

# *Kingston Parish & Church Magazine*



**February 2023**

### Village Diary

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 1 - 1:30pm

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am

Pub Night

Holy Communion

Library Van at the crossroads

Family Worship + Baptism

Tuesdays at 10-11am

Wednesdays at 10:30am

Fridays at 10-11am

Boogie Tuesday at the Village Hall

Village Hall Coffee Morning

Pilates

### Wheelie bin collection dates

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Black bin

Blue and Green bins

Black bin

Blue bin only

Black bin

### Editorial

I've read in several places recently that socialising is good for your mental and physical health. This seems like very good news, since, like most of us, I enjoy it much more than either dieting or exercise. I mention this to highlight several (mostly free) opportunities we have here in Kingston to put this good advice into action.

We already have a weekly coffee morning and monthly pub night, not to mention several church services, exercise classes and weekly badminton. But I'd also like to highlight the monthly music night. This is hosted by different people who present several of their favourite musical choices, usually with a theme. The discussion around the pieces is always informative and the chat (and socialising!) is good too. I would encourage you to give it a try if you haven't already. You'd be very welcome.

**Miki Ellar**   miki.ellar7@gmail.com   07568 706106

*Cover photo courtesy of Miki Ellar*

## Vicar's Letter

We all love a good murder, whether it's in Midsomer, Paradise, Grantchester, or on the Orient Express, and it got me wondering why.

Murder is an evil thing which causes huge distress, so why the fascination with it in TV series – not to mention the endless books from Dickens all the way up to the Thursday Murder Club?

Perhaps I should start even further back: the first murder in the Bible is on page 4, in the story of Cain and Abel, and the sixth of the Ten Commandments prohibits murder, which shows us that it's an evil which has always plagued humanity.

So why are we so fascinated with the likes of Phryne Fisher, Vera Stanhope, and Miss Marple? I think the appeal of these programmes is that however clever or meticulous the criminal, and however convoluted their plan, the murderer always gets found out! The detective, however puzzled they may be, however many blind alleys they may be led down, in the end always wins.

Real life isn't like that, sadly, but the TV detectives help us to have hope that evil will not always win – that the forces of good are smarter than the forces of evil, and will end up ahead.

Jesus taught that the evil of murder has small beginnings: he said "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!"

This is a worrying idea – that in God's eyes, being angry with someone is as bad as killing them. Jesus was fond of using exaggeration to make his point, but here he's simply stating what many of us will have felt in ourselves – the way anger can get control of us if we let it.

Anger that we don't act on doesn't leave any fingerprints, or DNA or CCTV evidence, so even the best TV detective would have a hard job finding it out, but God knows us from the inside. Fortunately God is also the one who came to us and dealt with all our sin – including anger and murder – on the cross.

When Jesus rose from the dead it proved that the good really is greater than evil, justice will prevail, and that suffering and death won't have the last word.

So as you enjoy seeing your favourite fictional detective make their latest breakthrough and bring a killer to justice, you can be encouraged that it's a small foretaste of God's plan for all humanity.!

***Rev'd Steve Day***

## Papworth Team Services

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**      **Holy Communion 8.30am**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**      **Family Worship & Baptism 10.30am**

### **Ash Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup> February) Services**

8.30am ~ Holy Communion at Conington  
 12 noon ~ Holy Communion at Bourn  
 7.00pm ~ Holy Communion at Caxton

The website [papworthteamchurches.org](http://papworthteamchurches.org) has up to date service information for all churches in the team. It also has the Zoom link for the monthly Team Service and Bible Study and Morning Prayer.

**Zoom Chapel:** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am

**Morning Prayer** (Mon – Sat) at 8.15am (Zoom)

**Team Bible Study** via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm

**Telephone service** on Mondays at 5.00pm

For further information and the Zoom link see [www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://www.papworthteamchurches.org)

The Church of England offers weekly online worship services from a variety of churches which can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services> and can be watched at any time.

## Church cleaning

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Peter and Suzy Stokes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Donal and Monica O'Donnell
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Peter Reynolds
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Janet Clear
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Linda Rimmer

## Church flowers and brasses

5 <sup>th</sup> February	Janet Clear
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Miki Ellar
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Linda Smith
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Lee Steele

harcamlow-music.org  
**Concerts in Kingston, Cambs**

# The Cambridge String Quartet

**"Late, Last, and Least"**

Music by  
Anton von Webern  
Joseph Haydn  
Ludwig van Beethoven

**All Saints and St Andrew Church**  
Church Lane, Kingston CB23 2NG  
**Friday 10 February 2023, 7.30 p.m.**  
Pre-concert talk 7.15 p.m.

Tickets £ 8.00 / £ 12.00

programme information: [www.harcamlow-music.org](http://www.harcamlow-music.org)

contact: [harcamlow@outlook.com](mailto:harcamlow@outlook.com)

ticketing: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/harcamlow-music](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harcamlow-music)



## REMINDER ABOUT PLANS FOR THE 18 BUS

The current closing date for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority bus strategy consultation is Feb 24. To have a say, visit [cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/bus-strategy/](http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/bus-strategy/).

## CONCERT: Cambridge String Quartet on 10<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

Next up in our concert series in All Saints and St Andrews is an evening with the Cambridge String Quartet. We heard their beautiful programme with works by Haydn, Beethoven and Webern a couple of weeks ago in Cambridge, and we've been itching to hear it again: those four young professionals (Stephane Crayton, and Rachel Stroud, violin; Sam Kennedy, viola; Joshua Lynch, cello) made us think anew about what we thought we knew about string quartet playing. We loved their ravishing sound, the clarity and accessibility of their playing, and their smart, off-the-beaten-paths way of putting together an exciting programme.

You may remember Rachel Stroud very kindly playing with us in our concert in November – don't miss listening to her on her real home turf. Do be sure to come just a few minutes early, have a glass of wine and listen to Rachel introducing the programme.

Tickets for sale at the door, or here:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/)

[harcamlow-music](http://harcamlow-music) (Kingstonians please tick the "concessions" box).

General information here:

[www.harcamlow-music.org](http://www.harcamlow-music.org).

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## Comberton Antiquarian Society

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in Comberton Village Hall when David Stubbings will give a talk on Cambridge Clunch.

Clunch is a form of soft, chalky limestone rock that closely resembles chalk. The cluster of clunch pits dug into the sides of the low chalk ridges bordering the upper Cam valley are an interesting man-made feature of the landscape of South Cambridgeshire.

### KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL

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Kingston residents: Before 7pm - £5. After 7pm - £7

Non residents: Before 7pm - £10. After 7pm - £13

Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)

01223 263500 or 0787 999 1068

kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com



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## Kingston Parish Council Tax

I am pleased to report that the Kingston Parish Council element of our Council Tax bills for the coming financial year will remain unchanged from 2022-23.

The Parish Council believes it is important to recognise the challenges faced by many households in the current climate of rising costs, and we want to do what we can to avoid increasing the burden. For many years it was Parish Council practice to limit rises in the Kingston council tax charge to the rate of inflation. Last year we budgeted to hold the tax steady (which means a cut in real terms), and we are pleased to be able to do this for the second year in a row. We are confident that we can cover all the normal ongoing costs of looking after the village within the constraints of this amount. If there are any unforeseen costs or 'special projects' to fund, then we would have to look for other sources to pay for this eg grants or council reserves.

**Julie Conder**

*Vice Chair Kingston Parish Council*



## Papworth Team Ministry (C of E)

The Papworth Team Ministry Team Office:

Lower Pendrill Court  
Ermine Street North  
Papworth Everard  
CB23 3UY

Email: [papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com](mailto:papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com)

Web: [www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://www.papworthteamchurches.org)

Our Team Administrator, Revd. Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings; serving the parishes of Bourn, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley with Papworth St Agnes, Kingston, Knapwell, Lolworth, Longstowe, Papworth Everard, Toseland and Yelling.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals and general parish matters, please contact Chris (as above), visit the website or speak to one of our clergy...

