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# The Pinnacle

**A Magazine for the parish of  
Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley**

***The Churches of St Andrew's,  
St John's and St Mary's***

**St John's is a Local Anglican/Methodist Ecumenical Partnership**

**February 2021**

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## “Holy Saturday people”

Thanks to the wonders of Zoom, I’ve recently been doing some interim ministry (IM) training. As you know, I’m the interim Vicar of the parish – I was originally licensed for 3 years, which has recently been extended for up to another 12 months (so potentially to November this year). IM is still relatively new in the church, and these sessions were the first specifically designed to help interim ministers in their work. In our final session, we were invited to pray and reflect on the idea that IM is a bit like Holy Saturday. Holy Saturday is the day that lies between Good Friday and Easter Sunday; between crucifixion and resurrection. It’s a time of grief, uncertainty and loss. The world has changed forever – the old is left behind, but the new world has not yet come into being. And the only way of reaching the new world is by going through this period. You can’t get from Good Friday to Easter Sunday without passing through Holy Saturday.

The application of this metaphor to IM is perhaps fairly obvious. IM is about helping a parish to negotiate change – to go through its own Holy Saturday experience

in order to emerge into a new place of possibility and hope. But as I prayed and reflected on this idea, it occurred to me that it’s

not just the church in our parish that’s undergoing a ‘Holy Saturday’ experience at the moment – it’s all of us, everywhere. When the pandemic struck and we entered

the first lockdown last March, it was a bit like having the world turned upside down. Within a very short space of time, our lives were changed in almost every aspect.

Suddenly, circumstances dictated that many of the everyday things we took for granted were no longer possible. We have all experienced many and various griefs and losses, big and small. The initial wave of understanding, acceptance and determination to do our bit and play our part has been inevitably eroded as our collective trauma drags on. Like others I speak to, I recognise that as time goes by I am feeling more fragile, more weary, more frustrated.



“ ... our lives  
were changed  
in almost every  
aspect ”

For the last 10 months or more now, we have been in this 'in-between' time. We have had to let go of the old ways of doing almost everything (including church), and adopt new, unfamiliar ways. Vaccination gives us hope, a glimpse of possibility of living less restricted lives once again. But we are not there yet. We are still trudging on in this period between what was, and what will be. We are all living through Holy Saturday.

I hope that just noticing this will help us. We can't avoid where we are. We have no choice but to endure and get through. To change the metaphor, we're still in the wilderness, and the promised land is not yet in sight. I hope that we won't be here for 40 years, as the people of Israel were after Moses led them out of slavery. But the fact is that this is where we are, and it's really not possible to say with certainty when our time here will come to an end.

So how do we live in the current reality as Holy Saturday people?

What helps us to keep on keeping on when things are tough, when there is so much grief around, the future unclear and hope is hard to find? We probably all have our own answers to those questions, but I think that the key lies in small and simple things. In making sure that we attend to the basics – eating properly, taking exercise, getting rest. In making time for the things that give us joy. In noticing the world around us – a break in the clouds, a shaft of sunlight, snowdrops poking their heads up... In caring for each other, keeping in contact with phone calls or texts. In praying – which isn't primarily about words, but about spending time with God who loves us, and being honest about how we're doing. Above all, in kindness – to ourselves and to others, especially when someone's having a bad day. Ephesians 4.32 says, "...be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." This is what we need to help us get through this extended Holy Saturday.

With every blessing

Julie



## Where on Earth?

Where would you look to find this beautiful little sculpture of two penguins and their chick?

A couple of clues might help (or not, as the case might be!)

1. They are cast in a special sort of bronze with a high tin content
2. They are currently in the "wrong" hemisphere for penguins – but once at work, they'll be bang on the spot.



*For the full story (and, of course, the answer!) turn to page 13*



## The Carol Trail



Did you do the Trail? We've had good reports back from all three of our trails, in Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley. One family said, ***"Kildwick section done! Loved it. Had comedy renditions of carols all the way round - the residents must love us! They read all the boards ... It was great. Thank you for all your hard work."***

We've already got plans for how to make it better next time. It was hard to get an idea of the numbers involved - and maybe we can arrange it so we find out...

Congratulations to all of our intrepid Carollers!



