



# The Word around Muxton

FREE

8<sup>th</sup> Edition

March 2024



View from 43 Muxton Lane

## Growing up in Muxton in the 1950's

**C**ontinuing our series of the memories of Martin Johnson and his family, he reports on growing up in Muxton in the years after the Second World War.

“We were a family of five boys, born between 1944 and 1954. Here’s a photo of the five of us in the summer of 1959. Roger is the eldest at 15, then David, then me (Martin), Stephen, and Robert the youngest (aged 4). We were the last of four generations of our family to live in Muxton, from about the 1880s, although on our paternal grandmother’s side we had ancestors coming from places within a 15 to 20 mile radius for at least 10 generations before that.

Muxton was much smaller then. It finished pretty much at the “main road” (now Wellington Road, the former A518). We lived in a traditional “Duke of Sutherland” cottage at No. 6 Muxton until about 1959, when the house became 43 Muxton Lane. This followed the building of all the new houses on the field in between what is now No. 41 and the Homelands (the row of semi-detached houses on the left as you came into Muxton), including what became Sutherland Drive. The photo shows the view from our bedroom window in 1961 looking northwest.”



Johnson Boys 1959

## *From Muxton to Molineux*

An update from Muxton resident, Luke Shelley, who reported on his role at AFC Telford United in our July 2023 edition, but is now moving on:

“After 12 years at AFC Telford United, I was delighted to be offered the position of Operations Manager at Wolverhampton Wanderers. Although I was very sad to be leaving Telford, the opportunity to work for my boyhood favourite team and the privilege of moving to a local Premier League club was just too hard to turn down.

I am very excited about my new challenge, which began at the start of November 2023. My new role is to oversee all the operations within our academy, covering all our boys’, girls’ and women’s sides. This encompasses fixture confirmation with opposition clubs, as well as medical, kit, transport & nutrition responsibilities.

My new role will also require me to travel abroad as part of the tours and tournaments programme we run in the summer, as well as giving the opportunity to experience how other Premier League clubs operate efficiently and look at how we might introduce elements into our club. The main aim of any football club’s academy system is to produce players who can play for the first teams or, if not, produce players that can have a career in football.

It has been interesting so far as I have enjoyed the new challenge and am looking forward to seeing where this journey will take me.”





### Local Author Ken Oldfield helps A Rabbit find his Roar.

I was not born in Muxton, but it has been very much my home for over thirty years. I struggled at school and at the age of 15 got a job as a kitchen porter at a London hotel in the hope of working my way up. It was at this point I taught myself to read, realising how important it was if I was to get on in this world. If anyone had told me that I was going to write a book in the future, I would have looked at them in

disbelief. I stayed in hospitality for just over 50 years, working my way up to Executive Chef positions, both in the UK and abroad.

My granddaughter Isobel inspired me to write The Rabbit That Found His Roar. It is my gift to her, but also a legacy that will live on after I have gone. When I started to write the book at the beginning of lockdown, I had two people on my mind - my brother Harry (also from Muxton) who had died of cancer a few months previously, which made me think of my own mortality, and my future granddaughter due in July that year. The book is dedicated to both of them.

To find about more about the book and Archie the rabbit, please go to my Instagram @kenoldfield.



Article and Pictured:  
Rev. Matthew Lefroy

**R**ecently, when I tried to leave a car park, the exit barrier stayed down even though I had paid the parking fee. Barriers can be a nuisance when they stop us from going somewhere we want to. They can also be useful when they help us to feel protected and safe.

At Easter we remember some people who find that the barrier at the entrance to their friend's tomb, a giant boulder, has been rolled away. Their friend (Jesus), who was certified dead a few days before, is no longer in the tomb. Angels tell them that he has come back to life, but as the friends discover, he is not quite like he was.

The resurrection of Jesus is the linchpin of the Christian faith. It tells us that the barrier to the eternal life God wants us to have has been lifted like a car park barrier or rolled back like the stone entrance to Jesus' tomb. In 2022, a survey discovered that almost half of us in Britain (45%) believe that Jesus rose from the dead. The important question for us may not be "Did it happen?" but rather "What difference does it make to me?"

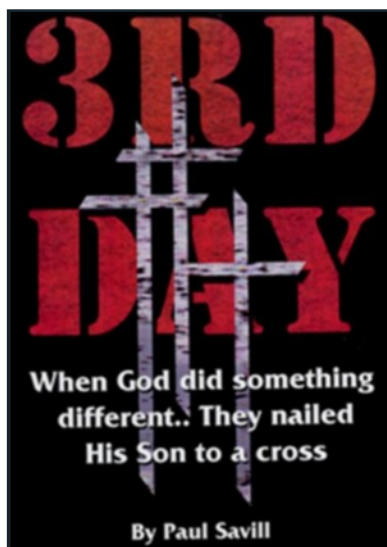
You can find out 'what difference' at some of the events that we are running over Easter at St John's Church and you will be very welcome at these.

*Matthew*

#### Services and events during Eastertide at St John's Church, Muxton (unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 10th March	Mothering Sunday	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th March	Palm Sunday	11am	Holy Communion
25th, 26th, 27th March	(at St Michael's)	9.30am	Reflection
Good Friday 29th March		11am	Reflection
Easter Saturday (30th)	'3rd Day' performance	7.30pm	Easter story to music
Easter Sunday (31st) (meet at St Michael's 6.30am)		6.45am	Easter Sunrise Service
		11am	Holy Communion
		3.30pm	Songs of Praise - Muxton Style

All welcome and we look forward to seeing you at one or more of our events



#### 3rd Day By Paul Savill

Come along and hear the story of Easter to music by

St John's  
Community Choir  
on

Saturday 30th March  
St John's Church, Muxton  
7.30pm

Booking is essential to ensure a place.  
Please contact St John's Office on 01952 670033  
or email [admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk)

## Songs of Praise Muxton Style



I guess we all have a favourite hymn. Our choice is personal; it may be the words or the rousing tune that speak to us. There are so many that I could choose.

