

# Journeying through Easter

For the last few weeks it has been a privilege to explore and share the scriptures in worship as we have journeyed through Lent, and to take part in both of our congregations study groups.

On Wednesdays we have been watching clips from the film 'The King's Speech', talking together and reflecting on what can hold us back and what can encourage us to move forward. On Thursdays we have been engaging with a study course led by sociologist Phyllis Tickle putting before us the argument that every five hundred years the Church has gone through a major shift seeking to determine where authority is to be found.

The habit of study groups in Lent has its roots in the custom that new believers would be baptized on Easter Sunday and Lent would be spent in preparation for that. We maintain the custom because it is an effective way for us to explore and renew our faith, deepen relationships, and create space for questions to be asked and answers to be explored.

As you read this we will have followed Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Easter day. Lent is also part of our preparation for this journey. It prepares us to share the joy of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and to be aware of the tension this raises. It tunes us in to Jesus' challenge in the Temple to be true to God and place material things in second-place. We can be drawn deeper into the intimacy of the meal in Bethany and the humility and heartbreak of the woman who washes Jesus feet with her tears. It connects us with the new covenant celebrated in the breaking of bread and pouring of wine initiated on Maundy Thursday. It holds a mirror before us as we witness anew the exhaustion of the disciples and Jesus' anguish in Gethsemane. The tension is heightened as we experience afresh Jesus' betrayal, trial, torture and execution as we move from Thursday to Friday. We then fall into the abyss which is Easter Saturday, a time of emptiness, confusion and doubt. Only after making this journey and the preparation of Lent gives us, can we then truly experience anew the joy, mystery, and miracle that is Easter Day.

**With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker**

## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

We offer our love and sympathy to:-

Linda and Alan Kay and family on the death of Linda's father  
Linda and Stephen Crump and family on the death of Linda's  
mother.

The family of Jill (Snowy Owl) who died on 9<sup>th</sup> March after a long  
illness.

Though not known to us personally we were sad to hear of the  
death of Roy Barnett from Northampton shire. It was a short letter  
to 'Reform' in 1990 about collecting "Widow's Mite" 5p coins for  
UNICEF's Sugar/Salt Rehydration sachets that began the ongoing  
Mite scheme that he organised and which was taken up nationally.

We offer our support to the following who have had health  
problems. Neil and Jean Fow, Connie Finnigan, Graham  
Kilmartin, Bob and June Kay, Ivor Pugh, Lorna Bowling, Ernest  
Wrennall.

Doris Holt is now resident in Hazel House Care Home.

We congratulate Charlie and Olive Hoare who celebrated their  
Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Our love to them  
both.

We were interested to learn that William Dempsey and the rest of  
the Junior Football Team for which he plays acted as mascots to  
lead out the team for a recent Football League match. True it was  
no higher up the league structure than for Accrington Stanley  
versus York but who knows where next.

## **THANK YOU**

Linda and Alan Kay wish to thank everyone for their lovely cards,  
and kind thoughts on the death of Linda's father. They were much  
appreciated.

Linda and Stephen Crump and family wish to thank everyone for  
the cards and condolences on the death of Linda's mum.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

We have recently received guidance from Synod on Health & Safety issues, specifically the need to ensure the premises are safe from tripping hazards and to have an Accident Book in use Also that the appropriate risk assessments are in place (such as use of the kitchen) and more particularly for church functions such as Last Night of the Proms etc. The Fabric committee are pleased to report that we that we have these in place and will update them as necessary. The next Risk Assessment to be looked at will be for the spring fair but we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that if they see any potential hazards around the building please report it to a member of Fabric so they can be attended to and that ALL fire exits (corridors) should be kept clear and Fire doors should not be propped open.

On a different note several people from the congregation opted to attend the one day Food Safety course arranged by Lorna on 21st February at Lancashire College. It was a very informative day (lots of food for thought!) ending in a test by which time we were all so exhausted it was a miracle we could remember anything. This means of course that if we have all passed the test we can be confident that we can fulfil our obligation to have a suitably trained volunteer on hand at any function where food is served as well as the coffee mornings.