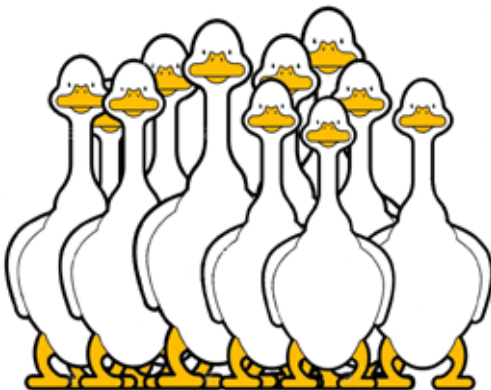
## Seasons in the Countryside

Happy New Year everyone. It has been quite a while since I've written. I thought I would give you all a break from my tales of all my feathered friends but here I am, back again, with tales from my birds and the nursery.

Dare I mention the past year or shall we leave 2020 behind us? The world was, and still is, a mixed up place but the nature around us kept doing its thing - looking as beautiful as ever. Anyway, onwards and upwards.

Since I last wrote I have had plenty of new arrivals to join the rest of the flock. Last April I hatched some geese. It was a bit of a disaster really. I put 11 eggs in the incubator and only 2 hatched. They spent night after night cuddled up on my knee till the time came when their bowel movements proved a bit too much so they were put in with the ducks! As they got older I could tell that I had a boy and a girl so I named them. Those of you that know me will know my daft sense of humour so I called the girl Annie Oakley and I named the gander Propa.... propaganda haha. I now have 3 ganders... Mohatma gander, Mickey and Propa ganda.

All has been going well with them both till recently. They have been brought up with the ducks so they spend all day long with them but Propa has suddenly developed a disliking of me. The grumpy thing. The other day we had some left over cabbage leaves so I knelt down to feed both geese. After about a minute when Propa realised I had none left in my hands he bit me, then whacked me with his wing and, as I got up to walk away, he bit me again this time on my knee. I won't say what I called him as its not polite to write in a church magazine but it was a bit more than you naughty boy! The trouble is we are heading towards breeding season for the geese so they always get grumpy and hormonal at this time of year. If the ganders were like this all year round I would pack their bags!.



Regarding the nursery, covid and Brexit are already causing delivery problems but I will get it all sorted. Whatever happens we will carry on. On a positive note all the greenhouses are full of Spring perennials so we are all geared up for another year but that's for next month's article.

Take care everyone,

*Lydia*

# The Children's Society

A year of lock-down and other restrictions has brought a disastrous fall in the income of many charities. Many of you are regular supporters of The Children's Society – and many of you have their collecting boxes on a windowsill. Because of COVID-19 restrictions Barbara is unable to collect these this year so Ruby has counted her box money and sent it on to the Society. ***Could you follow her example?***

There are lots of ways you can do this. They are detailed on the Children's Society web page at <https://tinyurl.com/childsoc>

You can simply send a cheque to  
The Children's Society  
Whitecross Studios  
50 Banner Street  
London EC1Y 8ST

(They prefer it if you include a Giro paying in slip with your cheque – which you can get through their website above)

You can also pay online, through a bank or Post Office – or by BACS. Whichever way, you can get help from their website or by calling their Supporter Care team on 0300 303 7000. Don't send cash by post!

Anything that you can do would help the society (and Barbara too!)

*Ruby*



## Sunday Services in February



When the Government announced Lockdown 3, following the arrival of first one then a second virulent strain of the virus, the PCC considered deeply what we should do. The regulations, while emphasising how essential it is to remain at home whenever possible, rather bizarrely allowed gatherings for church services. There were fairly clear hints from the House of Bishops and we followed the example of many churches and cathedrals. With heavy hearts, we decided that the doors should remain closed in order to minimise the spread of this disease. As the programme of vaccinations rolls out, let's hope that we can soon re-assess this sad situation.

# **Lent 2021 – Don't give up!**

Ash Wednesday is on 17th February. It marks the start of Lent – a period of 40 days recalling the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness, between his baptism and the start of his public ministry. At its end is the journey of Holy Week, leading us again to Good Friday (and Holy Saturday, which perhaps this year will resonate with us even more than usual -see my pastoral letter) before the joy of Easter. Lent is traditionally a season of 40 days of penitence and fasting. I don't know how you feel about Lent this year, but I feel as though I have done nothing but give things up for the past year. I've given up hugs, holidays, dinners with and visits to friends, parties, singing, Christmas with my wider family: I could go on, but I don't need to, because I'm sure you all recognize that sense of being deprived of many of the things that make life what it's supposed to be.

