

THE LINK

JUNE 2020



THE BENEFICE OF
FARWAY, OFFWELL & WIDWORTHY

OPENING THOUGHTS

It is interesting that the sale of bibles has increased over the last few weeks and the number of people watching online services is unexpectedly high. No doubt many will have theories to put forward as to why this may be, we probably have a few of our own, but with online and telephone services, plus radio and telephone programmes, there is something for everyone.

We are looking forward to a time when we can all worship together again. This may not be for some time and even then it will be socially distanced. In the meantime the love of Christ is still getting out there.

I recently heard of one vicar who has been reading a child's bible story online every evening. He was somewhat surprised when a little girl he had never seen before waved enthusiastically at him in the street. Her mother quickly explained that she avidly watched as he read the story every evening. We never know how we will affect the lives of others but I like to think that the little girl will remember those stories in the future and may want to know more.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low,
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

BENEFICE CHURCHWARDENS FARWAY

Tara Huffman 01404 871372
Robin Banks 01404 871355

OFFWELL

Jonathan Paveley 01404 831450
Marion Hutchinson 01404 830055

WIDWORTHY

Mim Prins 01404 831688
Mary Wakeley 01404 831345

Village Websites:

Farway www.farwaydevon.org.uk

Offwell www.offwell.org

Widworthy www.widworthyparish.co.uk

The Parishes LINK is the magazine of the three Parishes of FARWAY, OFFWELL and WIDWORTHY. Views expressed here are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor or the Community. Submissions, BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH, should be sent, preferably by email in text, Word, JPG, PDF or PNG format, to the editor at parisheslink@gmail.com The editor reserves the right to delay or refuse publication of articles for reasons of decorum, space or practicality.

Whilst our church *buildings* are closed, the Church is alive and well, finding new and creative ways of worshipping God and expressing faith in the community. If you would like to share in worship, you can do so via the internet or telephone. You can stay local, or travel further afield without even leaving your living room. Here are links to some local services:

Church Of England:

Honiton Deanery see website for information of services www.honitondeanery.org.uk

The Reverend Canon Cate Edmonds invites you to join a telephone service each Friday at 10:30am Dial 03306 060 403 then when asked 484444 #

Holyford Mission - www.holyford.org Sunday and weekday services, weekly thought for the week podcasts. A weekly newsletter to download with news, prayers, readings and links.

St. Pauls, Honiton - www.honitoncofe.org Sunday services in 'zoom' by internet or phone with a telephone number to call for details of how to join. An order of service to download and other resources.

Baptist - **Honiton Family Church** - www.honitonfamilychurch.co.uk Sunday services live on FaceBook. Recent sermons to listen to in audio

The Baptist Church Kilmington - www.beaconbaptist.co.uk Livestream services via youtube with other recent services available. Children's activities to download

The Community Church Honiton & Sidmouth - www.thecommunitychurch.co.uk

Sunday services live via FaceBook and telephone. Weekday Bible study and more.



BIBLE READINGS

These readings are used in our Sunday services, but we are also encouraged to read them for ourselves at home.

May 31 st Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
June 7 th Trinity Sunday	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalm 33:1-12	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26
June 14 th	Genesis 18: 1-15, (21:1-7)	Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9: 35 - 10:8 (9-23)
June 21 st	Genesis 21:8-21	Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
June 28 th	Genesis 22:1-14	Psalm 13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
July 5 th	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Psalm 45:10-17	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Please send your contributions for the **July** Link magazine as soon as you have them, by **15th June at the latest**. Email: parisheslink@gmail.com Please note - Late submissions may not be included. A decision about whether the July copy is produced as a digital or printed version will be made in June, depending on the current situation with Covid19.

7th June Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

Isaiah 45:22: 'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.'

Genesis 1:1-2: 'In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...'

Judges 14:6: 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'

John 1:1-3: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.'

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: 'I am going to send you what **my Father** has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (**the Holy Spirit**) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

Sun image from: [a href="http://www.freepik.com">Designed by Freepik</a](http://www.freepik.com)



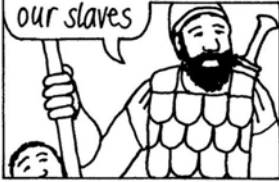
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them.

I will fight the best
soldier in Israel's army
and if I win, you will be
our slaves



David's brothers were in
Israel's army. He came to
bring them food, and he
heard Goliath.



He is insulting God!

David's brothers were not
happy.



You just
came to watch the fight.
Go back to your few sheep.

