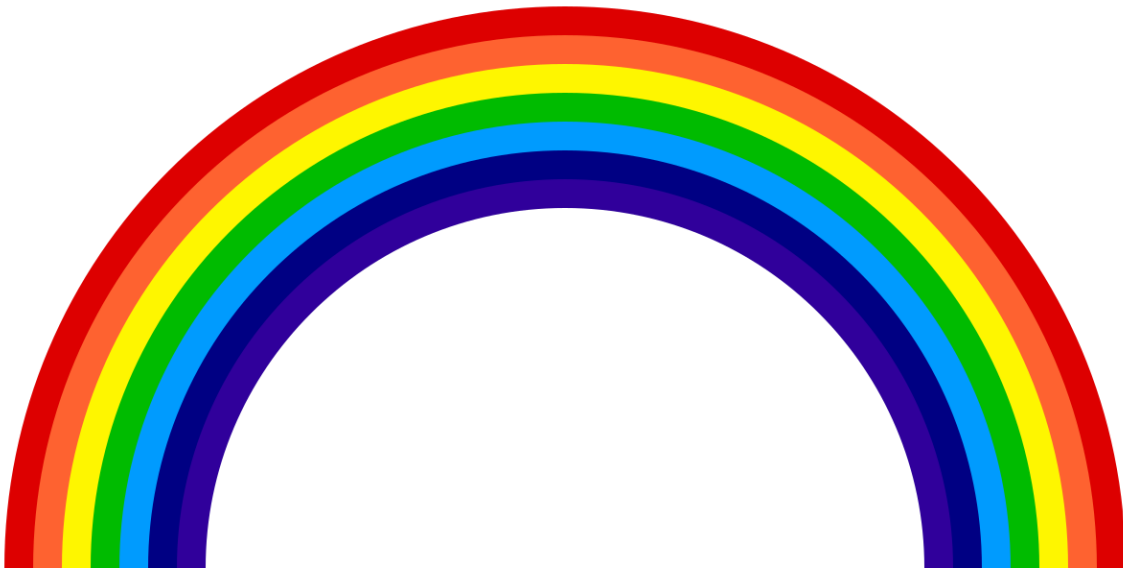


Benefice of Great Hanwood, Longden and Annscroft
with Pulverbatch
May 2020



A rainbow has become the symbol of hope for us all in this corona virus lockdown . A sign of better things to come .

© 2000 Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



"THE COMPUTER SAYS I NEED TO UPGRADE MY BRAIN
TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH ITS NEW SOFTWARE."

And now we are all trying to master computer skills. This is what I keep expecting my computer to say to me.

Does anyone else feel the same?

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Every thing seems dark—there is no hope of an early lifting of the lockdown—we're all missing hugs and family BUT;

There's Captain Tom—capturing all our hearts with his dogged determination and wonderful smile.

There's all the people across the land who are doing amazing things to raise money to help others

There's all the people who are going out of their way to help those vulnerable folk who can't leave their homes by shopping, collecting medication and running other errands.

There's those who leave rainbow pictures on doorsteps to cheer up friends and neighbours.

There's all the hardworking nurses, doctors, carers, cleaners, porters, cooks, in the NHS and other care settings. All putting their own lives at risk to help those in need

There's the Food Bank organisers, the hotels making space for homeless people.

There's the people who spend time phoning lonely neighbours, or waving as they go past on their daily walks.

And there are all the wonderful people who are keeping the country running—the delivery men, the postmen, the binmen, the shopkeepers working extra hours to do local deliveries, the supermarket workers filling shelves and picking orders, the electricity workers, the water company workers, the gas workers, the farmers and fruit pickers, the road menders—the list goes on and on.

But we need to remember that even if it feels as if we are doing nothing to help—we are by staying at home and saving lives

All we can do is say an enormous thank you to them all.

.And our hearts must be full as we say it and lifted just by remembering them. And we can hope their hearts are lifted by the many thanks they are receiving and the claps and banging saucepans every Thursday evening.

Sandra Earney

Let us Pray

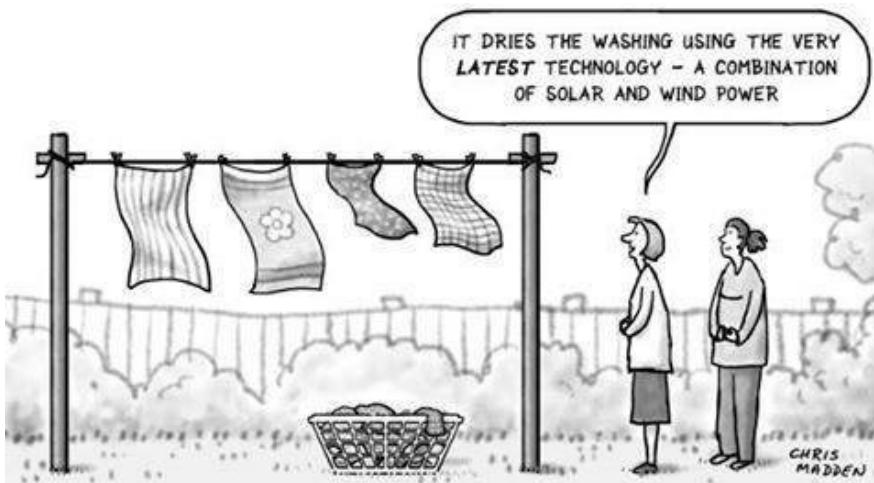
We pray in thanks for wisdom and resources for those in local and national authorities, for all front line and key workers here in Britain and across the world.