BUT if we think of Lent as a time when we turn away from the things that distract us from God's love, and turn towards the things that reconnect us with God's love, that might be more helpful. Here are some ideas of things which might help you to do that:

## ***Get Out...***

Spend time outside every day if you can – even if it's just a few minutes – and jot down in a notebook or journal what you see, and what you are thankful for. For me, as I hear a bit more birdsong, and see a few more green leaves, and watch the early shoots of bulbs popping up, there is a real gladness in the coming of Spring. I am reminded of God's goodness and my own part in creation and it lifts my heart.

## ***Get Writing...***

You might want to get in some writing paper and go through your address book – try writing a letter or an email every day to someone you care about – maybe somebody you haven't been in touch with for a while – thank them for their part in your life as a friend or neighbour. Pray for them.

## ***Get The Kettle On...***

Most of us drink tea or coffee most days. Can you switch to a brand of tea or coffee that is organically produced and Fairly Traded, so that every time you brew up you are helping a farmer in a developing country to live sustainably on a decent wage?





# Cononley WI



Hello Everybody

Happy New Year - Well here we are in 2021 and another lockdown. But there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel with the COVID Vaccine being made available, so let's keep our fingers crossed that it won't be long before it's our turn to receive the vaccine.

Cononley WI are keeping in touch with each other by telephone and having a chat to make sure each member is safe and well - but it is a bonus to meet a WI member in the street just to receive a smile and have a chat even if it is at a distance.

The winter months are long but green shoots are appearing in the gardens so it is a sign that Spring is just round the corner.

In the meanwhile take care, stay safe and well.

*Pauline Link - President  
Cononley WI*



## Bible Reading Notes

I regularly order "New Daylight" bible reading notes from BRF for a group of folk at St Andrew's. If anyone else would like to order these or other BRF notes, books etc, I'm very happy to co-ordinate that. I shall be ordering my Lent book from them this time. Get in touch either by phone (01535 634526) or email – [jill@woodchipcomputers.co.uk](mailto:jill@woodchipcomputers.co.uk)



### *Get A Bit Of Peace And Quiet...*

If you are not already in the habit of praying, try this: After you've had your breakfast each day, find a quiet spot, light a candle, and just spend five minutes quietly. It doesn't have to be complicated. Ask God to be with you through the day. Ask for God's help in knowing His presence. Ask for peace in your heart as you begin the day. Say the Lord's prayer.

This Lent, be kind to yourself, take things gently, remember that God's love is all around you. And whatever you do, don't give up.

*Rev. Julie*

God of heaven and earth,  
in these times of isolation,  
apart from loved ones  
distant from friends  
away from neighbours  
thank you that there is nothing  
in all of creation,  
not even coronavirus,  
that is able to separate us from your love...

...And may your love that never fails  
continue to be shared  
through the kindness of strangers  
looking out for each other,  
for neighbours near and far  
all recognising our shared vulnerability,  
each of us grateful for every breath,  
and willing everyone to know the gift  
of a full and healthy life.  
Keep us all in your care.  
Amen.

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor powers, nor present, nor things to come will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'



Love never fails  
Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.  
Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside  
our sisters and brothers living in poverty.  
Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our  
neighbours near and far.  
Love compels us to give and act as one.  
Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together  
more tightly than ever before.  
As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation  
and around the world – we are united as one family.  
So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift  
up our hearts together in prayer.  
Amen

Loving God,  
we seek your presence  
in the silence beyond words  
looking to you for comfort,  
strength, protection and reassurance  
breathing with gratitude  
holding on to hope  
trusting with faith  
that you are still God  
in the midst of the turmoil  
and that your love reaches  
to the ends of the earth.  
Be present with us now.  
Amen.

that neither death,  
nor rulers, nor things  
can come...  
to separate us from the love of  
our Lord.

(Romans 8:38-39)

# Remembering the “Spanish” Flu Pandemic

Over the last 9 months we have come to understand the impact of a global pandemic, learning the lessons of lock downs, social distancing and hand washing, and the personal devastation it can leave in its wake.

But just over 102 years ago, towards the end of the horror of the First World War, the world’s worst pandemic, the “Spanish Flu”, struck. This flu pandemic raged from January 1918 to April 1920 and is estimated to have killed between 30-50 million people globally (3-5% of the world’s population).

Influenza is one of the oldest diseases on our planet. It is a virus disease which has many variants infecting both animals and humans. Throughout history there have been regular flu pandemics and despite our skill at providing vaccinations it still kills 290,00 – 600,000 people globally each year.