> The Revd Nigel di Castiglione, Team Rector – 07770 697240 - 01954 267241

> The Revd Stephen Day, Team Vicar - 01954 264226



## Village Hall AGM round-up

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January and the minutes will be made available to those who request them. Much of the discussion focused on how the hall can be used more. The committee is keen to send out the message that we have a beautiful and well-appointed hall and villagers should take advantage of it and not just wait for others to organise events. If you have a good idea for a club or an event please approach us and we will see how we help you facilitate it. A recent example is that Simon Draper would like to organise art and photographic exhibitions, so we have put up a picture rail in the large hall.

A major investment, with assistance from the Parish Council, has been the purchase of an internet enabled projector and screen. With a TV licence we will be able to screen sports and other events. However, to show films, other than those available on TV channels, we will need a film licence which would cost around £300. If you are interested in starting a film club and taking on the responsibility, we can help you talk to Toft village hall, who have an active film club, and we will help finalise and fund any administration necessary to set it up. A huge range of films can be screened (streamed or on DVD) from the current and back catalogues of the major studios (including Disney Plus), Amazon Prime and Netflix, provided we have the basic film licence. We are also buying a licence from the Performing Rights Society to play recorded and live music which will cover all types of users of the hall, although people may need to check for themselves that there are no additional copyright restrictions on the particular music they are playing.

We are conscious that the age range of the committee is biased towards the over 70s and would like to encourage more people from the middle and younger age ranges (16 upwards) to join us. It is not arduous, and we aim to hold no more than two formal meetings a year as most of our business is conducted on-line. Do not be put off by the word "Trustee". Now we are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) trustees are protected from individual legal and financial liability, and the individual registration process with the Charity Commission is straightforward. The heavy lifting has been done to raise funds to modernise the hall and our constitution, so our role mostly involves making decisions on which amenities to add to the village, rather than having to navigate challenging and stressful grant applications, building work and regulatory issues.

Finally, we plan to hold a summer BBQ and will keep you informed when we have a date.

## Michael Hugo Black 7<sup>th</sup> June 1928 – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Michael Black died at home on June the 16<sup>th</sup> last year, aged 94. A service to celebrate his life took place in Kingston church on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, with the Revd Stephen Day presiding; this was followed by his interment in the churchyard with Fay, his wife, who died in 2017.

Michael Black's entire professional life, from 1951 to his retirement in 1987, was with Cambridge University Press (CUP). He was, successively, Assistant Secretary to the Press's



Syndicate, then Education Secretary (1960 -1965), Chief Editor (1965-1978), and finally, University Publisher. Jeremy Mynott said in his eulogy that, 'Michael was the best academic editor of his generation.' 'He embodied Cambridge publishing...', Richard Hollick has written, '...the entire [CUP] list bore the stamp of his mind.' A Fellow of Clare Hall, he was, in addition, sometime Editor of *The Cambridge Quarterly*, and himself an author and poet. He made important contributions to the history and bibliography of the Bible, and he was an authority on D H Lawrence. Michael was also, of course, eminently a Kingstonian.

Like his next-door neighbour, Tony Hewish, Michael Black was a Cornishman, although born in Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in 1928. His parents, Norman Black and Frances (née Best), hailed from Yorkshire and Scotland respectively; they were both dental surgeons who set up in practice in Falmouth. Michael was educated at Falmouth Grammar School: he was intellectually precocious – 'excessively bright' in his own words – and, encouraged by his headmaster, a Cambridge man, he secured a scholarship to Jesus College in 1945 at the age of 17. His studies were interrupted by two years' National Service in the army's Intelligence Corps, serving in then occupied Austria. He secured a First in English and Modern Languages in 1951, and was immediately appointed Assistant Secretary to the CUP Syndicate.

### Michael at Cambridge University Press

We are fortunate to have Michael's book, *Learning to be a Publisher* (2011), which is a lucid and fluent memoir of his professional life, but also outlines the

transformation of CUP from a printer of bibles and a few scholarly books, to the vast international business of today, which now has an inventory of 50,000 titles and publishes about 4,000 more each year. In this metamorphosis he played a considerable role: 'Michael was the presiding genius of this expansion, and his insistence on the maintenance of high standards of peer-review, of copy-editing and of production/design, and his promotion of systems and practices to embody them, is his lasting legacy' writes Kevin Taylor.

CUP then consisted of three distinct entities: the printing house, which filled almost the whole area between Silver Street and Mill Lane, employing more than 200; Bentley House in London, which took care of warehousing, sales and distribution, with another 200 staff; and the Secretary to the Syndicate, with only six or seven assistant officers, which made up the publishing department: all these three were answerable to the Press Syndicate, comprised of eighteen senior academics representing the university. CUP was then primarily a printing business, undertaking work for many publishers and also doing jobbing work, even agendas and menus. Stanley Morison, one of the most influential typographers of the C20, advised both the Monotype Corporation and CUP from 1923 to 1959. He and Walter Lewis, the Press's Master Printer, had elevated the output to the very highest standards: their books pioneered the use of new typefaces and gained an international renown. Michael recalls that '...the whole organisation was besotted with design.' He was himself sent, one day a week, to The Central School of Arts and Crafts in Holborn to learn the rudiments of book printing and design. He always took a special interest in book jackets, commissioning artists such as Reynolds Stone and David Gentleman as illustrators.

The Press published only about 125 books each year; their shelf life was expected to be at least twenty years; many were specialist titles of very modest print runs. CUP was, and remains, a not-for-profit publisher and a department of a university itself an exempt charity. Many titles were produced on the explicit understanding that they would make a loss.

Michael found himself as Assistant Secretary to the Syndicate, joining '...not just a business or a university department, but a class –indeed, a caste'. The Syndics -- some Professors or Heads of Houses -- were all men, public school, dyed-in-the-tweed dons of the 1930s or earlier; few had even the slightest business experience. Michael describes vividly the fortnightly meetings of the Syndics in the Gothick splendour of the Pitt Building as tribal rites. 'To a man they smoked pipes...As they sat down, they lit up, and the fragrant cloud went up to the ceiling. By teatime at 4pm it had descended to eye level'. Tea was served in willow-pattern china, with Dundee cake brought in from Fitzbillies opposite.

The rapid expansion of tertiary education in the 1950s and 1960s led to a boom in academic publishing; new course materials were also required for the comprehensive schools, introduced in 1965. At the same time novel subjects emerged, such as linguistics. Former colonies became independent but looked to the English university publishers for their printed educational resources: publishing became an international business. The UK imprints competed with their American counterparts.

Michael was appointed Education Secretary in 1960 and became a peripatetic commissioning editor, visiting the new universities all over the UK to find new authors and opportunities for sales. Michael's first tour overseas was to West and East Africa in 1961: he spent nine weeks with Philip Harris, the Press's man in Ibadan, visiting schools, universities and government ministries. Tours of the far East, the USA and Australia followed. Many writers of diverse backgrounds were recruited as a result.

That the Press's organisation was dysfunctional was clear to Michael and to others, although there was considerable resistance to change. By the later 1960s the Press was in serious financial trouble; and in 1972, Geoffrey Cass, an outsider from Allen and Unwin, was brought in as the Press's first Chief Executive, with a new centralised management structure. Printing moved to Shaftesbury Road in 1963. In 1981 Bentley House and the Pitt Building publishing department followed together to the new, purpose-built Edinburgh Building. All the three parts of the business were now on the same site. New technologies – photolithography and then digital – were adopted.

As Chief Editor, and then University Publisher, Michael greatly expanded his editorial team. He was unassuming, but he did not suffer from false modesty. He had a good measure of his abilities, but also of his limitations. Where he lacked expertise he sought it out, always appointing on merit. He looked beyond conventional Oxbridge backgrounds; many women began their careers in his editorial department. His whole approach in publishing was one of collaboration. Besides publishing innumerable monographs, Michael presided over the launches of dozens of part works, series and new journals. His productivity almost defies belief. Two projects among many are worth special notice: his biblical scholarship and the D H Lawrence edition.

Michael was a considerable biblical scholar. Early in his career he was asked by Stanley Morison to research the history of bible printing at the British and Foreign Bible Society's library in London, founded in 1804, which possesses an enormous collection of scripture, now housed in Cambridge University Library. This led to two pioneering articles in *The Library*. Later on, Michael devised *The Cambridge History*

of *The Bible*, to which he contributed. He was a member of the Literary Panel of the *New English Bible*, which he saw through the press, and there followed more than fifty volumes of *The Cambridge Bible Commentary*.

