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CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS

May 2021

Looking Forward ...

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PASTORAL LETTER MAY 2021

Jesus said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
(St Matthew, Chapter 20, verses 26-28, NRSV)

As I write this, we are approaching the day that the Church sets aside to remember St George, the Patron Saint of England. The special prayer used to celebrate his life includes these words, 'Give us the same faith as St George and power of love that we who rejoice in Christ's triumphs may come to share with him the fulness of resurrection.' I'm really taken with the phrase, *the power of love*. St George, who was killed because of his Christian faith, was motivated to speak out for Christ, and to tackle the evils around him, by the *power of love* that he had found in Jesus Christ. He brought that love alive in how he lived his life.

As well as St George's day approaching, it's only a little over a week since we learned of the death of His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. In Prince Philip, we have a modern day and very recent example of another person who was motivated by, and lived his life according to, the *power of love* – love for God, love for this kingdom, and love for his wife, who also happened to be his Sovereign, just as she is ours. It is widely acknowledged that Prince Philip was destined for a stellar military career, which he sacrificed so that he could support, in ways that we will never fully know, and can only begin to imagine, Her Majesty The Queen – always walking a few steps behind her; recognising, as he once told his Private Secretary, that his first, second and last job was never to let down The Queen.

This all put me in mind of the words at the start of my letter, taken from St Matthew's Gospel. In those moving and stirring words, Jesus reminded his hearers then, and reminds us, his hearers now, that he came 'not to be served, but to serve others and give his life as a ransom for many.'

Both St George and Prince Philip were inspired by Christ's teaching and example, and by the *power of love*.

What about us? What motivates you? What motivates me? As we reflect on the life and witness of St George, on the example of sacrificial service that we saw in Prince Philip, on the powerful and challenging words spoken by Christ, we cannot fail to be challenged. Dare we allow ourselves to be truly motivated and transformed, by the *power of love?* I pray so.

In the examples of St George, Prince Philip and, above all else, of Jesus Christ, we could have no finer examples to inspire and motivate us.

With love,
Scott

Rev Scott Watts Team Vicar

The Reverend Scott Watts,
Rector, The Vicarage, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Evesham, WR11 7PP Tel: 01386 834946
Email: revscottwatts@yahoo.com

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Recent Sightings

"When April steps aside for May,
like diamonds all the raindrops glisten;
Fresh violets open each day; to some new bird each day we listen"
Lucy Larcom

Fingers crossed that May sees us reunited with our scimitar-winged village swifts following their 7000 mile long haul flight back from sub-Saharan Africa. Six village nesting sites were identified and recorded on a national swift survey last summer.

Swallows are already arriving having averaged 200 miles a day for six weeks to reach us. And house martins hopefully beginning to take up residence in their previous Willersey nest sites.

Other village reports include a waterside kingfisher (Betty); a tree creeper (Adine); red kites (Derek & Helen, Richard); nesting kestrels (Mike, Pete, Maggie); first swallows noted (Robert, Mike, Janice); green finches (Pete B); fox sightings (Mary, Heather & Ian); bats (Pete); and hedgehogs have already been braving cool nights to commence feeding and in some instances noisy snuffling courtship - recorded by Shirley & Mike, Alan, Ella and Sandra.

If you'd like to contribute to Nature Box or report interesting local sightings please speak to or email Bob Topp at **bob.topp@btinternet.com**

General Knowledge Quiz

1. What is the collective noun for a group of Bishops?
2. Who was the 2nd President of the USA?
3. What is the name of the scale used to define the comparative heat of Chillies?
4. What is a Plimsoll Line?
5. What is the birthstone for December?
6. Which US president's portrait is on a US $20 bill?
7. What is opthalmophobia?
8. What is kerning?
9. Who were the Three Wise Men?
10. What are the six noble gases?
11. What is the top weight, in pounds, for a welterweight boxer?
12. At what sound level do you generally risk permanent hearing damage?
13. In naval timekeeping, when is the First Dog Watch?
14. What is the weight of a Biblical Schekel?
15. Who played Doctor Who from 1963 to 1966?
16. pH is a measure of acidity and alkalinity, but what do the letters stand for?
17. What cooking temperature is Gas Mark 6 equal to?
18. How long does a "chukka" last in Polo?
19. The chemical name for a "Titin Protein" found in humans is reputedly the longest word in the English language. How many letters does it have?
20. Andrew Marr has written a book subtitled "a short history of journalism". What is its title?
21. By what nickname was Mildred Gillars (1900-1988) better known as?
22. In what year did the first crew arrive on the International Space Station?
23. When did Cuba gain its independence from Spain?
24. Name the first French town liberated on D Day?
25. What was James Bond's car in the "Doctor No" film?