The first wave of the pandemic in January 1918 was a “normal” flu affecting mainly children, the elderly and the sick. But by August the virus had mutated to a new variant which impacted primarily on healthy young adults, with devastating results. The flu killed 250,000 civilians in the UK, twice the number of British and Commonwealth soldiers killed in the Battle of the Somme. In colonial India perhaps as many as 12 million died, and the populations of some small Pacific islands were wiped out. The pandemic finally waned and finished in 1920.

The world was used to regular pandemics such as the plague, as well as flu, so lock down style actions to isolate the sick, and reduce social contact, have been used throughout history. Acceptance of the germ theory of disease, and the identification of many bacterial diseases at the end of the 19th century, had already led to greater emphasis on hygiene. All the issues like mask wearing, should schools be closed and how long to lock down were hotly debated throughout the world.

The virus has been identified, from preserved bodies in the Arctic, as a variant of the H1N1 virus, a bird flu that probably mutated via pigs to attack humans. It was similar to the virus in the “swine flu” outbreak in 2009. It was called the “Spanish” flu because wartime censorship had stopped any reporting of it apart from in neutral Spain, where the King among others suffered a severe infection.

The first case was reported from a large military camp in the USA but it is not clear where it started. Causes suggested are from a pig farming area near the American army camp, from the huge British military camp



## Prayer Loops

Have you been an avid magazine reader for a long time? If so, you'll probably remember an article I wrote some while back about Prayer Loops. This idea began at St Andrew's a few years ago and now that we're working as one parish, it makes sense to spread the net a little further.

Many of you will know the principle of how these chains or loops work. A group of people undertakes to pray for any particular need made known to them – in this case, for a week. Those requests are completely confidential and can be as simple as you wish, with names mentioned or not.

It's really very easy to use – and we know that prayer is effective. The request can be for anyone you know who is in need, whether they are a person of faith or not. If ever you feel that this ministry might help you or someone you care about, then contact Revd Julie Bacon (01274 405170) or June Whitaker (01535 655320). If you can't get hold of either of them then ring me (01535 634526). We'll then pass your message around the loop.

Do please use the Prayer Loops – after all, Jesus teaches us to pray, and Paul in his many letters encouraged the early church and still encourages us. Prayer is an important part of the pastoral care in our parish – and that work extends far beyond the parish boundary.

*Jill Wright*



in France at Étaples, which had a large pig farm, or spread from China by the Chinese labourers who had travelled across North America to work in France supporting the war.

"It stalked into camp when the day was damp  
And chilly and cold.  
It crept by the guards  
And murdered my pards  
With a hand that was clammy and bony and bold;  
And its breath was icy and mouldy and dank,  
And it killed so speedy  
And gloatingly greedy  
That it took away men from each company rank".

*From "The Flu" by Private Josh Lee, 1919*

*Richard Woolf*

# St Andrew's Churchyard

Someone posted some pictures of a snowy St Andrew's churchyard on the Kildwick and Farnhill village Facebook today.

There have been some nice comments – and they made me think of the work that is already in hand.

All along the front of the church, Gareth Clarke has cleared the unruly growth among the tombstones and, following the enrichment of the soil will replant that whole length.

Hopefully Gareth's professional care (thank you, Geraldine!) will make a huge difference to the appearance of our much-loved church for some time to come.



The care of the rest of the churchyard is the subject of a good deal of debate! All of the churchyard to the south of the canal is designated a "closed" churchyard and, as such, it is the responsibility of (a seriously cash-strapped) Craven District Council to maintain. Needless to say, their perception of the right frequency for mowing and strimming doesn't necessarily coincide with ours!

The church Restoration Group have talked a bit about a national group called "Caring for God's Acre". I would hope that, during 2021, we might approach them and see what suggestions they have to help us to create a space that can be attractive not just to us humans but to other animals, both vertebrate and invertebrate.

Already, one new Mum from school has got stuck in with trowel and trug. Even now, you can see the fruits of her labours around the War Memorial. It'll be good if some others came to join The Gang!

*Chris Wright*



## Where on Earth?



*From page 5...*

The Ringing World (a weekly publication for ringers) publishes a regular "Image of the Week". As we welcomed 2021, one image depicted a traditional seafaring new year tradition. Those penguins are worth sharing!

The photo was taken aboard the British Antarctic Survey's new research vessel the RSS Sir David Attenborough.

In accordance with the custom, the old year was rung out on the ship's bell by Martin, the eldest member of the crew and the new year was welcomed by the youngest member Josh. Afterwards, the ship's Captain, William Whatley, ordered the ship's whistle to be sounded.