‘For my part I am sure that the Cambridge Edition of Lawrence was the best thing, the most important thing, I ever undertook as a publisher’. Michael conceived the edition in 1972 and was intimately involved in this vast undertaking, which began in 1979 and amounts to thirty-nine volumes, including eight of the letters, plus, in addition, a three-volume biography. It was Michael who negotiated with representatives of the estate of Frieda Lawrence on the complexities of copyright and permissions, and recruited an international team of Lawrence scholars, editors and writers. *The Cambridge Edition of the Letters and Works of D H Lawrence* has been described by Christopher Pollintz as ‘...one of the greatest achievements of twentieth-century writing in English’.

For his role in this enterprise Michael was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Birmingham University in 1996.

Michael was himself an author. He wrote two books of literary criticism, *The Literature of Fidelity* and *Poetic Drama as Mirror of the Will*, and four books on D H Lawrence. In 1984 he wrote *Cambridge University Press 1584-1984* for the Press’s quatercentenary. He was the Editor of *The Cambridge Review* and contributed essays to many periodicals and wrote chapters for various collections. His *Diver and Other Poems 1948-1972* was published in 2017.

### **Michael in Kingston**

In 1953 Michael married Fay Bice Goodyear, a graduate of Newnham College and a teacher of French and Spanish. They moved to Kingston as long ago as January 1956. Michael liked to joke with visitors about the Blacks living in The White House, which used to be called the Chequers. It was indeed a former public house (the other pub in the village, The Rose and Crown, was then still open). The Blacks extended the house to accommodate their growing family: Catherine, Peter and Alison were born within four years. Michael converted the public bar into his study, retaining the wainscoting and bench seating around the walls, using this as the base for his bookshelves. Michael and Fay were familiar figures in the village: Fay riding out on her grey mare Topsy, and Michael taking an unhurried stroll along the Bourn Road before settling down to write. They both loved Kingston’s landscape and atmosphere.

Michael got to know Sybil Marshall, the Head Teacher of Kingston Primary School until its closure in 1960, and published her *An Experiment in Education* (1963): this was her first book; many followed, including the novels of her later years. Tony Atmore, one of Michael’s CUP authors specialising in African history, married Sybil

Marshall's daughter Prue, and the reception was held in the garden of The White House.

Kingston did not have a Parish Council until 1970. Before that we had that most primitive form of parochial democracy, The Parish Meeting: of this Michael was Chairman. He went on to serve as a Parish Councillor for many years.

I served with him under the Chairmanship of David Heath. Michael never spoke unless he had something useful and relevant to contribute, but whenever he did speak, everyone listened.

Michael was not a churchman; he wasn't one to subscribe to any orthodoxy, religious or secular. He described himself, perhaps tongue in cheek, as 'a pious agnostic'. The cadences of the King James bible and the Book of Common Prayer, absorbed from childhood, stayed with him all his life. He was always a generous supporter of Kingston church, one of the first to sign up to Kingston church's monthly Direct Debit funding scheme.

That Michael was well-read in English, French and German literatures is to be expected, but he had well-informed interests in all the arts: theatre, cinema, painting, studio pottery. He and Fay made friendships with local artists like Nan Youngman and Elisabeth Vellacott. I'm not sure that Michael could be described as a collector but he purchased paintings, prints and pots when he could afford to. Classical music was a life-long passion; he wrote about Wagner.

Michael was a Leavisite; his first encounter with the work of F R Leavis was at school. He published, in 1963, a reprint of *Scrutiny*, the influential quarterly edited by Leavis and L C Knights, in twenty volumes. Michael wrote '...it became my settled conviction that he [Leavis] was the greatest critic in the language and the greatest living Englishman. As long as he was alive, it was a comfort'. For Michael the critical study of literature was the defining enterprise of a humane society, profoundly a public good, something which entails value judgement and possession of a moral compass: freedom of expression and clarity of exposition are sine qua nons for any liberal democracy. Behind Leavis is the figure of Matthew Arnold of *Culture and Anarchy*. Michael believed that 'Language is illimitable in its power'. This is a serious credo, held by a very thoughtful man, now seriously threatened.

Michael saw the 'New Criticism' replaced by 'Theory', a post-modernist compound of Marxism, structuralism, deconstruction and semiotics: all these were anathemata to him: '...my objection to [the French-derived, American enforced theory] is that it is an unexamined set of assumptions and a routine set of moves assembled at second hand from a number of questionable authorities and expounded as scripture by a horde of mediocrities.' We now have critical race and gender theory, and

intersectionality; teachers in our universities are intent on ‘decolonising the curriculum’: English Literature is regarded as embodying a white supremacist, racist heteropatriarchy. Western, enlightenment rationalism is itself radically in question.

Michael should not be caricatured as a cerebral intellectual; he loved all the good things of life. He was also generous and spontaneous in his appreciation of others. I remember sitting a couple of rows behind Michael at a recital of Vivaldi’s Requiem, given by Bourn’s church choir. As soon as the performance ended he leapt up, shouted ‘Bravo!’, and led a standing ovation. When Jacqueline Eade held an exhibition in Kingston chapel, which she converted into her studio, Michael came along and immediately bought her largest oil painting – I’m not sure if he even enquired its price. He was a reader of this magazine and if he read anything that he particularly liked he would take a note – in fountain pen – round to its author straight away: I know that David Heath was gratified to receive these.

As a publisher Michael’s goals were to make works of scholarship legible and intelligible, presented in the best and most appropriate and attractive formats. But he was also aware of the profound importance of the unknowable, of the power of the imagination and the unconscious, of non- and pre-verbal forms of communication. Hence the appeal of poetry. His poem *Elegy: Trefusis Point, Mylor Churchyard*, was read by his grandson, also Michael Black, at the service last July. This is the final stanza:

And in the churchyard,  
That commonplace where all thoughts settle  
(And see, I am not grieving),  
All those heads that point towards the sunset  
Perform their lowly function modestly,  
The grass is rich with them, and generous,  
Grows thick to mask their lapses;  
And as, in brass, in stone, their  
names grow faint, and fainter,  
Clean white, shell-like,  
Sounded by the yew roots,  
Undisturbed, all fathomed now  
Betideless lie.

**Peter Reynolds**



*Michael’s 90th birthday party, with his family*

***Michael Black: Eulogy, by Catherine Black, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2022***

It's quiet here. It's one of the things mum and dad loved about Kingston and it was even quieter in the 60s and 70s, and we had a very quiet father, who in some ways went under the radar. He had grace, was thoughtful, kind, and kept his own counsel.

Dad loved us, his work, his writing, literature, art, travel and languages; films, music and opera; reading novels; good food and wine. He loved colour. In the 90s we used to watch The Clothes Show together when I was back for the weekend. He was quietly stylish and elegant. He got a kick out of taking us into town as wee ones and choosing, then buying us an outfit. He was great to go clothes shopping with as an adult, because you got an instant response.

Dad was born in a pub in Tempsford near Bedford. His parents had fled Scotland and their marriages, and stopped for a while near there, to make time for Michael's birth and also to find a place to live and work as two freelance dentists. They wanted to be as far away as possible from their joint pasts. Eventually they found a lovely house in Falmouth where Grandpa set up a surgery and they reinvented themselves.

Michael was a feminist and I think it is the influence of his Scottish mother, Frances, who was able to go to university and was also expected to have a career. In the 1930s, Granny Black drove (unusual in itself) from Falmouth to Newquay, three days a week, to her own surgery. As a child she was disabled by polio. As a working woman, his mother modelled a lot to Dad.

Growing up in Falmouth, he and his brother Peter had a record player, and spent their pocket money buying records and exploring quite widely. I remember dad saying that when he first heard music by Janacek, he was blown over backwards by its modernity and newness.

Dad's musical passion took flight when he did National Service, working in Intelligence. Recruited because he was a linguist, he went to Graz, to track down spies. While there, he would travel into Vienna, to the opera house, where he heard young singers just beginning their international careers. The music by Mozart, that Michael came into church with, was sung by those very performers he saw and heard in Vienna [Cosi fan tutti, sung by Elizabeth Shwarzkopf, Christa Ludwig and Walter Berry]. It's amazing to think that he was at the opera house the night Richard Strauss died, and he told me the orchestra wore black arm bands. This time in Austria was a massive influence on his love of opera and song. Later, we children were lucky enough to go to London occasionally to see performances. Over the decades, he amassed a huge record collection and we had music playing a lot. My musical passion and education was largely influenced by the music I heard played at home.