See page 17 for answers

May

The unexpected warmth
of early passionate sunshine
is to be truly appreciated.
Hawthorn blossom fills the air
with its fragrant sweet perfume.
Sensually evocative gusts of wind
whistle through the tall grasses
whilst joyful bluebells giddily nod their heads
in orchards and woodlands
where ferns, clover and daisies
also flourish amongst the grassy
areas.

And between the roots of knarled
trees
And beside sandstone boulders
Where fox cubs gambol
Delightful primoses, cowslips and
celandine seek recognition.

Ramblers both young and old
Admire the rural scene
As they purposefully walk onwards
Whilst listening to the sound
Of wood pigeon, blackbird and nightingale.

A cuckoo makes his presence felt
By calling from a branch in an oak tree. *Ruth Dawson*

Thank you to our advertisers who are supporting the Willersey News. If you wish to advertise in our magazine please contact Alan Gittings on 01 386 858601 or email agittings@talk21.com .

Children's Corner

Word search – Rogation Sunday

Solution Page 18

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P R O C E S S E D E O O
A D R U O A S K I N G P
Y A M S E T T P G S N S

Sunday Asking Processed Prayer
May Blessing Cornfields Cross
Rogation Seed Spring Boundaries
Beat Land Earthquake Crops
Bounds Romans Storm Harvest
Maps

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today? K.S.

Village Events

Saint Peter's Patronal Festival, June 2021

Our Patron Saint's festival falls on Saturday 26 June, this year. This is a few days after the Government is scheduled to lift the remaining restrictions on normal life. We will celebrate this and our Festival of Saint Peter with:

- Teas in the church on Saturday and Sunday (26 & 27 June);
- An organ recital in Saint Peter's by the brilliant Richard Stephens, Director of Music, Saint James, Chipping Campden on the Saturday evening; and
- A Village Flower Festival in church over that weekend, featuring floral arrangements by organisations in the Parish.

Any organisation which would like to contribute an arrangement to the flower festival, please contact Tini Owens (via tiniowens@hotmail.co.uk or 842907).

Village Fete, August 2021

There will be a fete on Bank Holiday Monday, 30th August. This will feature stalls on the Greens as usual and the ever-popular Fun Dog Show.

A big thank you to everyone who sent messages to myself and Mum (Mildred) on our recent encounters with Oxford and Gloucester hospitals. We have both been rather lucky with the outcomes I'm glad to report.
I've said it before but you really do appreciate being part of this wonderful village, with so many kind people.
Our thanks, Mildred and Jackie.

Don't throw away your old garden plastic or terracotta plant pots. Telephone Clive on 853324 or 07884478871 and I will collect them for re-use. Thank you.

Annual Parish Meeting

By law the Annual Parish Meeting must be held in May. Unfortunately, this year Covid restrictions will still be in place affecting public gatherings. Therefore the Parish Council are making the following arrangements.
The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 24th May and, in order to comply with Covid Regulations, attendance will be limited to members of the Parish Council plus 21 residents.

If you wish to attend please could you inform the Parish Clerk by Sunday 16th May. If you are unable to attend but wish to ask a question or make a comment, please could you also contact the Clerk by Sunday 16th May.
Email: willerseyparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Collin Lane Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)

The Parish Council have been concerned for some time by the hazard posed by the Collin Lane Buildouts. Numerous representations to Gloucestershire Highways have been made and the support of our District and County Councillors has been enlisted, but it has not been possible persuade Highways to address what we all know to be an unsafe scheme.

Therefore in an attempt to improve safety, the Council has decided to exercise its powers to purchase and install a VAS speed warning sign which has been positioned at the buildouts and entrance to the village.

We will continue to press for a review of the safety of the buildouts but in the meantime hope that this will reduce the dangers to residents.
The equipment records speed data and if successful the Council will consider the installation of further VAS on other approach roads to the village.

Nature Box

House Sparrows

Incessantly chirping house sparrows are still the soundtrack to our village life - the bird that loves company and has seemingly lived alongside us for always.

Once incredibly common - in both urban and rural settings - we hardly gave then a second glance. But now numbers have plummeted and in some urban areas including much of London - 'Me old cockney sparrow' - has completely vanished. Their loss is another warning that we should never take anything in the natural world for granted.

The reasons for this loss are complex: lack of suitable spaces to nest; plastic gutter combs blocking bird access under roof tiles; dearth of insects for their young; disappearance of winter stubble and not much grain spilt with greater farming efficiency these days; and in many urban settings hedgerows and suitable gardens a thing of the past.