But David didn't stop..



and King Saul
heard what he said.

We shouldn't be cowards.
I will fight him!



You don't stand a chance.

I have killed lions and bears
with God's help.



Then go ahead.
You can wear my armour.

I can't move with all
this on!



So David took it off.

He took his sling
and chose 5 stones
from the stream bed.



Goliath couldn't believe what he saw.



Do you
think I'm a
dog that
you have
come with
a stick?

I have come to fight you
in the name of the All-
powerful God. The Lord
always wins His battles



As Goliath came forward..

David slung his stone and hit
him on the head.



Goliath fell down dead.

The Philistines ran
away, chased by
Israel's army.



OFFWELL



Our church building is closed sadly and our regular services in St Mary's have been suspended. Please don't hesitate to phone one of the church-wardens if you would like us to pray for you, or someone you know at this time.

There is a **FaceBook** group for Offwell villagers to offer support and information. Search for '**Offwell Together**'. It's a closed group so anyone wishing to join must apply.

Alan Pickett

It was with great sadness that I heard the news that a former neighbour and early Mens Breakfast Club member, Alan Pickett, has recently died. Alan and his wife Sheila lived for several years at Highfield House in Offwell. Alan was a quiet unassuming person, with a rare sense of humour that usually obscured his undoubted wide experience of life; this became obvious the more you knew him. His smart dress sense added to his natural elegance, and his conversation, whilst modest, was both entertaining and sensible. After a while Alan and Sheila decided to move back to the Southeast to be near their children, but the lure of East Devon became too strong, so within a short time they began to house hunt in Offwell, unfortunately to no avail; however, they purchased a new house in Whitford, near Kilmington, where they stayed for several years.

The residents of Offwell who remember him have had their lives enriched by knowing a "Real Gentleman".

David Paveley
Offwell Mens Breakfast Club

Dates for your diary or calendar once we start using them again!

In hope

Sept. Saturday 12th

Sept. Saturday 12th

Oct. Friday 2nd

Nov. TBA

OPEN CHURCHES DAY

FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

HARVEST SUPPER

QUIZ NIGHT

Go to the Farway page for responses to the Mass Observation 12th May **One Day Diary** during lockdown.

If anyone in Offwell would like to take part, retrospectively, information can be found on the Offwell website Home Page.

Please visit the continually updated Offwell website for information and helpful links

www.offwell.org

The Grazing Cow



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Take-Away



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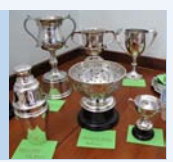
Our weekly themes for Friday Take-Away may vary!

Orders taken from 9am on Thursday, phone only. First come, first served!

Thank you to everyone for their support during this time. It has been a pleasure to help our local community and we shall continue to do so until we are able to re-open as usual. We hope you all stay safe and well!

- The Grazing Cow Team

OFFWELL FLOWER SHOW



Due to the current exceptional circumstances and in the hope that we can hold the Flower Show in September, we are issuing the schedule early this year.

This will offer the opportunity to think ahead and fill any empty moments you might have. Here's keeping our fingers crossed for a successful show in September.

Stay safe and keep well.

The Committee, Offwell Flower and Produce Show

The Entry Form can be found on the Offwell website. Please print it and bring on the day with your entries.



*The time has come, the Flower Show said
To talk of many things
Of jams and greens and flower displays
And all that the garden brings*

*Fingers crossed and touching wood,
with spade and fork and hoe
We'll produce some wonderful results
For the Offwell Flower Show*



*So heres' hoping all is well and that
you all still will remember
We're hoping that the Flower
Show will be
on the 12th day of September*



So, **last year**, at great expense
Our banner was put along the fence
Right at the top of Ramsden Lane
But someone took it down again

Does anybody out there know?
Did anyone ever see it go?
If you can tell us, pick up a pen
We'd love to put it up again



**OFFWELL PRODUCE
& FLOWER SHOW**

Offwell Village Hall
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Neighbours

Celebrate Your Neighbours

The Bible tells us to ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’ and a good neighbour, according to Google, is someone who is: friendly, quiet, respectful, trustworthy, handles situations maturely and helps when and where they can. In Offwell, all of the above have been shown in abundance during the present Covid crisis. Those of us in self-isolation are totally dependent on other people’s help and support and it arrived without us having to ask:

A dear friend nearby who shops for us twice a week; our young gardener who frequently texts to ask if we want anything collected; a next door neighbour who has just moved in, offering help; a bottle of wine delivered by close friends who are also in self-isolation; Rosie at The Grazing Cow and Fran at Windmill Garage; not forgetting Dawn and Lynn, the Neighbourhood Support Group.