There were often visitors to the house and we three all had meals with whomever came to talk books and work. This opened our worldly eyes; our parents didn't see us as children to be seen and not heard.

Dad was notably self-deprecating. He went to Africa for nine weeks in the 1960s, to commission books and talk to people – to get development going in universities there. On returning to his hotel room one evening, he turned on the radio and wondered who was that prig talking. 'Oh it's me!' he said and laughed.

I remember as a young teenager asking Dad at supper what he'd been doing in London that day. He replied that he'd been with Dr Coggan (Me—'who?' Dad – 'The Archbishop of Canterbury'. Me –'Why?' Dad – 'We're sorting out the Bible'. Me – incredulity...)

And also around this time, I came home from school and saw a delivery of boxes (pre---Amazon times). I told Dad. He opened them. 'What is it?' I asked. 'Oh, I wrote a book. These are the author's copies.' We/I knew nothing: he just got on with things.

We each know our parents in very specific ways as children and then begin a new stage of our relationship with them as adults and discover people with rounded, interesting lives, separate from their children, and it's humbling. I went to Birmingham University when Dad was given an Honorary Doctorate. I found out all kinds of things about my father I didn't know. Jim Boulton of the D.H Lawrence edition, spoke at length about Dad. Of the several surprises, I discovered he was a serious Bible expert. Later, Michael gave a reciprocal speech and so typically, said 'I consider myself a very lucky man.'

He was very grounded and always positive. Until very recently, you could pop into his room and ask how he was and he would say "Well I'm here!" What strikes me now, is how he never complained. He groaned as he pulled himself upstairs – me listening to his joints clunking – but that was it.

He was always very happy just "being": sitting in the garden, drinking tea, talking or simply listening to the birds. He adored the garden he and mum created and would until recently, cut the roses and other flowers, take them in and arrange them.

Dad loved cats and we've had many cat family members. Lately, Michael was accompanied everywhere by Kitty – his spirit guide. She slept on his bed, on his head and talked an awful lot. As he went upstairs, she would be just behind him, meowing with each step. As he went up, she followed one at a time. Kitty separated off from Dad two weeks, before dying a month ahead of him. His Alzheimers had reached such a point, that when I told him Kitty was very ill, he clearly didn't understand what I was saying.

He was a good person to talk to. Friends and colleagues would gravitate to him. I did as an adult too. He gave people space and respect. You could talk about big things. He grew outwards in his own expression and his ability to speak from the heart, as he got older; more personal and direct and over the years we talked about death as well as life. About our thoughts and feelings. His own father believed in reincarnation and Dad was very quietly spiritual. I think it eased his pathway and enabled his passing.

Life is circular. Our children are our teachers, as our parents are too. He taught me to be grounded. He was quietly self-assured, but also questioned himself aloud and was not an egotist. He was a great observer of people, how they ticked and how they needed approaching.

When mum left earth, Michael hit the wall and his dementia became increasingly apparent. We were so fortunate in having the expertise and support of Bourn Surgery and in particular of Dr Redwood who honed the fine art of climbing into the house through the kitchen window, and of Dr Sharpe. Other people in the village, Charlie and Linda, Nina and Rachel (also good at the window trick) have looked out for Dad, Tracy and us. We all thank you.

In March 2019, we had the extraordinary good fortune to have Tracy arrive at The White House. Across continents, along some magical ley line, this powerful, kind, intuitive, imaginative, worldly-wise lady arrived in all of our lives. She and Dad had an amazing bond and connected with deep mutual respect and trust. I can't imagine there being a better person to understand Dad and the progress of his illness. Dad's extraordinary passing was made possible with Tracy's grace, love and strength of character.

There is a Serbian saying that for me, bottles the essence of Michael – it goes –

'Be humble, for you are made of earth; be noble, for you are made of stars'.

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## ZEBRA buses head for Cambridge

Thirty zero emission electric double decker buses are due to join the city's ever expanding fleet of cleaner vehicles early this year as part of the Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme. They will be used on the five Cambridge park-&-ride routes, as well as the Citi 2 service which links Cambridge North Station with the city centre and Addenbrooke's Hospital, maximising their time in the city centre Air Quality Management Zone, an area of Cambridge that has by far the poorest air quality across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The buses are part of a rolling bus replacement programme, replacing thirty vehicles a year across the Combined Authority area. A Department for Transport (DfT) grant represents 26% of the overall bus replacement project of over £16.5 million, with the balance being funded from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Transforming Cities Fund, Greater Cambridge Partnership's City Deal and Stagecoach.

## Twilight at The Museums: Monday 13 - Sunday 19 February 2023

Find out what's on offer this year at <https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/twilight>

Even if you cannot visit a museum, you can still enjoy some Twilight fun. See <https://museums.cam.ac.uk/twilightold> for all sort of things you can do at home.

### AIRCRAFT NOISE – A PUBLIC MEETING – THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY LITTLE GRANDSDEN VILLAGE HALL & ZOOM 7.30PM

HOSTED BY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FERGUSON

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

ANTHONY BROWNE MP, JONATHAN DJANOGLY MP, LUCY FRAZER MP

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THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WAS DEEPLY FLAWED AND THE RESULTING AIRSPACE DESIGN POOR.

THE POST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW IS BEING RUN BY THE PROGRAMME SPONSORS (LONDON LUTON AIRPORT & NATS) WHO CLEARLY HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN ITS ADOPTION.

THE APPLICATION TO EXPAND LUTON AIRPORT OPERATIONS WILL [LIKELY] RESULT IN A FLIGHT EVERY 2 MINUTES IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITIES DAY AND NIGHT (21 HOUR OPERATIONS FROM 06:30 EACH DAY).

THE POST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW ENDS ON 31 MAY 2023 AND THE DESIGN WILL BE APPROVED PERMANENTLY IF INSUFFICIENT OBJECTIONS ARE RECEIVED.

THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR FEELINGS KNOWN TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES & DEMAND ACTION.

[info@relas.uk](mailto:info@relas.uk)

[facebook.com/groups/relas.ad6](https://facebook.com/groups/relas.ad6)

## Bourn School Bag Drop! Friday 10th March

Please bring unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, belts, hats, scarves, jewellery or perfumes in a tied dustbin bag to the front yard of 2 Short Street, Bourn, on the morning of Friday 10th March by 9am, or at drop off at the school gate by 9am if you have a child at Bourn School. Everything will be sent to Happy School Bag for re-use or recycling, avoiding landfill and raising much needed money for Bourn Primary School.

Please note, we cannot accept dirty, damaged or wet items, or items not listed above.

*Thank you for your support!*  
Bourn School Association



## Toads Crossing

Every year in February and March, amphibians migrate from their winter hibernation quarters to their breeding pond. In our area we find common frogs, common toads, great crested and smooth (or common) newts. Palmate newts are less common here. Frogs and newts stay close to their breeding pond, but toads may travel over a mile to get back to their pond. Please slow down when driving on warmer, wetter evenings in late winter/early spring in case there are toads crossing!

## Cambridge City Foodbank has its busiest month

Last December, 2022, Cambridge City Foodbank had the busiest month in its more than 12 year history, supporting more than 1,560 people with emergency food parcels – a 24 per cent increase on December 2021. It finished off a year in which more than 137 tonnes of food were distributed to 13,580 people, nearly 4 out of every 10 of whom were children. Forecasts suggest that high levels of demand will continue, with historical demand for food banks in January often high.

