little Yellow Smart Car

Rev'd Jackie Goddard.

Contact: j.goddard@methodist.org.uk (07881 952098)



When was the last time you visited a church? Perhaps you are someone who goes regularly and it is part of your weekly routine. Perhaps you enjoy going at special times of year: Harvest or Christmas. Maybe you last visited a church for a life-event: a baptism, wedding or funeral. Maybe you have gone inside a church or cathedral as a tourist, or maybe you have never visited a church. We all have different experiences of these buildings in our midst. Across the country, in almost every community, there is at least one church or chapel building. The story of our nation can be told through them, as much as it is told through other historic structures; and the characters who populated churches have often been significant players in the stories of their local communities.

So what about today? The church may no longer be the most significant provider of education, social care, welfare or wellbeing, as it often has been in the past. It is no longer one of the loudest voices in ethics, politics, economics and medicine; although religious leaders still speak into our national conversation. It may appear, at times, as if the Church and its buildings are part of a disappearing world.

So what is the point of the Parish Church and Methodist Chapel in Clenchwarton, when they seem to be used by only a tiny percentage of the village population. Would anyone notice if we weren't there? Maybe not, but the village would be missing something which is not replicated elsewhere – two churches in the heart of this village, with this village in their hearts.

Every time an act of worship takes place in the church buildings of Clenchwarton, there is an open door of welcome for all who want to come. There is a commitment to be there for you, and your family, and your neighbours, and your friends. There is a place willing to cradle the hopes and dreams, griefs and fears of the village community..

There is a place of truth where the best and worst about our community can be recognised and a belief that reconciliation, restoration and healing are possible, because God is always making all things new. It isn't that the churches are where the perfect and uncomplicated people go – mistakes and muddles take place in churches as much as anywhere else – but the wonder and mystery of these prayer-soaked buildings is that they have been there for the people of Clenchwarton through the years and continue to be there for them today

So don't be a stranger. Come and see who we are and what we do. Come and look round or for a service, or for a specific event. Come and sit in the building and know that it is a place of peace and prayer. If, at the Methodist Chapel, we are not able to be unlocked all the time, then get in touch and we will make time for you.

We will continue to uphold the life of Clenchwarton in our worship and prayers.

Every blessing.
Rev'd Jackie Goddard
Contact: j.goddard@methodist.org.uk (07881 952098)

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?? Puzzle Page ??



All the following cryptic questions lead to the name of fruits.

- 1 Sounds like you get two of them.
- 2 A choice selection.
- 3 A butterfly without its tip.
- 4 A high up Chinaman enjoys this.
- 5 A fanatic in South America.
- 6 The wife of the top man in Turkey.
- 7 The professor is in a murder mystery. (You might have to change your answer to question two as no fruit appears twice)
- 8 A member of the male sex leaves the building.
- 9 Sounds like it is not attractive.
- 10 Sounds like it goes well with Custard.

Good Luck!

The answers follow on another page of the magazine.

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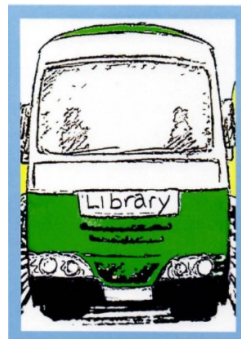
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At the following places and times Clenchwarton:

Coronation Road	9.40 to 9.55
Margaretta Close	10.00 to 10.15
Rookery Close	10.20 to 10.35
Rectory Drive	10.40 to 10.50
St Annes Crescent	10.55 to 11.10
Linford Estate	11.15 to 11.30
Hall Road (Junction Robin Kerkham Way)	11.35 to 11.50
Blackhorse Road	1.00 to 1.20
Wildfields Close	1.25 to 1.35
36 Station Road	1.40 to 2.05



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Clenchwarton Parish Council.

Clenchwarton Parish Council -Memorial Hall, 7pm 16th June 2022.