No matter what difficulties they may be experiencing themselves all have been, without exception, cheerful, kind and constant; nothing is ever too much trouble.

The theme of **Neighbourhood Watch Week** this year is:

‘Celebrate Your Neighbours’ which runs **from 7th – 13th June**

Now is a good time to say thank you and celebrate those actions our neighbours have taken, no matter how small or big. There are *Big Virtual Lunch* activities, organised by the Eden Project and *Big Virtual Lunch* ideas on-line and over the ‘phone. For more information go to: www.ourwatch.org.uk/letsstayconnected

Love Yourself - Love Your Neighbour

The Methodists have launched a new social media campaign

#loveyourself #loveyourneighbour

It aims to engage “with the many wellbeing conversations that have recently sprung up.

At its centre is a gentle rhythm of daily contemplation and action for those of faith, those searching, and those who do not know what they believe.”

#loveyourself #loveyourneighbour aims to “share the riches of the Christian faith in a way that is easily accessible, and to connect with those who have no prior contact with the church and who don’t use or understand religious language.”



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Tel: 01404 831417

As I am sure you all know, following the Government instruction for the country to go into lockdown Offwell School closed its doors in March to ensure the safety of our children, parents and staff. This was an incredibly difficult moment for the staff who are all conscious of what education means to children and their families and were all very aware of what the interruption might mean for our children's learning. We followed the guidelines and the school was opened to vulnerable children and children of key workers and we had a rota of staff coming in on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to support that initiative. The classroom was zoned to ensure we maintained social distancing and we can record that all the children who did come in were a credit to their parents and the school.

To help fill any gaps we used our school website and uploaded work for the children to tackle, if parents wished to do so. There was a mixture of maths, English, history, science (the volcano experiment was particularly popular) and children were able to email their teachers and ask for support. We have also been using Google Classroom which allows teachers to interact more quickly with their pupils. You can include a variety of content including videos of a teacher reading a story and the children are able to send us pictures of their activities.



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As you will see from the photos the children have remained active – physically and mentally – which is what makes the staff at Offwell so proud of all our children and their families.



Jack prepared a 3 course meal – and laid the table!

Offwell C of E Primary School



Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness.

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Science!



We are now looking to the future but have not put in any specific details as the situation is subject to change! Whatever we do we always consider the safety of our children, parents, staff and the wider community.



For a weekly newsletter and more, visit the school website.

OFFWELL VE DAY CELEBRATIONS



VE Day 75 Offwell Memories can now be found on St. Mary's church page on www.offwell.org



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Sam in Exeter

OFFWELL WOODLAND

Those of you who have visited Offwell Woods recently will have noticed that a large swath of conifers around the log cabin have been harvested by Forestry England. To help restore the ancient woodland, the area will be replanted with oaks. It is planned that children from Offwell primary will be helping out with the planting. Hopefully the area will provide ideal nesting sites for Nightjars!





For support during these difficult times Pat Beard is co-ordinating help within the village.
Contact Pat on: Email: patriciabeard@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01404 87144

One Day Diary

The Mass Observation Archive conducted its annual diary writing day on 12th May 2020. This is the 10th anniversary of the modern project and *Jess Huffman* at Farway is collating all the diaries sent to her electronically and submitting them to the Archive:

“We had a fantastic response, with 40 diaries in and more on their way. The youngest diary writer is 6 years old and the eldest 91. I’ve had diaries from across Devon, from Bristol, London, Wales and Aberdeen.

They include photos, portraits, pictures and illustrations. People talk about all sorts from morning to midnight. We hear about what they ate, what they watched, what they did, who they saw, how they felt, where they went, who they miss, what makes them happy and those things that make them sad.

It’s a fascinating insight into the lives of those in lockdown now; imagine what those reading the diaries in 100/200 years’ time will think? The Mass Observation has collected 900 diaries so far; the fact we may have 50 to contribute is fantastic.”