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01954 718101

[www.bournsurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.bournsurgery.nhs.uk)

**Out of Hours NHS 111**

### Comberton Surgery Opening Times

tel. 01223 262500

#### **Reception**

Mon-Fri 8:00-12:30 & 1:30-6:30

(Out of hours for duty doctor's number  
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**EMERGENCY 01223 464242**

#### **Dispensary**

Mon-Fri 8:00-12:30 & 2:00-6:30

Sat 8:30-10:30 (Pre-ordered only

& not bank holiday w/e)

### Commercial advertising rates in this magazine:

- Full page: £10 (£90 for 12 issues)
- Half page: £7 (£70 for 12 issues)
- Quarter page: £5 (£50 for 12 issues)

Other sizes by arrangement. Reduced rates for Kingston residents

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<b>Addenbrooke's switchboard</b>	01223 245151
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<b>Anglian Water</b> (sewage)	08457 145145
<b>Ashcroft Vet Surgery</b> 169 St. Neots Rd, Hardwick	01954 210250
<b>Cambridge Rail Station</b> general inquiries	0845 7484950
<b>Cambridge Water</b>	01223 706050
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<b>Chinese</b> , Fish and Chips 2 High St. Toft	01223 263337
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<b>Magazine Editor</b> (Miki Ellar)	01223 262887
<b>National Rail Enquiries</b>	08457 484950
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<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	01954 713000
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# *Kingston Parish & Church Magazine*



**February 2023**



### **Village Diary**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 1 - 1:30pm

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am

Pub Night

Holy Communion

Library Van at the crossroads

Family Worship + Baptism

Tuesdays at 10-11am

Wednesdays at 10:30am

Fridays at 10-11am

Boogie Tuesday at the Village Hall

Village Hall Coffee Morning

Pilates

### **Wheelie bin collection dates**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Black bin

Blue and Green bins

Black bin

Blue bin only

Black bin

### **Editorial**

I've read in several places recently that socialising is good for your mental and physical health. This seems like very good news, since, like most of us, I enjoy it much more than either dieting or exercise. I mention this to highlight several (mostly free) opportunities we have here in Kingston to put this good advice into action.

We already have a weekly coffee morning and monthly pub night, not to mention several church services, exercise classes and weekly badminton. But I'd also like to highlight the monthly music night. This is hosted by different people who present several of their favourite musical choices, usually with a theme. The discussion around the pieces is always informative and the chat (and socialising!) is good too. I would encourage you to give it a try if you haven't already. You'd be very welcome.

**Miki Ellar**   miki.ellar7@gmail.com   07568 706106

*Cover photo courtesy of Miki Ellar*

## Vicar's Letter

We all love a good murder, whether it's in Midsomer, Paradise, Grantchester, or on the Orient Express, and it got me wondering why.

Murder is an evil thing which causes huge distress, so why the fascination with it in TV series – not to mention the endless books from Dickens all the way up to the Thursday Murder Club?

Perhaps I should start even further back: the first murder in the Bible is on page 4, in the story of Cain and Abel, and the sixth of the Ten Commandments prohibits murder, which shows us that it's an evil which has always plagued humanity.

So why are we so fascinated with the likes of Phryne Fisher, Vera Stanhope, and Miss Marple? I think the appeal of these programmes is that however clever or meticulous the criminal, and however convoluted their plan, the murderer always gets found out! The detective, however puzzled they may be, however many blind alleys they may be led down, in the end always wins.

Real life isn't like that, sadly, but the TV detectives help us to have hope that evil will not always win – that the forces of good are smarter than the forces of evil, and will end up ahead.

Jesus taught that the evil of murder has small beginnings: he said "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!"

This is a worrying idea – that in God's eyes, being angry with someone is as bad as killing them. Jesus was fond of using exaggeration to make his point, but here he's simply stating what many of us will have felt in ourselves – the way anger can get control of us if we let it.

Anger that we don't act on doesn't leave any fingerprints, or DNA or CCTV evidence, so even the best TV detective would have a hard job finding it out, but God knows us from the inside. Fortunately God is also the one who came to us and dealt with all our sin – including anger and murder – on the cross.

When Jesus rose from the dead it proved that the good really is greater than evil, justice will prevail, and that suffering and death won't have the last word.

So as you enjoy seeing your favourite fictional detective make their latest breakthrough and bring a killer to justice, you can be encouraged that it's a small foretaste of God's plan for all humanity.!

***Revd Steve Day***

## Papworth Team Services

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**      **Holy Communion 8.30am**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**      **Family Worship & Baptism 10.30am**

### Ash Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup> February) Services

8.30am ~ Holy Communion at Conington  
 12 noon ~ Holy Communion at Bourn  
 7.00pm ~ Holy Communion at Caxton

The website [papworthteamchurches.org](http://papworthteamchurches.org) has up to date service information for all churches in the team. It also has the Zoom link for the monthly Team Service and Bible Study and Morning Prayer.

**Zoom Chapel:** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am

**Morning Prayer** (Mon – Sat) at 8.15am (Zoom)

**Team Bible Study** via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm

**Telephone service** on Mondays at 5.00pm

For further information and the Zoom link see [www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://www.papworthteamchurches.org)

The Church of England offers weekly online worship services from a variety of churches which can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services> and can be watched at any time.

## Church cleaning

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Peter and Suzy Stokes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Donal and Monica O'Donnell
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Peter Reynolds
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Janet Clear
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Linda Rimmer

## Church flowers and brasses

5 <sup>th</sup> February	Janet Clear
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Miki Ellar
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Linda Smith
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Lee Steele

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programme information: [www.harcamlow-music.org](http://www.harcamlow-music.org)

contact: [harcamlow@outlook.com](mailto:harcamlow@outlook.com)

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## REMINDER ABOUT PLANS FOR THE 18 BUS

The current closing date for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority bus strategy consultation is Feb 24. To have a say, visit [cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/bus-strategy/](http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/bus-strategy/).

## CONCERT: Cambridge String Quartet on 10<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

Next up in our concert series in All Saints and St Andrews is an evening with the Cambridge String Quartet. We heard their beautiful programme with works by Haydn, Beethoven and Webern a couple of weeks ago in Cambridge, and we've been itching to hear it again: those four young professionals (Stephane Crayton, and Rachel Stroud, violin; Sam Kennedy, viola; Joshua Lynch, cello) made us think anew about what we thought we knew about string quartet playing. We loved their ravishing sound, the clarity and accessibility of their playing, and their smart, off-the-beaten-paths way of putting together an exciting programme.

You may remember Rachel Stroud very kindly playing with us in our concert in November – don't miss listening to her on her real home turf. Do be sure to come just a few minutes early, have a glass of wine and listen to Rachel introducing the programme.

Tickets for sale at the door, or here: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/harcamlow-music](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/harcamlow-music) (Kingstonians please tick the "concessions" box). General information here: [www.harcamlow-music.org](http://www.harcamlow-music.org).

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## Comberton Antiquarian Society

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in Comberton Village Hall when David Stubbings will give a talk on Cambridge Clunch.

Clunch is a form of soft, chalky limestone rock that closely resembles chalk. The cluster of clunch pits dug into the sides of the low chalk ridges bordering the upper Cam valley are an interesting man-made feature of the landscape of South Cambridgeshire.

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Enquiries: Sarah Wright (secretary)

01223 263500 or 0787 999 1068

kingstonvillagehall@gmail.com



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## Kingston Parish Council Tax

I am pleased to report that the Kingston Parish Council element of our Council Tax bills for the coming financial year will remain unchanged from 2022-23.

The Parish Council believes it is important to recognise the challenges faced by many households in the current climate of rising costs, and we want to do what we can to avoid increasing the burden. For many years it was Parish Council practice to limit rises in the Kingston council tax charge to the rate of inflation. Last year we budgeted to hold the tax steady (which means a cut in real terms), and we are pleased to be able to do this for the second year in a row. We are confident that we can cover all the normal ongoing costs of looking after the village within the constraints of this amount. If there are any unforeseen costs or 'special projects' to fund, then we would have to look for other sources to pay for this eg grants or council reserves.

**Julie Conder**

*Vice Chair Kingston Parish Council*



## Papworth Team Ministry (C of E)

The Papworth Team Ministry Team Office:

Lower Pendrill Court  
Ermine Street North  
Papworth Everard  
CB23 3UY

Email: [papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com](mailto:papworthteamministryoffice@gmail.com)

Web: [www.papworthteamchurches.org](http://www.papworthteamchurches.org)

Our Team Administrator, Revd. Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings; serving the parishes of Bourn, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley with Papworth St Agnes, Kingston, Knapwell, Lolworth, Longstowe, Papworth Everard, Toseland and Yelling.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals and general parish matters, please contact Chris (as above), visit the website or speak to one of our clergy...