The meeting started with Ray Thornalley being welcomed as the newly elected Councillor.

Councillor's Reports – Cllr Kemp's report is elsewhere in this issue. Cllr Whitby reported that children in the village had received Jubilee coins during his recent visit to the school where they were very well received. The leader of KLBC, James Wild MP and the QEH Management team are in talks with the Government and are hopeful that they will receive funding to rebuild the hospital. The planning department is looking to recruit 15 new people, particularly focused around enforcement which has seen a massive rise in demand, and to accommodate new incoming regulations too. The Borough has received £20 million for a levelling-up fund which will support things like tourism and possibly refurbishing the Oasis at Hunstanton.

Open Forum – Mr Thornalley thanked Tammy Beeken for being a worthy opponent. She replied that there was scope for many more community engagement projects in the village and thanked him for the compliment. A small discussion took place with residents about the transport issues that some people have been facing getting to appointments and social events.

A few items around finances were discussed and then matters turned to the mooted grain dryer on Station Road. Cllr Whitby said that the reason it had been sited there was to direct HGV's straight off the A17 rather than having them coming through the villages to the current facility. Cllr Pell asked what the impact would be on local residents. Cllr Kemp said that there was a great deal of concern locally especially as a representative for the applicant had been knocking on doors to try and drum up support. It also appears that the planning application had been changed. Cllr Pell asked that a letter be sent to planning asking for clarification of what was actually planned as the application says "Designed for the storage of farm products and associated operations equipment" which Councillors thought was too woolly and didn't actually say "grain dryer".

Jubilee garden/Play area update- lots of work has already been done with a large bug hotel and a hidden fairy house for the children to find too. The large planter is scheduled to be rebuilt with bricks that have already been donated although there was a delay in sourcing a brickie to finish the work. DMG has generously offered another community noticeboard.

Clenchwarton Parish Council. Continued

The primary school is fundraising for a couple of picnic benches and a new gate going into the play area will be installed shortly. The existing equipment is scheduled to be dug out and replaced **from around 8th July** and work should last until the end of the month. Council agreed to scrap the old equipment because it is 20 years old and does not conform to updated safety standards anyway. Finally, the old plaques have been returned to the Council and are available for collection from Cllr Winter.

The football club gave an update on drainage on the back field and the fact that they are having trouble locating where some of the drains come out into the dyke. (If anyone reading this knows then please contact Ben!). They also asked to install a couple of dug-outs – Cllr R Moore expressed concern that they might attract anti-social behaviour and asked what would happen if someone was found dead in one, seemingly oblivious that he had an undertaker sitting along the desk from him who could probably provide all sorts of advice if elicited. Finally, a request was then made to put in more advertising boards and after a discussion, this was agreed too.

The last item of note was around the provision of a new office for the Clerk, given that the last one was in a dreadful condition and had to be removed. Cllr R Moore suggested that in lieu of a community centre happening then building a new one was logical, either a portacabin or something on a concrete pad behind the Pavilion. Cllr Lucas suggested an existing room in the Pavilion which was basically cost-free to establish. Mr Moate agreed with the idea of a portacabin. Cllr Edwards asked for it to be deferred and it was agreed to go to Finance to get costings.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

A representative from the Parish Magazine later spoke to new Councillor Ray Thornalley who quoted “that he counts it as a privilege to be chosen onto the Parish Council by the people of Clenchwarton”

(SF)

Parish Council meetings are usually the first Thursday of every month.

The Agenda's are published on the Parish Council website go to <https://clenchwartonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

Your Letters

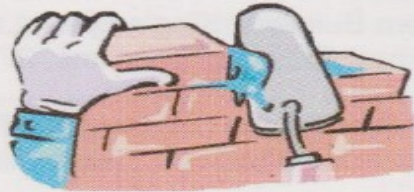
Jubilee Coffee Morning at Clenchwarton Chapel

Our Jubilee Coffee Morning and Sunflower Seed Planting for Ukraine raised **£125 for Chapel funds and £45 for Ukrainian refugees** coming to this county. We would like to thank all those who came and supported us. It is greatly appreciated.