For more information about the Mass Observation Archive go to:

www.massobs.gov.uk

*NB. If you would like to take part, retrospectively, in the 12th May One Day Diary project you can find out more on the **Offwell website**.*



With thanks to Steve Jupp for these beautiful photos in and around Farway





Jug arrangement

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WIDWORTHY



We flew the White Ensign at Widworthy Church on VE Day 2020 in memory of the Naval Officers who have contributed so much to the life of St Cuthbert's Church. Two of them, Capt. Eric Johnson, RN, ret. and Cdr. Pongo Blanchford, RN, ret. OBE, both formerly of Ford Farm, Wilmington, were regular participants in the church and are buried in the churchyard. The third, Capt. J D W Borop, USN, ret. first came to the UK in 1942 as a young officer on a light cruiser escorting convoys from New York into Belfast and Aberdeen and ended his career as Supervisor of Shipbuilding for the US Navy attached to the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors in Bath and later came to live with family at Halshayne Manor, Widworthy and regularly took his turn to do the homily at lay led services, often illustrating them with sea



stories from the war. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 24th February 2020.

This White Ensign was obtained in 2005 by Gwythian Prins from a helpful admiral when Pongo Blanchford was planning the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Trafalgar. The two of them fashioned a flagpole and flew the flag from the tower of St. Cuthbert's on the appointed day in the tradition going back 200 years, although sadly neglected in recent years in deference to the feelings of the French.

There is a **FaceBook** group called '**Spotted Wilmington**'
A great way to keep in touch with the local community for those who use Facebook.
It's a closed group so anyone wishing to join must apply.

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The Force of Nature

For those of us in self-isolation the one bright light each morning is the prospect of our gardens and the many hours we can happily spend in them - the spring and summer colours bringing a sense of well-being.

Religions and spiritual beliefs across the world have always placed a great importance on nature, both as a source of spiritual nourishment and support, but also as a medium for contemplation and reflection.

Nature and spiritual health act as a counterbalance to a secular society where the acquisition of material goods is seen as the ultimate goal in life.

When the government first announced its coronavirus restrictions, daily exercise was listed in its own category of 'essential activities'. But it's not just exercise that's essential to our lives, it's nature too, and there's a growing body of research that shows our minds and our bodies need nature.

In a recent article the journalist Isabel Hardman wrote: *"Since the 1980's we have learned that views of nature – even just from a window – can help patients recover from surgery, improve mood, reduce anxiety and stress and raise self-esteem... The power of*

the outdoors is so great that not only are GPs encouraged to prescribe it to patients but it also forms a key part of treating those who are so unwell that they end up in hospital."

Isabel concludes by saying: *"Perhaps one of the few good things to emerge from this crisis will be the end of nature as an optional extra, and the start of us all wanting to protect it for the precious resource it really is."*