> The Revd Nigel di Castiglione, Team Rector – 07770 697240 - 01954 267241

> The Revd Stephen Day, Team Vicar - 01954 264226

## Village Hall AGM round-up

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January and the minutes will be made available to those who request them. Much of the discussion focused on how the hall can be used more. The committee is keen to send out the message that we have a beautiful and well-appointed hall and villagers should take advantage of it and not just wait for others to organise events. If you have a good idea for a club or an event please approach us and we will see how we help you facilitate it. A recent example is that Simon Draper would like to organise art and photographic exhibitions, so we have put up a picture rail in the large hall.

A major investment, with assistance from the Parish Council, has been the purchase of an internet enabled projector and screen. With a TV licence we will be able to screen sports and other events. However, to show films, other than those available on TV channels, we will need a film licence which would cost around £300. If you are interested in starting a film club and taking on the responsibility, we can help you talk to Toft village hall, who have an active film club, and we will help finalise and fund any administration necessary to set it up. A huge range of films can be screened (streamed or on DVD) from the current and back catalogues of the major studios (including Disney Plus), Amazon Prime and Netflix, provided we have the basic film licence. We are also buying a licence from the Performing Rights Society to play recorded and live music which will cover all types of users of the hall, although people may need to check for themselves that there are no additional copyright restrictions on the particular music they are playing.

We are conscious that the age range of the committee is biased towards the over 70s and would like to encourage more people from the middle and younger age ranges (16 upwards) to join us. It is not arduous, and we aim to hold no more than two formal meetings a year as most of our business is conducted on-line. Do not be put off by the word "Trustee". Now we are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) trustees are protected from individual legal and financial liability, and the individual registration process with the Charity Commission is straightforward. The heavy lifting has been done to raise funds to modernise the hall and our constitution, so our role mostly involves making decisions on which amenities to add to the village, rather than having to navigate challenging and stressful grant applications, building work and regulatory issues.

Finally, we plan to hold a summer BBQ and will keep you informed when we have a date.



## Michael Hugo Black 7<sup>th</sup> June 1928 – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Michael Black died at home on June the 16<sup>th</sup> last year, aged 94. A service to celebrate his life took place in Kingston church on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, with the Revd Stephen Day presiding; this was followed by his interment in the churchyard with Fay, his wife, who died in 2017.

Michael Black's entire professional life, from 1951 to his retirement in 1987, was with Cambridge University Press (CUP). He was, successively, Assistant Secretary to the Press's



Syndicate, then Education Secretary (1960 -1965), Chief Editor (1965-1978), and finally, University Publisher. Jeremy Mynott said in his eulogy that, 'Michael was the best academic editor of his generation.' 'He embodied Cambridge publishing...', Richard Hollick has written, '...the entire [CUP] list bore the stamp of his mind.' A Fellow of Clare Hall, he was, in addition, sometime Editor of *The Cambridge Quarterly*, and himself an author and poet. He made important contributions to the history and bibliography of the Bible, and he was an authority on D H Lawrence. Michael was also, of course, eminently a Kingstonian.

Like his next-door neighbour, Tony Hewish, Michael Black was a Cornishman, although born in Tempsford, Bedfordshire, in 1928. His parents, Norman Black and Frances (née Best), hailed from Yorkshire and Scotland respectively; they were both dental surgeons who set up in practice in Falmouth. Michael was educated at Falmouth Grammar School: he was intellectually precocious – 'excessively bright' in his own words – and, encouraged by his headmaster, a Cambridge man, he secured a scholarship to Jesus College in 1945 at the age of 17. His studies were interrupted by two years' National Service in the army's Intelligence Corps, serving in then occupied Austria. He secured a First in English and Modern Languages in 1951, and was immediately appointed Assistant Secretary to the CUP Syndicate.

### Michael at Cambridge University Press

We are fortunate to have Michael's book, *Learning to be a Publisher* (2011), which is a lucid and fluent memoir of his professional life, but also outlines the

transformation of CUP from a printer of bibles and a few scholarly books, to the vast international business of today, which now has an inventory of 50,000 titles and publishes about 4,000 more each year. In this metamorphosis he played a considerable role: 'Michael was the presiding genius of this expansion, and his insistence on the maintenance of high standards of peer-review, of copy-editing and of production/design, and his promotion of systems and practices to embody them, is his lasting legacy' writes Kevin Taylor.

CUP then consisted of three distinct entities: the printing house, which filled almost the whole area between Silver Street and Mill Lane, employing more than 200; Bentley House in London, which took care of warehousing, sales and distribution, with another 200 staff; and the Secretary to the Syndicate, with only six or seven assistant officers, which made up the publishing department: all these three were answerable to the Press Syndicate, comprised of eighteen senior academics representing the university. CUP was then primarily a printing business, undertaking work for many publishers and also doing jobbing work, even agendas and menus. Stanley Morison, one of the most influential typographers of the C20, advised both the Monotype Corporation and CUP from 1923 to 1959. He and Walter Lewis, the Press's Master Printer, had elevated the output to the very highest standards: their books pioneered the use of new typefaces and gained an international renown. Michael recalls that '...the whole organisation was besotted with design.' He was himself sent, one day a week, to The Central School of Arts and Crafts in Holborn to learn the rudiments of book printing and design. He always took a special interest in book jackets, commissioning artists such as Reynolds Stone and David Gentleman as illustrators.

The Press published only about 125 books each year; their shelf life was expected to be at least twenty years; many were specialist titles of very modest print runs. CUP was, and remains, a not-for-profit publisher and a department of a university itself an exempt charity. Many titles were produced on the explicit understanding that they would make a loss.

Michael found himself as Assistant Secretary to the Syndicate, joining '...not just a business or a university department, but a class –indeed, a caste'. The Syndics -- some Professors or Heads of Houses -- were all men, public school, dyed-in-the-tweed dons of the 1930s or earlier; few had even the slightest business experience. Michael describes vividly the fortnightly meetings of the Syndics in the Gothick splendour of the Pitt Building as tribal rites. 'To a man they smoked pipes...As they sat down, they lit up, and the fragrant cloud went up to the ceiling. By teatime at 4pm it had descended to eye level'. Tea was served in willow-pattern china, with Dundee cake brought in from Fitzbillies opposite.

The rapid expansion of tertiary education in the 1950s and 1960s led to a boom in academic publishing; new course materials were also required for the comprehensive schools, introduced in 1965. At the same time novel subjects emerged, such as linguistics. Former colonies became independent but looked to the English university publishers for their printed educational resources: publishing became an international business. The UK imprints competed with their American counterparts.

Michael was appointed Education Secretary in 1960 and became a peripatetic commissioning editor, visiting the new universities all over the UK to find new authors and opportunities for sales. Michael's first tour overseas was to West and East Africa in 1961: he spent nine weeks with Philip Harris, the Press's man in Ibadan, visiting schools, universities and government ministries. Tours of the far East, the USA and Australia followed. Many writers of diverse backgrounds were recruited as a result.

That the Press's organisation was dysfunctional was clear to Michael and to others, although there was considerable resistance to change. By the later 1960s the Press was in serious financial trouble; and in 1972, Geoffrey Cass, an outsider from Allen and Unwin, was brought in as the Press's first Chief Executive, with a new centralised management structure. Printing moved to Shaftesbury Road in 1963. In 1981 Bentley House and the Pitt Building publishing department followed together to the new, purpose-built Edinburgh Building. All the three parts of the business were now on the same site. New technologies – photolithography and then digital – were adopted.

As Chief Editor, and then University Publisher, Michael greatly expanded his editorial team. He was unassuming, but he did not suffer from false modesty. He had a good measure of his abilities, but also of his limitations. Where he lacked expertise he sought it out, always appointing on merit. He looked beyond conventional Oxbridge backgrounds; many women began their careers in his editorial department. His whole approach in publishing was one of collaboration. Besides publishing innumerable monographs, Michael presided over the launches of dozens of part works, series and new journals. His productivity almost defies belief. Two projects among many are worth special notice: his biblical scholarship and the D H Lawrence edition.

