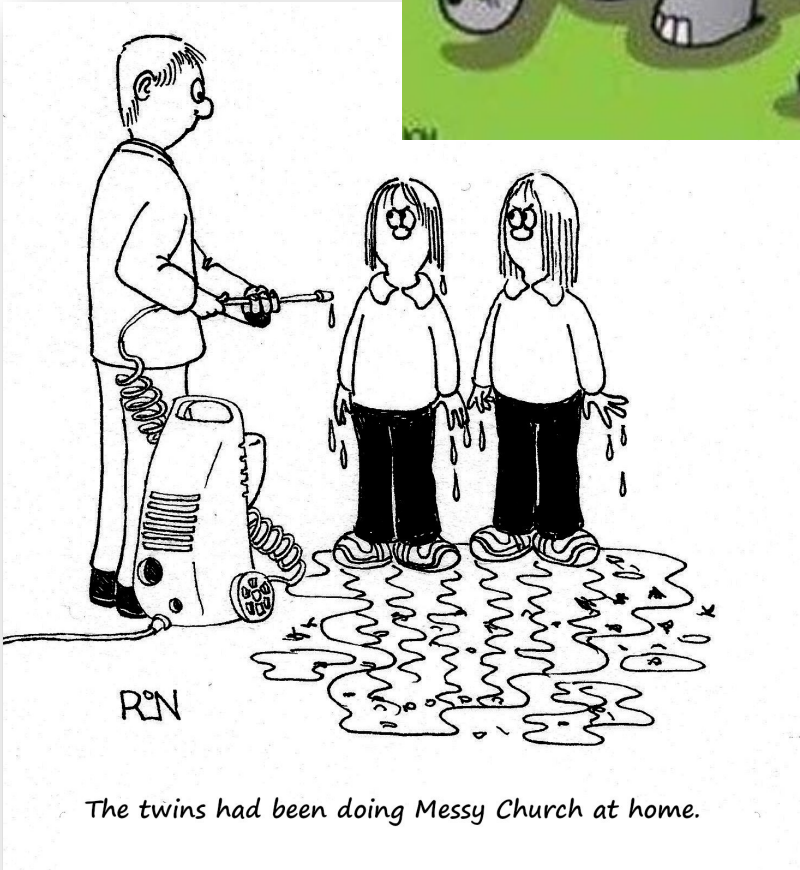
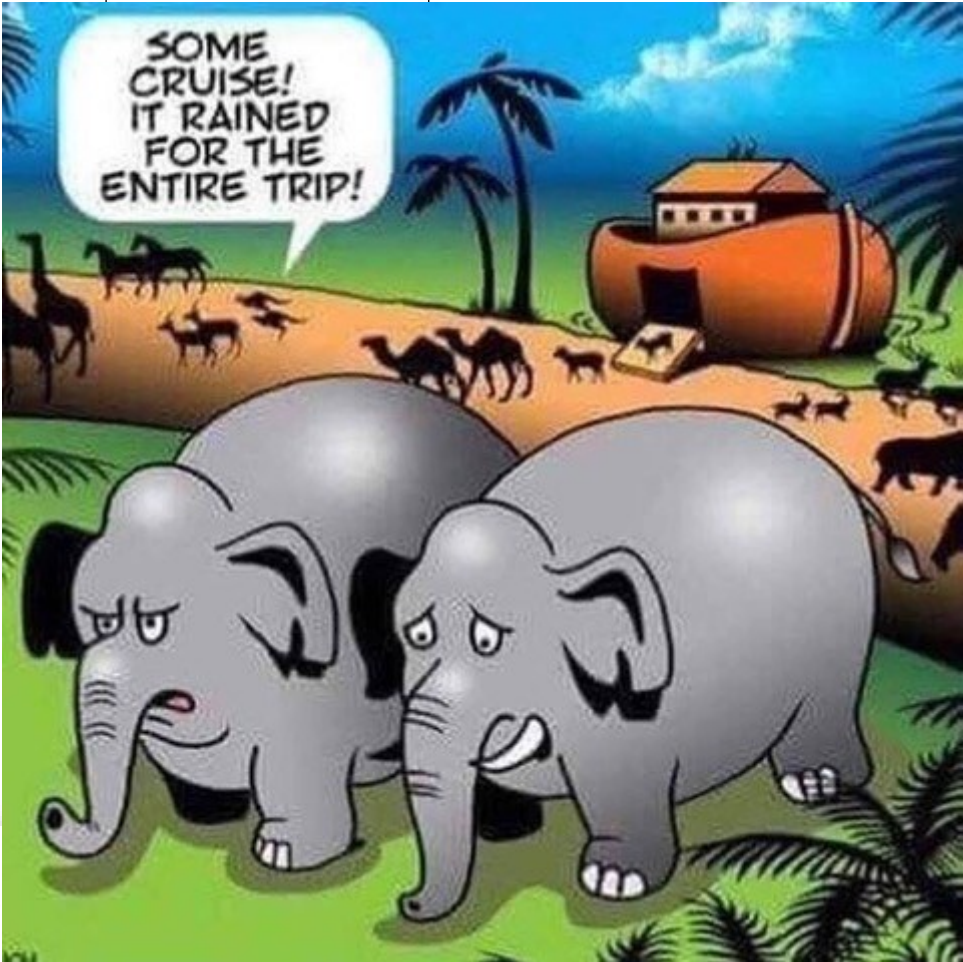


**LONGDEN and ANNSCROFT with PULVERBATCH-**  
Benefice of Great Hanwood, Longden and Annscroft  
with Pulverbatch  
**May 2020**

**DAY 4**



*The twins had been doing Messy Church at home.*

## **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

[www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk) notes from Ian Ross

*We are ordinary people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights.*

### **BAD NEWS**

**Iran** Women and girls in Iran are not allowed to leave their homes unless they cover their hair with a headscarf and cover up their arms and legs with loose clothing.