To me, a hymn isn't just singing a song to a tune that I love, it is an opportunity to come closer to God. One that helps me to do this is called 'In Christ Alone', a modern song written by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty in 2001. It starts: 'In Christ alone, my hope is found He is my light, my strength, my song'.

The words are powerful and beautiful. When I am struggling or I feel lost, sometimes in kindness people tell me I must be strong but that is not always possible for me. I find my strength not in myself but through Jesus. He calms me and His peace replaces my fears. He is my comforter and in His love I know I can cope.

In Christ alone: I am not alone!  
Written by Barbara Bengry

**Join us for Songs of Praise that people of Muxton have chosen and enjoy a cream tea**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 3.30pm.**

**Our Easter Lamb needs colour**



In 2017 St. John's Church held many events to celebrate Easter including a Passion Play. As part of this, members of the congregation, Jeanette and Yvonne, made a curtain depicting 'The Last Supper'.

The curtain in the main hall covers the hatch to the kitchen. The same fabric appliquéd onto the curtain was also used to make many of the costumes used in the Muxton Play.

The design was based on a photo of the Last

Supper as staged at the Oberammergau Passion Play held in Germany in 2010.

The Passion Play enacts the last week of Jesus' life from his arrival in Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) to the last supper (Maundy Thursday) when Jesus had his last meal with his disciples before he was betrayed, arrested and subsequently crucified (Good Friday). Jesus then rose from the dead on the 3rd day (Easter Day) and later ascended into heaven (Ascension Day).

### A Supper Like No Other

**Thursday 28 March 6.30pm**

Enter into the Easter story as the disciples share their last supper together. We will join them sharing a simple meal together as we eavesdrop into their conversation. Please contact St John's office on 01952 670033 or email [admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk)

### Good Friday Reflection

**Friday 29 March 11am**

A quiet time of reflection to consider the thorny question of why Jesus had to die.

### Songs of Praise - Muxton Style!

**Sunday 31 March 3.30pm**

Join in with the songs of Easter that people in Muxton have chosen whilst enjoying a cream tea. To help with catering please contact St John's office on 01952 670033 or email [admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk)

All events at  
St John's Church, Saltwells Drive

## Wellbeing Support on the Doorstep ...



### CALLING ALL LADIES!!

**RENEW YOUR MIND,  
Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>  
11am-3pm**

Following the success of our recent Ladies' Day, we have been asked to repeat the experience: allowing us an opportunity to relax, explore and listen to music in the company of old and new friends - and of course enjoy a delicious lunch! There will also be options to take part in workshops and craft activities, as well as a Pilates demonstration.

Mindfulness and its effect on our wellbeing is a hot topic these days, so we are planning to explore it in a new way, which is why we are calling the event RENEW YOUR MIND. Ellie Cheetham Wilkinson, Curate of All Saints Church, Wellington, is coming along to share her story with us. Our hope is that the day will refresh us, and open new doors for us, both as individuals and as a community.

**Booking is essential to ensure a place.** Please contact St John's office on 01952 670033 or email [admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnsmuxton.org.uk). There is no charge for the event but there will be opportunity to make a donation on the day.

**"The Word Around Muxton"**: a newspaper written by locals for locals. Contributions are welcome from all ages. Please email The Editor if you have an item for our next edition: [Theword@Stjohnsmuxton.org.uk](mailto:Theword@Stjohnsmuxton.org.uk) or visit [www.stjohnsmuxton.org.uk/theword](http://www.stjohnsmuxton.org.uk/theword)

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**H**ealth and wellbeing is big business. We're spending more and more on a wide range of health and wellness products and services as we try and reduce the risk of (or learn to live with) a growing burden of physical and mental disorders such as cancer, depression, anxiety, and numerous others.

We already have access to a wide variety of potentially helpful resources, but there are also things we can connect with by heading to St John's Church.

Maybe we need to reconnect, rediscover, reclaim the heart of healing – and that starts with us and God. This doesn't mean that we stop seeking the help of medical professionals or seeking treatment, but medicine can only take us so far. Healing is concerned with our whole being, not just one part of us; it involves repair and recovery in all aspects of our lives: mind, body and spirit. That concern with the whole person is something we read about time and again in the way that Jesus healed people.

Jesus' love brought spiritual, relational, emotional and physical healing to those he touched. This expression of love underpins Jesus' healing ministry which continues today. This is why St John's offers a regular Healing Service. The next one is on Sunday 16 June at 6.30pm, offering opportunities to receive prayer and ask God for healing in any area of our lives. If you are searching for a sense of wholeness and wellbeing, then why not come along and give it a try?

Written by Rev Vikki Day

## Hot Cross Buns



**M**ost historians agree that hot cross buns have been associated with Good Friday since the 18th century although some claim the link goes back to the 16th or even 14th century! However old the tradition, it is certain that the bun is laden with symbolism. First of all, the 'cross' commemorates the cross

on which Jesus died before his miraculous resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The bun itself recalls Jesus' claim to be the 'bread of life' - bread eaten by Christians as part of a communion service when they remember how Jesus sacrificed his life for all. The spices in the bun point to the spices used to wrap his body prior to burial.

As you enjoy your hot cross buns this year, perhaps you could spend some time thinking about the reasons for this seasonal treat and the life-changing story to which they bear witness.

And for those who enjoy baking, why not try our recipe for your own home-made buns? Making them as a family is a great way of getting children involved in a special Easter tradition. See website for details.

Written by Jo Lefroy