

MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE



Tier Four Edition – No.1 – January 3rd. 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We made it, 2021! Usually at the start of a new year a review of the old is given. As you know 2020 was a hugely difficult year and it has now come to an end. Covid 19 brought out the worse and best in and for people. The worse; those gathering in crowds, hoarding, ignoring government warnings, the loss of lively hoods, the tragic loss of life. The best was the dedication and generosity of individuals. NHS workers, delivery drivers, carers, fund raisers there is a long list which is very heartening. On another positive note was the Queens speech. There was much reference to the Christian hope and looking forward to the New Year.

Now 2020 a **summa mala annum** an extremely bad year is over, let's look to the future. Hopefully learning lessons from the past. Three major items are now on the immediate horizon.

1. A Vaccine against Covid19, Hooray!!
2. A new relationship and trade deal with the European Union, OK??
3. The possibility of getting together again, Hooray!!

They are all potentially life changing and hopefully life enhancing events.

As Christians we are encouraged to focus on the future, and God's plans for us. For God has plans for our lives, and they're plans to help us flourish! That's good and exciting news for 2021.

- Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. **Isaiah 43:18-19**
- For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:11**
- In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. **Proverbs 16:9**
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Christmas at the Manse 2020

Someone once commented to me, where you live must be very grand, 'The Manse' does that mean it's like a Mansion. That comment made me smile. No, It's actually quite modest really. It does however require a lot of upkeep. Because it's an ancient building there is always maintenance and repairs needed. The Manse has obviously been closed to the general public since March. Christmas Day was very quiet. However, it was good to speak to family via ZOOM. The highlight was dinner, but I was only able to have a three-bird roast instead of the traditional seven bird roast. Cook said it was impossible to get guinea fowl, mallard, snipe and quail. People must have been panic buying them. As there was only the two of us, we had no need of the grand banqueting hall. The informal dining room was adequate. A slight disaster when a Cartier watch fell out of a cracker into the brandy cream. It has been good to be able to conduct regular Sunday services from the private chapel via the latest inter-web-net-ewe-tubing technology. Thanks to the AV team who make this possible. Storm Bella caused havoc destroying part of the north perimeter wall. That's all for now. (Note, *Some of that item was made up*).

THANKS to Sompting and Goring for the wonderful plants we received at Christmas.

_____PUZZLE CORNER_____

"Tracy's mother had 4 children. The first child was named April, the second was named May, the third June. What was the 4th child called?"

Answers to previous editions puzzle

- 1.The word "single" actually refers to marital status, not the number of people on board. So, the boat is full, but everyone on board is married!
- 2.Fill the 5 Litre jug. Pour the 5 Litre jug into the 3 Litre jug. Empty the three Litre jug. Now empty the remaining two Litres from the five Litre jug. Next refill the five Litre jug and empty one Litre from it into the three Litre jug. This gives four Litres in the large jug.

Happy 2021 from Andrew and Jill Ollie the Dog says he is still on holiday so is not appearing in this edition.