(Stephanie Howard)

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County Councillor Report

County Councillor Alexandra Kemp, Clenchwarton and King's Lynn
South 01553 630329 or 07920 286636.

Incinerator Update

Following the unanimous cross-party motion on 10th May at County Hall, when Norfolk County Council expressed its in-principle opposition to the Wisbech Incinerator, I asked the Leader of the Council to write to MVV Energie and to the Government, to tell them that we oppose the incinerator. We have to follow this right through. The Leader has now written to MVV, and to Greg Hands, the Minister of State, and to Kwasi Kwarteng, the Secretary of State. He included the full text of the motion and wrote that, in passing the motion, Norfolk County Council has come into line with other local authorities in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site and share the concerns of residents to the west of the county. MVV's application for the incinerator was expected to be lodged with the Government in early June, but this has now been postponed to late June. In the international context with the war in Ukraine, it would make far more sense for MVV, the largest listed municipal energy network in Germany, to occupy itself with the creation of renewable energy in Germany to reduce reliance on Russian gas, instead of wasting its efforts trying to build an incinerator next to West Norfolk. We can only hope that common sense will prevail. But we must be prepared for the application to be made at any time.

Puzzle Page Answers. How did you do ?



1 Pear	2 Peach	3 Orange	4 Mandarin
5 Brazil Nut	6 Sultana	7 Plum	8 Mango
9 Ugli	10 Rhubarb		



Nature Watch

There are many misunderstood animals and insects that share our world and one of the most common is the ordinary black garden ant. Especially at the most important time for them, which is once a year when the winged adults fly on certain afternoons from July to September. This is triggered by warm humid weather conditions and, normally occurs simultaneously over wide areas of the country. The fertile flying male and female (Queens) ants mate during this short two to three hour flight, the male ants die but the surviving female ants shed their wings and make individual nesting sites in the soil. Those Queen ants that do not make it along with the male ants provide a feast for the birds.

Those Queens that do make it lay a few eggs and rear the larvae to adults, these adults will become her first workers and the successive broods of workers that start to emerge in the early spring will tend the Queen, rear the larvae, protect the pupal cocoons (the familiar cream coloured so-called 'ant eggs'), and forage for food for the Queen and colony for the remainder of the Queen's life of up to 15 years.

You might wonder why it is so important to allow the ants to fly and mate uninterrupted for the short inconvenience that it may cause you.

As well as ants being the protector of many rare butterfly's caterpillars, which they do in return for feeding on secretions specially produced by the caterpillars much the same as they milk and protect aphids, they are one of the world's greatest street cleaners !.

Sometime ago I watched a programme about ants, which they filmed in a large city. Takeaway food such as burgers etc was left lying in the street and the ants were filmed removing all of it and taking it below ground to feed to their young. When you see the odd one running around in your kitchen, they are doing exactly the same thing. Those are scout ants looking for food, if they find any spilt sugar or a lot of bread crumbs etc they will report back to the colony and you will find a trail of ants running back and forth removing the food. If left alone once the job is done they will leave. I often find an odd ant running around my kitchen floor. Sometimes I will gently pick her up and put her outside, often I will just ignore her, she is a reminder that my floor needs a good sweep.

(DM)

A Canadian Experience

Undertaken by Vera and Margaret between September 23rd and October 4th 2005



On a bright September morning we were collected by private car at 7.15 for our journey to Heathrow and our flight to Canada at 13.15 hours. It was a good, although long, flight to Calgary where we arrived at 15.25. (Alberta is seven hours behind British time). We were met by our tour manager, Gloria, who accompanied us on the coach to the hotel. Our luggage was handled for us throughout the tour. After freshening up in our room we had a stroll to the Eau Claire Market.