A movement against the compulsory hijab erupted in Iran in 2017 when one woman staged a solo act of resistance. She removed her headscarf and silently waved it on the end of a stick.

Countless women across the country joined her, staging their own protests. They become known as the "Girls of Revolution Street."

In 2018, Nasrin defended some of these women who faced prosecution. Now, Nasrin has been sentenced to **38 years in prison** and

**148 lashes** after two grossly unfair trials, and is separated from her husband and two children.

Women should be able to choose what they wear, and lawyers should be able to defend their right to do so.

This is the harshest sentence recorded against a human rights defender in Iran in recent years, suggesting that the authorities are stepping up their repression.

#### **Help free Nasrin**

This isn't the first time Nasrin has been targeted. In 2010 she was sentenced to six years in prison for her human rights work. But when thousands of people like you stood up to demand her freedom, she was pardoned and released. Our campaign worked then, it can work again for Nasrin now. Nasrin is not a criminal. She is a human rights defender.

Sign the petition and together we can free Nasrin. <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/free-nasrin-sotoudeh>



### **GOOD NEWS**



Senegalese activist Guy Marius Sagna was released on bail on 3 March 2020, three months after he was first detained and after two requests for the provisional release were denied. The eight other activists who were also charged with participation in an unauthorised gathering were released on bail between December 2019 and February 2020. The charges against the nine activists are still pending – inciting an unauthorised gathering and rebellion

After his release, Guy Marius Sagna called Amnesty International's delegate to give his thanks for Amnesty International's action, support and prison visits.

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### **From Ian Ross**

This poem was requested at a funeral that I took in March at the Crematorium.

In 1996 Jean and I were in Oklahoma City where I was talking about Shrewsbury Abbey. We visited the site of the bombing that killed 186 people and devastated a huge area. A temporary fence had been erected and this festooned with hundreds of messages – including this one.

I said, "God, I hurt."

And God said, I know."

I said, "God, I cry a lot."

And God said, "That is why I gave you tears."

I said, "God, I am so depressed."

And God said, "That is why I gave you Sunshine."

I said, "God, life is so hard."  
And God said, "That is why I gave you loved ones."

I said, "God, my loved one died."  
And God said, "So did mine."

I said, "God, it is such a loss."  
And God said, I saw mine nailed to a cross."

I said, "God, but your loved one lives."  
And God said, "So does yours."

I said, "God, where are they now?"  
And God said, "Mine is on My right and yours is in the Light."

I said, "God, it hurts."  
And God said, I know." ~ Posted on the wall at the Oklahoma City bombing site in 1995

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## And to help you smile

### Why Jesus walked on water

A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. "Goodness," he objected to the travel agent. "In England it would not have been more than £20."

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder He walked."

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### A wee bit too pious

A Scottish lady invited a gentleman to dinner on a particular day, and he accepted with the dour reservation: "If I am spared."

"Weel, weel," she replied briskly, "If ye're deid I'll no'expect ye."

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My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

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And the bluebells are still coming out in all their glory despite everything else that is happening.

Stay safe and keep smiling

## And finally—for today— more news and thoughts from our villages

### Pulverbatch Lockdown Diary

Every Thursday: out with our neighbours at 8pm clapping and banging saucepans.

Every other day: Very little to distinguish from any other! Keeping an eye on elderly neighbours and doing some minor favours for people. Communicating with family by electronic means and being grateful that BT provided us with fibre broadband. Had you heard of Zoom before Covid 19? It has provided the medium for the normally pub based book club to carry on and enabled us to have a virtual birthday party for our daughter locked down in Birmingham.

A positive has been using the permitted exercise to explore local footpaths we've not been on before. Those walks have provided a foil to the depressing daily news on TV and Radio with the resurgence of nature. The beautiful displays of bluebells, the daffodil field at Gatten, spring lambs, the increase in birdlife, birdsong you can hear- they have all served to lift the heart.

Combine lockdown with the wonderful weather and our garden has never looked better! It's also been useful to catch up with a few DIY projects that had been pushed to the back of the list. Sometimes though you have to be creative in using alternative materials or eking out limited supplies.

Pulverbatch has continued to be a place where people look out for one another and help their neighbours. In fact we've probably been helped more than we've helped, with friends picking up items of shopping we've not been able to get online or sharing things (like flour) that are in short supply or very difficult to get. Clare at the White Horse has been arranging deliveries of vegetables and selling fresh eggs and we are all very grateful.

We think people have become more appreciative of those usually overlooked workers like shop, post, bin and delivery people who have carried on and who deserve our sincere gratitude. We're glad that we were never tempted to give up having a doorstep milk delivery even though it's much cheaper to buy at the supermarket. Maybe post lockdown (Cotteswold Dairy can't cope with any new customers at the moment!) it's something that people should think about again- it's not all in the price!

The biggest miss is human contact – it can be a real struggle to have a conversation 2metres apart and although it's difficult to bear the thought of this going on for a year the implications of getting the virus are really scary.

The White Horse is a real centre of village social life and its current absence is keenly felt by quite a few of us!

Paul and Jenny Taylor



**Please remember if you can, and if you wish to, you are welcome at the zoom services on Sundays—just ring Graham Phillips on 861003. You will be able to see all the other people taking part in miniature pictures and you can wave .**