As we have clapped to honour them, we clap our hands now in praise, of your glorious creation and with hope that the first shoots of another possible world are coming into view.

Amen

From Christian Aid

And to help you smile



Those of us over a certain age were-
HOME SCHOOLED in many ways;-
My mother taught me **FORESIGHT**.

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're involved in an accident."

My mother taught me **MEDICAL SCIENCE**.

"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

My mother taught me about **HYPOCRISY**.

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate"

My mother taught me **WISDOM**.

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand".

My father taught me about **JUSTICE**.

He told us he hoped our children would wake us up just as early as we did him and mum, with the words 'one day you'll have kids and I hope they turn out just like you'

Anyone else remember such sayings?

BETTER THAN EINSTEIN?

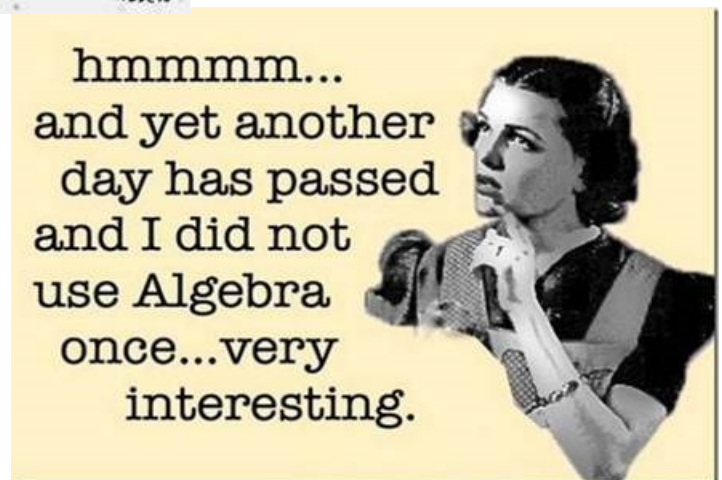
At the conclusion of the sermon, the worshipers filed out of the sanctuary to greet the minister. As one of them left, he shook the minister's hand, thanked him for the sermon and said, "Thanks for the message, Reverend. You know, you must be smarter than Einstein." Beaming with pride, the minister said, "Why, thank you, brother!"

As the week went by, the minister began to think about the man's compliment. The more he thought, the more he became baffled as to why anyone would deem him smarter than Einstein. So he decided to ask the man the following Sunday.

The next Sunday he asked the parishioner if he remembered the previous Sunday's comment about the sermon. The parishioner replied that he did. The minister asked: "Exactly what did you mean that I must be smarter than Einstein?"

The man replied, "Well, Reverend, they say that Einstein was so smart that only ten people in the entire world could understand him. But Reverend, no one can understand you!"

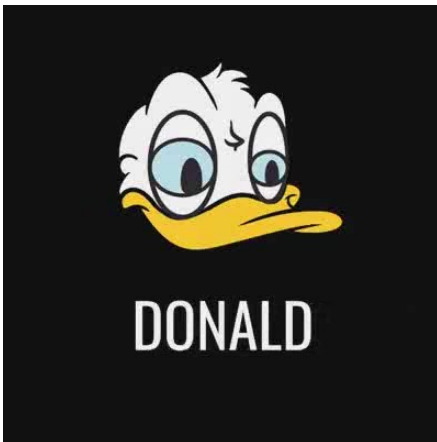
And this does NOT refer to any local clergy!



hmmmm...
and yet another
day has passed
and I did not
use Algebra
once...very
interesting.

And finally—

a wicked cartoon to lift your spirits - and news from Hanwood



Sent in by Russell Smith

What's happening in Hanwood during the Lockdown?

Well, I don't suppose it is very different here from where you live.

There are a fair number of people walking around, taking their daily exercise, with or without dogs, so it's good to stop briefly to chat (2metres apart) if you see someone you know – or even if you don't know them!

People from church are keeping in touch with one another via phone, text or email, checking that everyone is OK and not in need. This can be especially helpful for those who have just moved into the village and may not know many people. The April parish magazine, a reduced version, is available on the church website (www.stthomashanwood.org.uk).



Will Hanmer, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, has volunteers ready to assist anyone who requires help with shopping, collecting prescriptions or other urgent errands. Earlier in the Lockdown, he and his wife Linda delivered Cllr Roger Evans' fact sheet to every house in the village, with good advice and phone numbers to go to for help.

Hanwood village shop is proving useful (860454) as is the Cock Inn (860811), who are delivering Sunday lunches while the pub itself is closed. The primary school is open for a handful of pupils with a few staff and this continued throughout the Easter holidays.

As in other places, on a Thursday at 8pm there is much clapping, tooting, banging of pans and ringing of bells and tambourines, a joyous, thankful noise in honour of all our hard working hospital and Care Home staff, other carers and key workers. There are rainbows up in windows too as we remain so thankful for their selfless work.

This will pass. Our God is bigger than the virus.

Margaret Nicholls