After a good night's sleep, waking only once at 4am, we made a brew and prepared for the day. Calgary nestles into a curve of the Bow River and the city centre is a collection of very tall buildings with mirrored glass and polished granite frontages.

We took a tour of the City and saw the Calgary Tower which was opened in 1968. Similar to the BT Tower in London, which opened four years earlier, it has a large viewing area and a revolving restaurant. About 6 feet higher than the London tower it makes a striking presence in the city. We saw the Trans Canadian Railway HQ then went on to Fort Calgary. The original wooden fort had been built as an outpost for the North West Mounted Police at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers, an area which had long been very important to the indigenous people. It is now a museum, a place for education and an area for social gatherings. We also visited the site of the annual Calgary Stampede held every July. Our final visit was to the Olympic Park. Formerly known as Paskapoo Ski Hill it was used for the 1988 Winter Olympics. We saw the 200 foot ski jumps and tried to envisage Eddie the Eagle soaring off the end of them! There is also a bob sleigh run. The flags of all the nations which had participated were fluttering in the wind.

Leaving the city behind we headed towards Banff stopping on the way at Cat Paw Ranch. This was a typical ranch in the Alberta prairie land and we were welcomed by Diane who provided us with tea and coffee, home made cakes and cookies. Passing through Cochrane in the foothills of the Rockies we entered the Banff National Park and arrived at Banff and Sulphur Mountain. We took the Gondola to the summit which, at 7486 feet, gave spectacular views of the Bow River Valley.

We were able to walk around and take photos from all directions. We saw a Canada Jay, also known as the Grey Jay, a mountain goat and several Chipmunks. We descended by the Gondola and re-joined our coach, stopping again at Bow River for a brief photo shoot of the falls. We passed the Banff Springs Hotel, frequented by many celebrities, before arriving at our hotel, The Banff International, for a three night stay.

On day three we set out for Lake Louise, passing Castle Mountain. This was just as its name describes, just like a fortress, quite majestic. We stopped at Lake Louise – what a stunning lake and the reflections were amazing. The lake was so blue, due to the superfine particles of glacial silt (known as Rock Flour). The silt absorbs all colours of incoming light except those in the turquoise/blue spectrum, hence the colour. The Lake was named after Queen Victoria's fourth daughter, Princess Louisa Caroline Alberta, who was married to the Governor General of Canada. The Province of Alberta being also named after her.

We proceeded along the Icefields Parkway which runs between Lake Louise and Jasper, passing Hector Lake and Bow Lake. The road climbs the 'Big Hill' which is a vast curve of highway that offers sensational views. We passed over the Saskatchewan River crossing and on to the Athabasca Glacier, mounting a Sno-coach for the trip onto the glacier itself. It was amazing to drive on a road of solid ice. The Glacier is losing depth at the rate of 16 feet a year and has lost over half of its volume. Mount Athabasca has glaciers on all sides and the water flows to the Pacific from the western slope, to the Arctic Ocean from the northeastern and to Hudson Bay from the southern slope. Along the way, the run offs become turbulent mountain creeks that join to become thundering waterfalls, shimmering lakes and meandering rivers.

On the way back we stopped at Peyto Lake with its beautiful blue colour. On arrival at Banff our final stop, before the hotel, was at Tony Roma's Rib House – Fillet Steak, green beans, mushrooms and fries! The end of a wonderful day.

(To be continued).

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Valerie Grainger Bell (nee Howard)

Val was born in Liverpool on 12th January, 1949 in a private nursing home, *(she married beneath herself!)* to Ernest Howard, Military Medal (awarded for gallantry in North Africa) and his wife Dorothy. Her mother died from cancer when she was only seven, an event that was a constant painful memory for all she had missed and how things, with the best intentions, were kept from her. She was brought up by her father with the support of an aunt who lived nearby. *Resourceful beyond her young years she was quite capable when the mood took her of getting a bus into town and turning up in her father's office unannounced.*

Val attended Broad Square Primary School and Holly Lodge High School for Girls. She went on to take a degree in French with Italian as a subsidiary at Bedford College, University of London and then a teaching certificate back in Liverpool.