Carol Hayes



~~~~~  
**From the Bible:**

O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens... When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers – the moon and the stars you set in place – what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?"

(Psalm 8:1, 3-4, New Living Translation)

The heavens tell of the glory of God.

The skies display his marvellous craftsmanship.

Day after day they continue to speak;

night after night they make him known.

(Psalm 19:1-2, New Living Translation)

With all of us having to spend much more time at home, many of us have been looking to grow our own fruit and vegetables; Some of us developing what we already do and others perhaps for the first time.



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[goodlifegardenersandlandscapers.co.uk](http://goodlifegardenersandlandscapers.co.uk)

Every year the garden is always challenged with various pests and a great tool in our armour to tackle these is 'Companion Planting'. The basic principles of companion planting are to deter pests from attacking your crops and to attract pollinators; this in turn will naturally keep pest numbers down.

A good example of companion planting is garlic chives planted alongside carrots, which will release a strong scent and deter the carrot root fly. Other examples are Calendula or Marigolds which will allure aphids away from beans and will also attract the beneficial insects such as ladybirds. Plants like Lavender, Sage and Borage are all great for the vegetable garden as bees, butterflies and hover flies will pollinate crops.



Calendula



Borage

Companion planting is a fascinating topic and well worth reading about as there are many great companion plants that can be used. It is better for all of us if we can work with nature rather than looking for a chemical solution.

As we all know, gardening is great for our mental and physical health. Enjoy your success, learn from the failures and embrace the challenges that the garden will no doubt bring our way. Have a great summer in the garden.



**Following the government guidelines, as of Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, Goodlife Gardeners and Landscapers are back working at full capacity. All necessary safety measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of both our staff and customers during this difficult time. Don't hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.**

**Rob and Shelley Cruze**

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# APPRECIATING NATURE



Have you noticed a 'theme' in the magazine this month? As we all spend more time at home, people here in the countryside and even in the cities are finding a greater appreciation of the natural world. The birdsong seems louder and the colours seem brighter .

Here are a few photographs you have sent for the Offwell website.



## Two children

by Spike Milligan

Two children, (small), one Four, one Five  
Once saw a bee go in a hive,  
They'd never seen a bee before!  
So waited there to see some more.  
And sure enough along they came  
A dozen bees, (and all the same!)  
Within the hive they buzzed about;  
Then, one by one, they all flew out.  
Said Four: 'Those bees are silly things,  
But how I wish I had their wings!'



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## Dandelions!

Many of us actually like dandelions. Their amazingly cheerful colour always brings a smile to our faces. The not-so-neat-and-tidy gardeners among us can simply enjoy flowers where they grow.



The name 'dandelion' apparently derives from 'dent de lion' – lions' teeth, owing to the tooth-like shape of its leaves. There are many different varieties of dandelion, but they all have the toothed leaves arranged in a rosette around the single flowers, each one made up of up to *two hundred* [yes, really!] tiny florets on a smooth stem, that when picked, releases a milky substance known as latex.

The golden heads, which close up at night, in wet weather, or if picked to go in a vase, give way to the seed-heads we all know as clocks. Who cannot remember proclaiming the time as a child, having blown the seeds away, counting each breath as an hour? And who, if this happened in the garden, remembers the reaction of a parent, or grandparent, to the efficient dispersal of the seeds all over the vegetable patch or flower bed!

In the past, dandelion drinks and concoctions have been valued for their medicinal powers in combating a variety of complaints, and the Victorians used to cultivate them in order to fill sandwiches with the young leaves. Fizzy drinks manufacturers still produce a variety known as Dandelion and Burdock, and intrepid wine-makers can use the flowers to concoct a heady brew.

The roots, some say, can be dried and ground up for use as a coffee substitute. It is those same roots, long and strong, that our grandmothers would water carefully, to the amusement of onlookers, in order to pull them up completely.

To many of us, dandelions are one of Nature's joys.

---

## Nature out and about

The lockdown this Spring at least gave Nature a brief respite. Wild goats, herds of deer, sparrowhawks, stoats, snakes, badgers, spawning toads and songbirds all seemed to have enjoyed the peace and quiet.

We, in turn, have enjoyed watching them from our windows. As Mark Thompson, a presenter on *Stargazing Live*, said, "This lockdown is giving people a chance not just to connect with our families, but also to connect with Nature around us. It has given us the change to recalibrate."



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## Apologies to WORDSWORTH

With credit to the unknown poet

I wandered lonely as a cloud,  
Two metres from the madding crowd,  
When all at once my name was called  
To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.

This was the pensioners' special hour.  
I'd gone to get a bag of flour.  
But I forgot, when through the door,  
What I had gone to Waitrose for.

The Waitrose staff are extra kind.  
I told them it had slipped my mind.  
They asked what else I had forgot  
They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.

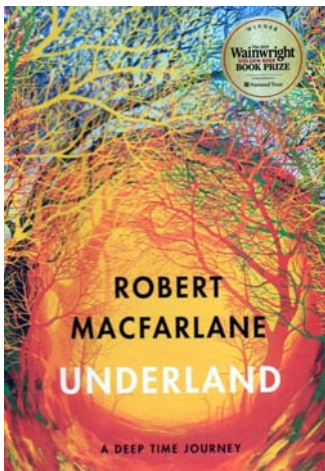
I phoned my wife again to ask.  
She reminded me of this special task:  
"I need some flour to bake a cake  
With all that cream you made me take."

"Ah yes, I recall." I had to lie.  
I dared not ask what flower to buy  
But then I saw them next the tills -  
A bunch of golden daffodils!"

## BOOK REVIEW

### Underland by Robert Macfarlane

When I was a kid, I would ration myself to a few pages a day if I was reading a book I was crazy about. I have been doing that now with this latest tome. I was given 'Underland' as a present because I had so enjoyed two of Macfarlane's previous books; 'The Old Ways' and 'The Wild Places'. The writer is not only a prize-winning author, but a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. His charm is that he doesn't write like a dusty old academic, but he has a poetic, lyrical style that relentlessly sucks you in. He meets and writes about fascinating characters as he travels the world exploring strange and spiritual places.



At first the book made me feel uncomfortably claustrophobic because of the details of caving in Britain; crawling through passageways, often flooded, where you have no idea whether you can turn round and get out. But then it's off to the catacombs of Paris, to an inhospitable melting glacier in Greenland and to search out ancient cave paintings in northern Norway.

'Underland' is a powerful book that seems perfect for our lockdown times. The book blurb says, "it is a journey into wonder, loss and fear. It is at once ancient and urgent and will change the way you see the world." I couldn't agree more!

*Frank Hayes*



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