Michael was a considerable biblical scholar. Early in his career he was asked by Stanley Morison to research the history of bible printing at the British and Foreign Bible Society's library in London, founded in 1804, which possesses an enormous collection of scripture, now housed in Cambridge University Library. This led to two pioneering articles in *The Library*. Later on, Michael devised *The Cambridge History*

of *The Bible*, to which he contributed. He was a member of the Literary Panel of the *New English Bible*, which he saw through the press, and there followed more than fifty volumes of *The Cambridge Bible Commentary*.

‘For my part I am sure that the Cambridge Edition of Lawrence was the best thing, the most important thing, I ever undertook as a publisher’. Michael conceived the edition in 1972 and was intimately involved in this vast undertaking, which began in 1979 and amounts to thirty-nine volumes, including eight of the letters, plus, in addition, a three-volume biography. It was Michael who negotiated with representatives of the estate of Frieda Lawrence on the complexities of copyright and permissions, and recruited an international team of Lawrence scholars, editors and writers. *The Cambridge Edition of the Letters and Works of D H Lawrence* has been described by Christopher Pollintz as ‘...one of the greatest achievements of twentieth-century writing in English’.

For his role in this enterprise Michael was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Birmingham University in 1996.

Michael was himself an author. He wrote two books of literary criticism, *The Literature of Fidelity* and *Poetic Drama as Mirror of the Will*, and four books on D H Lawrence. In 1984 he wrote *Cambridge University Press 1584-1984* for the Press’s quatercentenary. He was the Editor of *The Cambridge Review* and contributed essays to many periodicals and wrote chapters for various collections. His *Diver and Other Poems 1948-1972* was published in 2017.

### **Michael in Kingston**

In 1953 Michael married Fay Bice Goodyear, a graduate of Newnham College and a teacher of French and Spanish. They moved to Kingston as long ago as January 1956. Michael liked to joke with visitors about the Blacks living in The White House, which used to be called the Chequers. It was indeed a former public house (the other pub in the village, The Rose and Crown, was then still open). The Blacks extended the house to accommodate their growing family: Catherine, Peter and Alison were born within four years. Michael converted the public bar into his study, retaining the wainscoting and bench seating around the walls, using this as the base for his bookshelves. Michael and Fay were familiar figures in the village: Fay riding out on her grey mare Topsy, and Michael taking an unhurried stroll along the Bourn Road before settling down to write. They both loved Kingston’s landscape and atmosphere.

Michael got to know Sybil Marshall, the Head Teacher of Kingston Primary School until its closure in 1960, and published her *An Experiment in Education* (1963): this was her first book; many followed, including the novels of her later years. Tony Atmore, one of Michael’s CUP authors specialising in African history, married Sybil

Marshall's daughter Prue, and the reception was held in the garden of The White House.

Kingston did not have a Parish Council until 1970. Before that we had that most primitive form of parochial democracy, The Parish Meeting: of this Michael was Chairman. He went on to serve as a Parish Councillor for many years.

I served with him under the Chairmanship of David Heath. Michael never spoke unless he had something useful and relevant to contribute, but whenever he did speak, everyone listened.

Michael was not a churchman; he wasn't one to subscribe to any orthodoxy, religious or secular. He described himself, perhaps tongue in cheek, as 'a pious agnostic'. The cadences of the King James bible and the Book of Common Prayer, absorbed from childhood, stayed with him all his life. He was always a generous supporter of Kingston church, one of the first to sign up to Kingston church's monthly Direct Debit funding scheme.

That Michael was well-read in English, French and German literatures is to be expected, but he had well-informed interests in all the arts: theatre, cinema, painting, studio pottery. He and Fay made friendships with local artists like Nan Youngman and Elisabeth Vellacott. I'm not sure that Michael could be described as a collector but he purchased paintings, prints and pots when he could afford to. Classical music was a life-long passion; he wrote about Wagner.

Michael was a Leavisite; his first encounter with the work of F R Leavis was at school. He published, in 1963, a reprint of *Scrutiny*, the influential quarterly edited by Leavis and L C Knights, in twenty volumes. Michael wrote '...it became my settled conviction that he [Leavis] was the greatest critic in the language and the greatest living Englishman. As long as he was alive, it was a comfort'. For Michael the critical study of literature was the defining enterprise of a humane society, profoundly a public good, something which entails value judgement and possession of a moral compass: freedom of expression and clarity of exposition are sine qua nons for any liberal democracy. Behind Leavis is the figure of Matthew Arnold of *Culture and Anarchy*. Michael believed that 'Language is illimitable in its power'. This is a serious credo, held by a very thoughtful man, now seriously threatened.

Michael saw the 'New Criticism' replaced by 'Theory', a post-modernist compound of Marxism, structuralism, deconstruction and semiotics: all these were anathemata to him: '...my objection to [the French-derived, American enforced theory] is that it is an unexamined set of assumptions and a routine set of moves assembled at second hand from a number of questionable authorities and expounded as scripture by a horde of mediocrities.' We now have critical race and gender theory, and

intersectionality; teachers in our universities are intent on ‘decolonising the curriculum’: English Literature is regarded as embodying a white supremacist, racist heteropatriarchy. Western, enlightenment rationalism is itself radically in question.

Michael should not be caricatured as a cerebral intellectual; he loved all the good things of life. He was also generous and spontaneous in his appreciation of others. I remember sitting a couple of rows behind Michael at a recital of Vivaldi’s Requiem, given by Bourn’s church choir. As soon as the performance ended he leapt up, shouted ‘Bravo!’, and led a standing ovation. When Jacqueline Eade held an exhibition in Kingston chapel, which she converted into her studio, Michael came along and immediately bought her largest oil painting – I’m not sure if he even enquired its price. He was a reader of this magazine and if he read anything that he particularly liked he would take a note – in fountain pen – round to its author straight away: I know that David Heath was gratified to receive these.

As a publisher Michael’s goals were to make works of scholarship legible and intelligible, presented in the best and most appropriate and attractive formats. But he was also aware of the profound importance of the unknowable, of the power of the imagination and the unconscious, of non- and pre-verbal forms of communication. Hence the appeal of poetry. His poem *Elegy: Trefusis Point, Mylor Churchyard*, was read by his grandson, also Michael Black, at the service last July. This is the final stanza:

And in the churchyard,  
That commonplace where all thoughts settle  
(And see, I am not grieving),  
All those heads that point towards the sunset  
Perform their lowly function modestly,  
The grass is rich with them, and generous,  
Grows thick to mask their lapses;  
And as, in brass, in stone, their  
names grow faint, and fainter,  
Clean white, shell-like,  
Sounded by the yew roots,  
Undisturbed, all fathomed now  
Betideless lie.

**Peter Reynolds**



*Michael’s 90th birthday party, with his family*

***Michael Black: Eulogy, by Catherine Black, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2022***

It's quiet here. It's one of the things mum and dad loved about Kingston and it was even quieter in the 60s and 70s, and we had a very quiet father, who in some ways went under the radar. He had grace, was thoughtful, kind, and kept his own counsel.

Dad loved us, his work, his writing, literature, art, travel and languages; films, music and opera; reading novels; good food and wine. He loved colour. In the 90s we used to watch The Clothes Show together when I was back for the weekend. He was quietly stylish and elegant. He got a kick out of taking us into town as wee ones and choosing, then buying us an outfit. He was great to go clothes shopping with as an adult, because you got an instant response.

Dad was born in a pub in Tempsford near Bedford. His parents had fled Scotland and their marriages, and stopped for a while near there, to make time for Michael's birth and also to find a place to live and work as two freelance dentists. They wanted to be as far away as possible from their joint pasts. Eventually they found a lovely house in Falmouth where Grandpa set up a surgery and they reinvented themselves.

Michael was a feminist and I think it is the influence of his Scottish mother, Frances, who was able to go to university and was also expected to have a career. In the 1930s, Granny Black drove (unusual in itself) from Falmouth to Newquay, three days a week, to her own surgery. As a child she was disabled by polio. As a working woman, his mother modelled a lot to Dad.

Growing up in Falmouth, he and his brother Peter had a record player, and spent their pocket money buying records and exploring quite widely. I remember dad saying that when he first heard music by Janacek, he was blown over backwards by its modernity and newness.