The ship's bell is a 12" brass bell cast by Castle Fine Arts, Liverpool. It hangs from an argente that has a beautifully-moulded penguin decoration.

The BAS took delivery of the ship in November 2020. After sea trials in the Irish Sea, she'll undertake ice trials in the Arctic before sailing south to the Antarctic for the 2021–22 season.

In a public competition for the naming of this ship someone suggested 'Boaty McBoatface'. This infamous tag has been designated to the unmanned submarine that will capture data from deep under the ice.

This £200m Cammell Laird ship will keep Britain at the forefront of world-leading research in the Antarctic and Arctic. RSS Sir David Attenborough has a gross tonnage of 15,000t, measures 129m in length and has a beam 24m. She has a range of around 19,000 nautical miles at 13 knots (the equivalent of circling the Antarctic continent twice), and is able to break ice up to 1m thick at 3 knots (5.6km/h).

*The photo was submitted by bellringer Valia Battat who is currently the ship galley's second cook.*

## Thumbnail sketch - VSO

Some of you may not know that I spent over two years in Haiti after I graduated. It was the last year when you could qualify to teach with a degree – you didn't have to do the year's teacher training course that later became obligatory.

I was restless and didn't know what I wanted to do next.

A form came through the door in a flyer. I filled it in, saying I was interested in finding out more about VSO – and discovered a process that I've used at several other turning points in my life – you start a process and then do nothing to stop it! Eventually you have no choice.

8 months later I got off a plane in Port-au-Prince.

The selection weekend was quite something – another story – but I do have 3 stand-out memories...

The last night party, where some of the candidates didn't remember the weekend hadn't ended (we were still being screened!)

The little old lady who came and sat on my bed the second evening, got out her knitting and said 'so why do you really want to do this?'

The realisation that in the VSO world my skills were pretty useless!

People were choosing where they'd like to go if they got through – mending machinery, planting trees and crops, healthcare of various sorts – there was only one music job in the entire third world!

I remember the fuss at my graduation when some of my tutors realised where I was going – it was quite a dangerous place! Papa Doc had just died, all the Western journalists and observers had been thrown out, and 'Baby' Doc, who had taken over, was using the streets of the capital as a racing track for him and his cronies. 'You can't go there!'

It's impossible to cover the next two and a bit years here. They tell you about culture shock, but no-one can prepare a 21 yr old English girl for open sewers, rats in the streets, huge cockroaches everywhere and beggars, some of whom had been deliberately mutilated to elicit sympathy and hopefully money. I got Dengue Fever within a few days of arrival, when there was no-one in the school who spoke English, and with that, the shock of the dreadfully handicapped children I was to work with (no arms, no eyes, no legs,) the heat, and desperate homesickness, I was completely useless and in tears a lot of the time. I think it was only pride stopped me giving up and coming back! Things looked up after a few months. A second volunteer arrived (with two you can laugh more), I toughened up, learnt Creole, and realised the kids were just normal kids!

*Glyn*

# Conundrum Corner

## Killer Sudoku

12		11		5		13	17	3
8	12	7	14					
			13	18			8	
5		10		26	10		11	11
14	8					4		
		12			16		11	
10		14				14	8	14
8	13	10	13					
			8		7		7	

### ***Sudoku with a twist.***

The standard rules of Sudoku apply (each 3x3 box, row & column must contain the numbers 1-9).

The clues are the small numbers that equal the sum of the numbers you place in the (dashed) cages. Numbers cannot repeat within cages.

When complete the highlighted squares contain the numbers 1-8, with no numbers repeated.

*(Full rules & solving strategies for Killer Sudoku can be found on Wikipedia. It's a possible one, this! I've solved it!!)*

## The Birds in Your Garden

### Who Feeds Garden Birds?



Photo: John Harding

Answer – two thirds of us!

Oh, and we spend upwards of £600m doing so.

I'm not alone in having watched the birds in my garden more this last few months than ever before. Having stopped putting out supplementary food during the summer, it was a few weeks before they forgave me this lack of attention and came back in numbers – but they certainly have. You don't have to put out food to have birds around, but you certainly see more if you do, and it's well worth varying what you put out to see which is their favourite. It's suet balls in this restaurant!

Our garden is on the edge of York and normally welcomes around a dozen species each week in winter,

according to my Garden BirdWatch records. The last few weeks though, it's been more like 15 or 16.

What has been thrilling me recently though, is the number of flocks around. Are there more this year or am I looking more closely and more often? I've had mixed finch flocks, mixed tit flocks and even Robins and Dunnocks have been present in twos and threes – not at all usual. Mind you, birds don't often read bird books and don't always realise how they are supposed to behave.