Our thanks go to Lorna for organising this event.

Linda Kay

## SYNOD

Representatives from United Reformed churches throughout the North Western Province meet twice each year for a day long meeting to discuss their work together - and the venues are moved from Area to Area so that all parts of the Synod are given some geographical balance. It was Cumbria's turn so in March we were called to meet at the United Reformed (and Methodist) Church in Barrow in Furness - a long way from places like Stockport or in the Peak District.

Dave and I both attended travelling by train (with carbon emissions in mind) and so arrived relatively fresh. We were very impressed by the building ("Trinity") where we met even though the front door was at the back. It was a large Victorian building with a tall spire but had been radically altered inside with a spacious first floor worship area accessed by lift and a broad flight of stairs resembling those of a modern theatre while beneath it was a very large carpeted lounge area with permanent coffee bar, a side chapel and a separate sports hall. It really was welcoming and warm. The one thing that I found difficult was the projection screen used for the day in the church itself. I think it was erected just for the day but from a seat well back in the church, where I finished up, I had great difficulty in reading the blur of white lettering on a pale blue background with roof lighting adjacent to the screen itself. The opening worship, in the hands of some young people was very good, distinguishing between actually 'Practicing what you preach' rather than 'Preaching what you actually practice'. The Synod business was actually not very inspiring. There was a substantial book of reports from various Synod committees with several formal resolutions to discuss and vote upon but since the book itself was only available on the day in paper form and the internet text would have used far more

expensive ink than I was prepared to expend, I had not come sufficiently prepared to understand say, the intricacies of the Treasurer's statements about the past Accounts and the future Budget. I was not happy to find that time was to be spent in going over the 'Should individual Churches who wish to do so be allowed to conduct marriages for same sex couples' I thought "been there-done that". But we heard the arguments, went into groups and then voted. 84 to 4 in favour of the resolution.

After lunch, we had our Area meetings and with not much of a practical nature to discuss, spent time thinking about what we might/ought to do in the four times we meet each year. When we returned to the full Synod we had other Committee reports, something about the ATOM proposals to promote churches full involvement for "All Together Offering Leadership." I look forward to the Synod Minutes to remind me what we actually achieved.

Next Synod, 10<sup>th</sup> October at Greenmount URC, Bury.  
Ernest Wrennall

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MAGAZINE**

**AAPRIL/MAY TO LINDA KAY BY AT THE LATEST PLEASE**

Email: [lindakay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lindakay@blueyonder.co.uk)

# **BIG DAY OUT - 18TH JULY**

## **SOUTHPORT CONVENTION CENTRE**

The URC Big Day Out will be a fun day with quiz, games, Bible study etc and bookings are now being taken.

Cost £7 if booked before 5th April. £10 each if booked later.

Under 18's FREE

Names are to be taken by Linda Barnes or Ann Gill

Book early!

**Greater than Gold Musical** which is the story of how, in the 18th Century, young Mary Jones walked 28 miles to own her own Bible.

The Musical will consist of Narrative and songs only – no drama.

We would like to invite all local churches to practice this in your own churches, and on the day there will be a one hour practice in the Southport Convention Centre Theatre at 11-12 noon for those wishing to join in with that; or you can just join us for the performance at 12-1pm in the Theatre. The song words will be on screen at the theatre for those of you who just want to join in on the day.

All the resources needed for you to practice this Musical in your local church are on [www.cmm.org.uk](http://www.cmm.org.uk), telephone 01527 576440, including CD backing track and CD full performance.

Practice for the musical:

**ST JOHN'S URC, WARRINGTON, SUNDAY 28TH JUNE,  
2.30PM**

If you would like to join in with either of the above practice sessions, all singers and musicians are welcome. If you need more information, and to tell us that you are attending, then please contact Rita on 07838103310 or [rita.griffiths4@ntlworld.com](mailto:rita.griffiths4@ntlworld.com).

# EMBRACING EMERGENCE CHRISTIANITY

In a series of studies this Lent author, historian and keen cultural observer Phyllis Tickle invites us to join her in examining the changing face of Christianity and culture.