Val and Alan met at their parish church, St Mary's, West Derby, Liverpool, where they were both members of the youth group. Alan spotted this tall, slender, completely lovely eighteen year old with long auburn hair of great beauty. *When he next saw her it was cut into a short bob and he had not been consulted!* Engaged quite quickly, after university Alan took a teaching job in London while Val finished her degree so they met up several times a week. Having to ask the permission of the Bishop to marry was tricky. *She wore her shortest skirt!* They married at St Mary's on 21st August, 1971. To their great delight and joy, Jenny was born in 1979 and Jill in 1981. Both are in public service and Mum and Dad are so very proud of them and of the lives they have built.

Val started her teaching career when Alan still had a final year at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, by teaching at Hereward Secondary School, March in Cambridgeshire and then, when they returned to Liverpool, she taught in the primary sector at Woolton Primary and Sudley Primary, both in the south of the city.

She served with Alan in the parishes of Speke, Halewood (where the girls were born) and Wavertree. After the family was of an age Val started teaching French at secondary level in Liverpool where she was also involved in Adult Literacy. When they moved to Fakenham, she joined Alderman Peel High School in Wells next the Sea (the only place where she also taught Italian), Springwood High School in Kings Lynn (where she first also taught German) and Costessy High School in Norwich. Finally when they moved to Stockport, Greater Manchester, in 2000 Val taught for nine years at Stockport School.

Val was the very best of wives Alan could ever have hoped for. She was simply and completely the love of his life.

But Alan is very aware that she trailed around the country sacrificing herself and her own career to parish life whilst also trying to protect the family. A small example is the girls remember the outings and treats she organised on Saturday afternoons when Dad so often had a wedding on the only possible family day off. *They also remember the mantra "I want - won't get"*.

Kind, generous, brave, long-suffering, often a little shy even undemanding but utterly loyal and loving, Val adored the girls and both the men in their lives and especially her granddaughter Alice, now just 5. When she was in hospital recently she specifically asked for a photograph of Alice to be taken in. She was also very close to the Epsom branch of her own Howard family where she often spent weekends whilst at university. She could be extremely strong willed and determined, characteristics that often were hidden but which came out very clearly in her hospital visits and in the later stages of her illness.

A miasma of symptoms that began in 2013 turned into Parkinson's Disease and to that was added in recent years scoliosis. Her mobility was very limited latterly but she enjoyed trips in the car and the inevitable coffee in Costa. She had just a few hobbies, reading mainly and embroidery and dress-making in the earlier years. She also played a little badminton. And she enjoyed her garden.

The happiest memories of their early years are holidays in North Norfolk and in later years in France (via a stopover with the Howards in Epsom) particularly when the girls were younger and came too. They really were the best of days, especially Carcassonne, Annecy and later the walled town of Langres near Dijon to which Alan and Val returned several times. Joining the Chester Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2010 was an absolute dream fulfilled.

Val and Alan were so grateful for the warmth of the welcome they received in their retirement here in Clenchwarton and for the strong friendships quickly established. They are a testament to the health of this fine community. Her sudden death on 12th May, 2022 with no chance to say goodbye leaves her family utterly bereft and broken-hearted but embracing the hope of all God's children in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ who she worshipped and quietly, gracefully served all her life.

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Pepper Fen. Episode 17

(The village of Pepper Fen is fictitious and is not based on any particular village. None of the characters are based on real people living or dead.)

Gabrielle was proud of her new cottage. It was just what she had been looking for. She was renting from an elderly couple she understood, though she had never met them and was paying her rent to the estate agents. It was getting light now for longer so she decided to take a walk to look closely at her surroundings. She hoped she would espy some neighbours who she could introduce herself too, of course at a distance given the continuing threat of covid.