My mantra has long been "the more you look, the more you see" and this includes studying the interactions within and between species, and the different feeding strategies they use. New to me this year has been watching Nuthatches. There are two around, though I don't think they

are a pair, as one is very dominant, and they are never on the feeders together. If the dominant one is there, the other one pops onto a nearby bush and waits its turn. That said, they both send off any intruders of a different species, and given those beaks, who's going to argue?

They are persistent cachers too. They just never stop going back and forth, and can be seen hiding black sunflower seeds under stones on the path, in the flower beds and in all sorts of nooks. I fear a sunflower explosion this summer, and I know who is going to be expected to pull them all up. A pair of Coal Tits is also busy caching, though not quite as frenetically.

Usually, we have only one Robin around, but this year there are at least three and they can be seen swinging their handbags at each other, often with a third standing nearby watching proceedings. Robins have winter territories and will defend them robustly. Dunnocks, also usually solitary, are hopping around under and on the feeders in twos and threes, though I've yet to see much unruly behaviour. I guess they could be young siblings.

Another difference in feeding strategy to look out for is that of Blue Tits which usually take seeds away to eat, whilst Great Tits may do so too or may eat in situ. Conversely, Finches when solitary or in pairs will sit and scrunch seeds for several minutes. O.K., things are different when a flock arrives; then it's all about competition. Look more closely at finches feeding though, and you'll see some of them, Bullfinches especially, roll the seeds in their beaks to remove the skin, even with sunflower hearts.

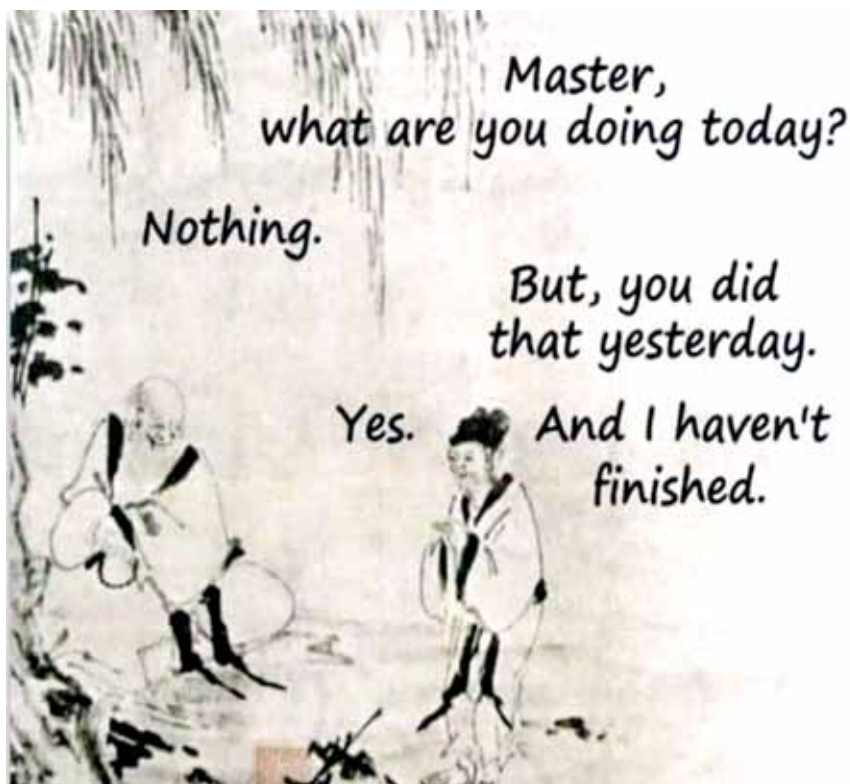
About the only birds which feed amicably as a flock are Long Tailed Tits, and I've seen 6 or 8 spend several minutes on suet balls all together.

As I said....the more you look, the more you see!

*If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest, and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please contact me or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website ([www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)).*

*Mike Gray  
[gbwmike@gmail.com](mailto:gbwmike@gmail.com).*





## Deadlines

Welcome to 2021! Our next edition is scheduled for the beginning of March 2021. The deadline for this is

**Monday 22nd February**

Please let us have your material at least by then  
(but earlier is better!)

*The Pinnacle on the front cover is by Phillip Priestley  
The Prayer Page snowdrops are by Chris Wright*

***We are still short of seasonal cover photos!  
Have you got any pictures of the Pinnacle?***