## **Thursdays, 7.30-9.00pm, the Manse**

5th March	1 Emergence 101
12th March	2 Where Now is the Authority?
19th March	3 The 20th Century and Emergence
26th March	4 Gifts from Other Times
9th April	5 How Then Shall We Live?
23rd April	6 Hallmarks of Emergence

Phyllis surveys 2000 years of Western history, identifying the great upheavals that occur in Western culture and Christianity every 500 years. The last was the Great Reformation of the 1500's; the next is happening now. What are the implications of this "Great Emergence," both culturally and spiritually? What are the key questions and issues that need to be addressed? Where might we be headed next? And, perhaps most importantly, where are you, at this moment? Might you be an emergence Christian? Each session begins with a video presentation by Phyllis Tickle, lasting from 10-15 minutes. Ms. Tickle's presentation is followed by filmed interaction with a small group. Some preparatory work is encouraged for each session and resources will be available to help us "join the dialogue"

## LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS 2015

These annual musical celebrations go on from strength to strength and have become a real feature of Leyland's musical calendar. The very first 'experimental' event was in the year 2000 and we have not missed a year since. The earlier versions relied much more on our home grown talent but some features such as the patriotic decor and the inclusion of 'Songs of Praise' with its LURC Singers introductory chant have become regular features. From the very first it was decided that "things should be done proper" and standards have been maintained 'Proper' ever since.

The usual 'House Full ' signs were more or less needed both upstairs and down and many, many, regular faces, not only from our own church fellowship, were to be seen -about 200 of them! There was red and white on view throughout, especially when the individual Union Jacks came out for the finale. As for the last few years we had the pleasure of having - "Graham Martin's Band of Brass - the Pride of Lostock Hall" (to quote a line from the welcoming introduction) for the evening. The band, squashed into restricted space, were in fine form especially for the requested "Riverdance" and, of course, the pieces from "Jerusalem", the Sea songs and the Pomp and Circumstance "Land of Hope and Glory" as the evening's climax. It was superb and the only sad note was that it was Graham's final appearance as conductor.

We also commend the bands ability to cope with the unexpected. Due to a misunderstanding we found out in the interval that the band had not received the message that two hymns, "Cwm Rhondda" and "How great Thou art" were to be played. Somehow an emergency run to wherever their music was kept ensured that copies of the band parts arrived just in time for the LURC Singers chant to have a purpose. The chanters - Ernest, Eddie and Dave - had rehearsed for at least three minutes just to introduce the Songs of Praise and did not want to feel that those three minutes had been all for nothing.

This year we had not one but four soloists. Two local youngsters, Becky Cochrane from our own church fellowship and Lewis Hampson, another Leyland student, both made return appearances and were excellent. In particular Lewis really impressed taking the role that Freddy Mercury made famous in a 'Barcelona' duet with Victoria Ward taking the Montserrat Caballe role. Victoria Ward was of course the star of many past LNOP evenings. As well as leading the 'Rule Britannia' solo part in the finale she sang a number of other solos, mainly from stage musicals and with the other main soloist, David Lawrence, a friend from London, added a number of duets. Our soloists really did us proud and kept David Holmes on his toes to deal with their backing music. The programme which they compiled was really good and, literally, brought the packed audience on its feet at the end. It was a splendid evening making many people (including the Church Treasurer) very happy. After paying the band we made about £1900 for the church. We thank all who took part both on stage, doing the decor and screen, coping with box office duty and also those who dealt with the refreshments half way through.

And most of all we thank Mollie who saw that all was 'done proper'.

Ernest Wrennall

## CHURCH AND WORSHIP DIARY FOR APRIL



Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Maundy Thursday Service (*1)	7.30pm
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Good Friday Walk of Witness (*2)	
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Revd Nigel Lemon Communion	10.30am
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon Club Amnesty International	12.30pm 7.30pm
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup>	“Emergence Christianity” DVD	7.30pm
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Fair (*3)	10am - 1pm
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by the minister Moderators Farewell Service in Manchester (*4)	10.30am
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fabric Committee	7.30pm
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ramble in the Lake District	
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Jim Atkinson	10.30am
Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup>	DVD at the Manse	7.30pm
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by the minister Parade	10.30am

(\*1) The Maundy Thursday service is for members of Dave’s two churches and is in the Leyland church this year

(\*2) Details of times and places etc given on another page.