She walked out of the front door and immediately made her way across the narrow bridge to the little square in front of the church. It was a small church and had a house either side of it. A big tree grew in the middle of the square and by it was a statue which she went to and read the name to whom it was erected. No one was about which disappointed her so she retraced her steps across the bridge and walked slowly past her own cottage and the other cottages in a long line. No one appeared from any of the cottages so she speeded up her steps following the lane and the river to where it reached the main road. It was not really a main road, but it was a road that the lane to Pepper Fen gave priority.

She turned right and recognised that this was the road she had been driven to when she had helped the Detective Sergeant interview the foreign farmworkers. It was a long road and she had walked for some distance when she spotted an open barn and noticed a number of people were sitting together in the barn. She guessed that with the relaxation of the rules that this was not against the law though she thought it may be a bit unwise. The people in the barn were all young and as she approached them they stopped talking and looked curiously at her. I guess not many people go for a stroll in the early evening around here, she thought, they probably think I am a bit mad. "Hello" she greeted, "Don't let me stop you chatting".

They just stared at her so she carried on. Mud on the surface of the road implied this was a road often used by farm vehicles. Fields stretched either side of her. The landscape was flat but it was not unlike the landscape of her native land. As she approached it, Gabrielle recognised the farm and the place where they had interviewed the men. Though she remembered she had not been of much help as the men had purported not to understand English or Lithuanian.

Continued.

Pepper Fen. Continued

She carried on walking. She was struck by the lack of trees and the straightness of the road, corners seldom occurred and this added to the general sense of flatness. Just before the first bend in the road for some time she turned back. She was not tired but thought it would be turning dusk before she got back. It was not long before she became aware that she was not alone. She glimpsed behind her and saw a man some distance behind but walking much quicker than her. She began to walk faster herself but then thought better of it. The fear of being alone with a man along way from any possible help was superseded by the thought that she was a policewoman and surely a policewoman should not be afraid in such circumstances.

When the man had almost caught her up, she turned round to face him. "Good Evening" she said pleasantly. The man did not reply. He looked worried. When he spoke it was not in English. She was surprised to hear him speak Lithuanian, though relieved as illogically she now felt safer. "You are from my country" he had said, "You were with that policeman". She acknowledged that this was indeed the case. "I work here" he said, "so did the man you were asking about".

"You did not say that before".

"I don't trust the police, but you are one of us"

"What do you know about the man?"

"He's a bad man. A real bad man".

There was a silence as she let him compose his thoughts. "None of us liked him. We were not surprised when he disappeared. We thought he may have gone off with this girl he was after".

"What girl?" Gabrielle asked.

The man shook his head. "None of us saw her but she lived round the corner".

"At Pepper Fen?"

"That's right. She was right young."

"Will you come to the Station and tell the policeman what you have told me?"

"No way". "But you will speak to me?" "Lady I am right lonely here. I want to speak to you. I want to know you better".

Again Gabrielle paused so the man continued, "I would be so grateful if you would let me take you out for a meal."

There was another pause, "My name is Matis".

To be continued

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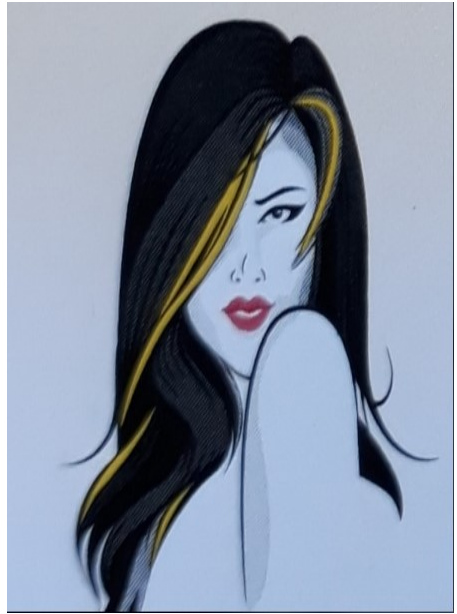
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