Dad's musical passion took flight when he did National Service, working in Intelligence. Recruited because he was a linguist, he went to Graz, to track down spies. While there, he would travel into Vienna, to the opera house, where he heard young singers just beginning their international careers. The music by Mozart, that Michael came into church with, was sung by those very performers he saw and heard in Vienna [Cosi fan tutti, sung by Elizabeth Shwarzkopf, Christa Ludwig and Walter Berry]. It's amazing to think that he was at the opera house the night Richard Strauss died, and he told me the orchestra wore black arm bands. This time in Austria was a massive influence on his love of opera and song. Later, we children were lucky enough to go to London occasionally to see performances. Over the decades, he amassed a huge record collection and we had music playing a lot. My musical passion and education was largely influenced by the music I heard played at home.

There were often visitors to the house and we three all had meals with whomever came to talk books and work. This opened our worldly eyes; our parents didn't see us as children to be seen and not heard.

Dad was notably self-deprecating. He went to Africa for nine weeks in the 1960s, to commission books and talk to people – to get development going in universities there. On returning to his hotel room one evening, he turned on the radio and wondered who was that prig talking. 'Oh it's me!' he said and laughed.

I remember as a young teenager asking Dad at supper what he'd been doing in London that day. He replied that he'd been with Dr Coggan (Me—'who?' Dad – 'The Archbishop of Canterbury'. Me –'Why?' Dad – 'We're sorting out the Bible'. Me – incredulity...)

And also around this time, I came home from school and saw a delivery of boxes (pre---Amazon times). I told Dad. He opened them. 'What is it?' I asked. 'Oh, I wrote a book. These are the author's copies.' We/I knew nothing: he just got on with things.

We each know our parents in very specific ways as children and then begin a new stage of our relationship with them as adults and discover people with rounded, interesting lives, separate from their children, and it's humbling. I went to Birmingham University when Dad was given an Honorary Doctorate. I found out all kinds of things about my father I didn't know. Jim Boulton of the D.H Lawrence edition, spoke at length about Dad. Of the several surprises, I discovered he was a serious Bible expert. Later, Michael gave a reciprocal speech and so typically, said 'I consider myself a very lucky man.'

He was very grounded and always positive. Until very recently, you could pop into his room and ask how he was and he would say "Well I'm here!" What strikes me now, is how he never complained. He groaned as he pulled himself upstairs – me listening to his joints clunking – but that was it.

He was always very happy just "being": sitting in the garden, drinking tea, talking or simply listening to the birds. He adored the garden he and mum created and would until recently, cut the roses and other flowers, take them in and arrange them.

Dad loved cats and we've had many cat family members. Lately, Michael was accompanied everywhere by Kitty – his spirit guide. She slept on his bed, on his head and talked an awful lot. As he went upstairs, she would be just behind him, meowing with each step. As he went up, she followed one at a time. Kitty separated off from Dad two weeks, before dying a month ahead of him. His Alzheimers had reached such a point, that when I told him Kitty was very ill, he clearly didn't understand what I was saying.



He was a good person to talk to. Friends and colleagues would gravitate to him. I did as an adult too. He gave people space and respect. You could talk about big things. He grew outwards in his own expression and his ability to speak from the heart, as he got older; more personal and direct and over the years we talked about death as well as life. About our thoughts and feelings. His own father believed in reincarnation and Dad was very quietly spiritual. I think it eased his pathway and enabled his passing.

Life is circular. Our children are our teachers, as our parents are too. He taught me to be grounded. He was quietly self-assured, but also questioned himself aloud and was not an egotist. He was a great observer of people, how they ticked and how they needed approaching.

When mum left earth, Michael hit the wall and his dementia became increasingly apparent. We were so fortunate in having the expertise and support of Bourn Surgery and in particular of Dr Redwood who honed the fine art of climbing into the house through the kitchen window, and of Dr Sharpe. Other people in the village, Charlie and Linda, Nina and Rachel (also good at the window trick) have looked out for Dad, Tracy and us. We all thank you.

In March 2019, we had the extraordinary good fortune to have Tracy arrive at The White House. Across continents, along some magical ley line, this powerful, kind, intuitive, imaginative, worldly-wise lady arrived in all of our lives. She and Dad had an amazing bond and connected with deep mutual respect and trust. I can't imagine there being a better person to understand Dad and the progress of his illness. Dad's extraordinary passing was made possible with Tracy's grace, love and strength of character.

There is a Serbian saying that for me, bottles the essence of Michael – it goes –

'Be humble, for you are made of earth; be noble, for you are made of stars'.

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## ZEBRA buses head for Cambridge

Thirty zero emission electric double decker buses are due to join the city's ever expanding fleet of cleaner vehicles early this year as part of the Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme. They will be used on the five Cambridge park-&-ride routes, as well as the Citi 2 service which links Cambridge North Station with the city centre and Addenbrooke's Hospital, maximising their time in the city centre Air Quality Management Zone, an area of Cambridge that has by far the poorest air quality across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The buses are part of a rolling bus replacement programme, replacing thirty vehicles a year across the Combined Authority area. A Department for Transport (DfT) grant represents 26% of the overall bus replacement project of over £16.5 million, with the balance being funded from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Transforming Cities Fund, Greater Cambridge Partnership's City Deal and Stagecoach.

## Twilight at The Museums: Monday 13 - Sunday 19 February 2023

Find out what's on offer this year at <https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/twilight>

Even if you cannot visit a museum, you can still enjoy some Twilight fun. See <https://museums.cam.ac.uk/twilightold> for all sort of things you can do at home.

### AIRCRAFT NOISE – A PUBLIC MEETING – THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY LITTLE GRANDSDEN VILLAGE HALL & ZOOM 7.30PM

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## Bourn School Bag Drop! Friday 10th March

Please bring unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, belts, hats, scarves, jewellery or perfumes in a tied dustbin bag to the front yard of 2 Short Street, Bourn, on the morning of Friday 10th March by 9am, or at drop off at the school gate by 9am if you have a child at Bourn School. Everything will be sent to Happy School Bag for re-use or recycling, avoiding landfill and raising much needed money for Bourn Primary School.

Please note, we cannot accept dirty, damaged or wet items, or items not listed above.

*Thank you for your support!*  
Bourn School Association



## Toads Crossing

Every year in February and March, amphibians migrate from their winter hibernation quarters to their breeding pond. In our area we find common frogs, common toads, great crested and smooth (or common) newts. Palmate newts are less common here. Frogs and newts stay close to their breeding pond, but toads may travel over a mile to get back to their pond. Please slow down when driving on warmer, wetter evenings in late winter/early spring in case there are toads crossing!

## Cambridge City Foodbank has its busiest month

Last December, 2022, Cambridge City Foodbank had the busiest month in its more than 12 year history, supporting more than 1,560 people with emergency food parcels – a 24 per cent increase on December 2021. It finished off a year in which more than 137 tonnes of food were distributed to 13,580 people, nearly 4 out of every 10 of whom were children. Forecasts suggest that high levels of demand will continue, with historical demand for food banks in January often high.

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	Emergencies 01954 719313
<b>Electricity</b> (emergency)	0800 3163 105
<b>Health-Child &amp; Family Team</b> (Community Health Office)	
Comberton Road, Toft	01223 264460
<b>Indian</b> , The Hoops Gt.Eversden	01223 264443
<b>Italian</b> , The Pergola, Harlton	01223 260005
<b>Jetlink</b> (to Stansted, Heathrow, Luton, Gatwick)	08705 747757
<b>Magazine Editor</b> (Miki Ellar)	01223 262887
<b>National Rail Enquiries</b>	08457 484950
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> (Peter Stokes)	01223 262207
<b>NHS 24hr health Advice Line</b> (talk to a nurse/doctor)	111
<b>Parish Council Chairman</b> (Sue Dagleish)	07799 602103
<b>Parish Council Clerk</b> (Katie Vickers)	01223 678613/07779 015975
<b>Park and Ride</b>	01223 845561
<b>Police non-emergency (our PCSO)</b>	101
<b>Road repair</b>	01223 833717
<b>Rosie Maternity Hospital</b>	01223 217617
<b>Samaritans</b>	01223 364455
<b>SC District Council</b> (Local Councillor Tumi Hawkins)	01954 210840
<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	01954 713000
<b>Stagecoach</b> (Cambus) information 8am to 8pm	0870 6082608
<b>Stansted Airport</b>	0870 0000303
<b>Streetlight failure reporting</b>	0800 7838247