(\*3) All offers of help, items for prizes and the Cake stall welcome

(\*4) This event at Albion URC, Manchester is to mark his departure to serve the denomination as Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship)

## CHURCH AND WORSHIP DIARY FOR MAY



Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Worship led by Ernest Wrennall	10.30am
Tues	5 <sup>th</sup>	Luncheon Club	12.30pm
		Amnesty International	7.30 pm
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	Ellis Quiz (*1)	7.30 for 8pm
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by the minister	10.30am
		Communion	
		Christian Aid Week begins (*2)	
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	Fabric Committee	7.30pm
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by Jim Atkinson	10.30am
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	Worship led by the minister	10.30am
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	Worship led by the minister	10.30am
		Parade	

(\*1) This twice yearly event is presented by Jackie's husband, Ellis, as a money raising event for the church. Teams of (about) four people answer sets of ten questions with prizes for the top scorers. There are no individual questions to put anyone on the spot. There is always a good hot pot and fruit pie supper but you are encouraged to bring your own table drinks. No need to book - just COME!

(\*2) During Christian Aid week members from the URC will have responsibility for the house to house collection on the Langdale Road estate. For several weeks prior to this Ernest will be seeking volunteers to act as collectors. Last year we had eight volunteers who collected £625. Can we do even better this year? Let's try!

## THE LADIES - GOD BLESS 'EM

Some words like these are traditionally used in (probably all male) banquets when, after the Loyal Toast to 'the Queen' glasses are raised as other toasts are being made.

I used these words during my service on Mothering Sunday with a three part service/sermon leading up to a final section on "Mother Church". In this I somehow became involved in looking at the role played in the church by women down the ages and in recent times, as compared across different denominations. Compared with most, our Leyland church comes out of things rather well. Indeed the opening words of the original Minute Book of the infant Congregational Church, written by its first minister Revd. Joseph Bliss says that "it had its beginnings in the operations of the Holy Spirit in the minds of a few females" and the first members list had the name of only 4 males and 11 females. But it was always a male Minister and a male Church Secretary for the next century and a half. The role to be played by women in church life, as in so many other spheres, remained as dealing with the basic chores of 'family' life, whether that family was the domestic one or any aspect of public life, including ecclesiastical ones.

Things did change gradually. Votes for women came in 1918 and, more fully, in 1928; Nancy Astor became the first MP in 1919. In 1924 the national Congregational Union of England and Wales introduced a serious journal,

“The Congregational Monthly” and the editor’s column in the first edition contained this paragraph, “Women play a large part to raise the £500,000 needed for the Forward Movement by Bazaars and Sales of Work. It is opportune to suggest that they should be represented more adequately in the executive work of the Church, a woman on the diaconate (*eldership*) is a novelty. The Council of the Union has fifteen lady members but this is only one in twenty of the membership. Has anyone yet dreamed of electing a woman to be the Chair of the Union? But for women many of our churches would fade and die.”

That was getting on for a century ago - and the Editors dreams have certainly come true. But he - and I am sure that the editor was a 'he' - did not mention such a thing as a woman in the pulpit. Yet in 1932 Kathleen Hendry became the first female ordained minister in the Congregational Church (though she had to step down when she married in 1938.) In 1956 Revd Elsie Chamberlain became the first chair(wo)man of the denomination. So change did come about, almost certainly quicker than in other branches of the Christian church.

And we here in Leyland know only too well how much a debt we owe to the women of our church. Left to us (alas) few men we would be nowhere. Without starting to list names and risk offending by omission, we say “thank you ladies you are wonderful.” I am sure that the editor of Congregational Monthly 1924 would rejoice to think that his dreams have become reality.

Ernest Wrennall

## RAMBLES AND PLODS

At the annual planning meeting the following diary of Saturday walks was worked out for the rest of the year-and slightly beyond. We thank the volunteer leaders who are named:

April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lake District	David Lamb
May	No open excursion because of the promises auction Hilbre Island visit	
June	No ramble because of too many other events	
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Catforth BBQ	Ian & June Holt
Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lake District	David Lamb
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pennington Flash	Ernest and Mollie
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	“Singing Ringing Tree”	Chris Baines
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	Local walk with meal	Karen & Malcolm

### 2016

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	Cuerden Valley( with mince pies)	Mollie & Peter
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Marton Mere	Ernest Wrennall

The 2015 programme of Rambles which was worked out at our Planning meeting is now in operation and so far two expeditions have taken place, both were blessed with remarkably good weather.

In February Chris took us to Whalley for a walk towards, but not actually over, Pendle Hill. The sun shone, there was little wind and we even got away with very little mud to contend with. We had a lane side brew stop (what was that wedding car doing there?) and a bit of tricky path- finding near the end when Chris’ GPS Satellite navigation engine received dismissive remarks. But it was a really excellent outing and we thank Chris for his last minute leadership

In early March, Arnold asked us to meet at Ainsdale near Southport (good cheap car parking for rail users) and we used the excellent Mersey rail link to travel to Freshfield. We then followed a sheltered path through forest and sand dune along the Fishermens Path to the beach. We had our brew stop looking out to sea and then went south along the beach (with a fierce head wind) until we turned inland again to a path winding through the famous Red Squirrel Woodland. And we did see some of those increasingly rare animals. Then back by train to Ainsdale and then home. Arnold led this walk and we thank him for this.

We have had just two midweek Pensioners Plods so far this year, the first being in February, a short walk through part of Worden park and a lunch at the Eagle and Child. Again we had good weather and a good meal - apart from the (non) Lancashire Hotpot. We thank Irene for organising this outing and we are looking for others to take a lead and get a regular pattern to these midweek days out.

One strange occurrence was that we began the walk with a short detour to find some graves in St Andrews churchyard which had connections with the history of Leyland Congs. Ernest was in full flow with this when we were joined by Dr. Hunt, South Ribble's official historian, who stayed to hear the rest of Ernest's somewhat embarrassed History lesson. It is quite surprising how often the surnames 'Berry' and 'Sumner' are to be found in both our church history and this churchyard.

In early March Colin and Pat Whalley took us further afield to the Cottam area north of Preston. Again the weather was fine and dry. The area is a newish Housing estate but the incredible network of well maintained paths meant that it gave the impression of open countryside but without any difficult bits to deal with. There was even a hedgeless maze to explore. And there was a good lunch to follow. We thank Colin and Pat for leading this walk.

Ernest Wrennall

## GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

3rd April



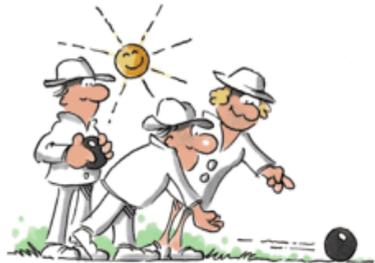
Walk of witness will start at St Mary's Church Broadfield Drive with a short service at 9.30am. The route will be via Broadfield Drive and Golden Hill to St John's church on Leyland Lane. There will be a short service at 10.30 followed by Refreshments.

## AMBLESIDE TRIP SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

The coach leaves from outside the Leisure Centre on Lancaster Gate at 11.45. Don't forget your packed lunch!

At Ambleside you can

- Take part in the bowling
- Have walk/shop
- Go for a sail and train ride



**COST APPROX £10**

For a menu to book your tea ask Linda Barnes or Arnold Book early to avoid disappointment.

# GARDENING

Spring has arrived at last and things are now beginning to happen in the garden. The tub that I planted up with spring bulbs at the “guild” is now in flower with yellow and blue crocuses, the daffodils and tulips will follow later. The cyclamen which I finished off the top of the tub with are still in bloom.

I visited Sizergh Castle earlier this week and the daffodils there were just coming into bloom. There was a good show of cyclamen corm, planted in drifts in the rock garden and the alpines were all flowering in the alpine greenhouses.

My own daffodil Tete a Tete are in full flower at the edge of the drive and my border of Chionodoxa is now beginning to show blue. Jobs to do now could be dividing herbs and perennial plants to increase stock. Rosemary can be pruned to encourage new soft growth and also keep the plant compact.

Rhubarb can be covered with an upturned bucket or large plant pot to allow fresh pink stems to appear.

On all plants check for pests now that the weather is warmer as these can multiply quite fast if left unchecked. There is a plentiful range of products at the garden centres to deal with them but don't spray during full sun or the plants may scorch.

Patios at this time of the year can look a little grubby and can be cleaned with a power washer to improve the look.

Now is the time to start seed sowing if you grow your own plants but do follow the instruction on the packets.

Do not be tempted to buy young plants from the garden centres just yet as we can still have frost!

Enjoy your garden



*Eddie*

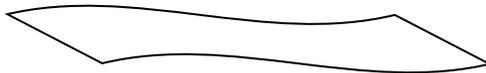
## FLOWER LIST FOR APRIL/MAY

### APRIL

- 5th Stella Eccleston—Memories  
12th Joanne, Marjorie and Ernest Wrennall—  
Memories of Kevin  
19th Vacancy  
26th Vacancy

### MAY

- 3rd Audrey Pritchard—Memories  
10th Marjorie and Ernest—Memories  
17th Diane and Greg Bolan—Memories  
24th Linda Barnes—Memories of mum  
31st The Ward family—Memories of loved ones



## FOOD BANK

**We are collecting items of food to donate to  
St Mary's food bank.**

**Lists of appropriate food items are available in  
church and it is hoped that this will become a  
regular weekly activity.**

**The food box is located in the left hand side  
porch.**

**Please look out for details in church and try to  
support this worthwhile initiative.**

## ROTAS FOR APRIL

	Steward	Lessons
5th	Frank McHugh	Mollie Ward Linda Barnes
12th	Irene Enwistle	Ian Dempsey Stephen Crump
19th	Sylvia Bairstow	Sarah Goldson Jackie Cochrane
26th	Marjorie Wrennall	Uniformed Organisations

**If you need to change your place on the Lessons rota please arrange your own swap and then let Linda Barnes know**

## SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS APRIL

5th	Linda Crump	Sylvia Bairstow
12th	Irene Entwistle	Brenda Farrer
19th	Frank McHugh	Barbara Mc Hugh
26th	Uniformed Organisations	

## SATURDAY CAFÉ APRIL

4th	NO CAFE	
11th	Ann Gill	Linda Barnes
18th	Jackie Cochrane	Linda Kay
25th	Lois Porter	Ernest Wrennall

## ROTAS FOR MAY

	Stewards	Lessons
3rd	Eddie Reynolds	Arnold Rayton Ann Gill
10th	Stella Eccleston	Linda Barnes Mollie Ward
17th	Irene Entwistle	Linda Kay David Holmes
24th	Frank McHugh	Uniformed Organisations
31st	Sylvia Bairstow	Jan Chapman Julie Keys
(7th June)	Marjorie Wrennall	Ian Dempsey Stephen Crump

## SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS FOR MAY

3rd	Linda Crump	Sylvia Bairstow
10th	Irene Entwistle	Brenda Farrer
17th	Frank McHugh	Barbara McHugh
24th	Uniformed Organisations	
31st	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
(7th June)	Linda Crump	Sylvia Bairstow

## SATURDAY CAFÉ MAY

2nd	Sylvia Bairstow	Mollie Ward
9th	Irene Entwistle	Brenda Farrer
16th	Ann Gill	Linda Kay
23rd	Jackie Cochrane	Linda Barnes
30th	Lois Porter	Ernest Wrennall
(6th June)	Sylvia Bairstow	Mollie Ward