Fortunately Willersey is still blessed with many traditional gardens with dense hedges, and house sparrows still seem to be doing okay. They particularly prefer roof gutters with easy access to nest under the tiles as they favour hot sites to raise their young. Badsey Lane, Collin Lane and Sawpit Green are three particular hot spots amongst others in the village where the habitat is still making space for nature.

So all is not lost. Listen out for them around the village. Long may we help where we can and continue to enjoy

these noisy and bustling Cheeky Chappies who share this fragile world that we all inhabit.

If you'd like to contribute to Nature Box or report interesting local sightings please speak to or email Bob Topp at **bob.topp@btinternet.com**

Saint Peter's Church Services in May

Sunday	**2**	**10:00am**	**Morning Prayer**
Sunday	**9**	**9:00am**	**Holy Communion** Book of Common Prayer
Sunday	**16**	**11:00am**	**Family Rogationtide Service**
Sunday	**23**	**10:00am**	**Morning Prayer**
Sunday	**30**	**10:00am**	**Holy Communion**

Mid-week Holy Communion: 11am every Wednesday.

Saint Peter's Patronal Festival in June

This year our Parish's Patron Saint's day falls on Saturday 26 June. This will be a few days after the scheduled full relaxation of lockdown restrictions and so, we intend to recognise and celebrate the Festival with an organ recital on the evening of Saturday 26th June, to which all parishioners will be invited, a special service for Saint Peter on the Sunday morning and by holding a flower festival in Saint Peter's Church over the whole weekend, as we have in a number of previous years.

Saint Peter's Church is open, every day.

Please go in to pray, be in the presence of God or just enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our beautiful church which has been there for our parishioners for centuries, especially in the most challenging times.

Thank you to our team on the unlocking & locking roster: Gillian, Jennie, Elizabeth, Tom and Liz.

Worship via Skype or Zoom with Revd Scott and/or Kevin. The latest details will be on **www.**grumball.com with a link and service sheet

St Peter's Church Cleaning

Week ending

May 8th and May 15th	Annie Payne and Sue Clark
May 22nd and May 29th	Ann Embury & Gillian Beale

St Peter's Brass Cleaning

Week ending

May 8th and May 15th	Jennie and Peter Bond
May 22nd and May 29th	Mal Jelfs and Jackie Jordan

The key for the vestry to access cleaning materials can be collected from "The Bel Inn" or Gillian Beale, Florizel, Lower Green 01386 852958. Thank you for keeping our Church looking clean and cared for.

Family Service at St Peter's

Our April Family Service focussed on St George, the patron Saint of England. His legend tells of him slaying a dragon and rescuing the King's daughter.

George was a man of duty with a strong Christian faith. Following the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh so recently his qualities of duty and faithfulness were paralleled by St George.

The parable of the Good Samaritan read by Pat, showed us compassion for our neighbour, but from an unlikely source. Jesus said "Who is your neighbour?"

Our hymns reflected duty, honour and appreciation of all things around us. We sang "Jerusalem", "I vow to thee my Country" and "How great thou Art". A real thought provoking service. Our next Family Service will be on Sunday May 16th at 11am. Hope you can join us.

Willersey Amateur Horticultural and Craft Show

After much thought and consideration, the Committee have decided that there will be no Horticultural Show this year in the Village Hall. The decision was based on Covid 19 uncertainties and restrictions in enclosed spaces.

Hope to see everyone back supporting the Show next year.
Horticultural Committee

POST LOCKDOWN
(Fingers Crossed!)

All good news here at the WI as we can at long last start to make plans for life after lockdown.
Activities have been in short supply recently with some postponed until 2022. On 10th May we were to have a talk on the 'History of the WI' and on the 22nd May our Coffee Morning was to be held but these have now been cancelled. However we are delighted to say that our programme resumes again in June with our first trip on the 16th to Sezincote Gardens followed by tea at the Cotswold Food Store. Our fundraising has been curtailed this year but we hope to play catch up in the months to come with a number of planned events.

Linda's 'Willersey Walking Train' has resumed service, initially with the 6 original passengers. Numbers can increase as restrictions decrease.
We love the antics of the Village Gnome. The little personage travels around the village with the help of the Mystery Gnome Guardian, so whoever you are thank you for providing us with this fun – it's just the medicine we all need.

Although we haven't met recently we are delighted that 3 new members have joined us, so our numbers increase despite Covid trying to scupper us all.
We now look forward to the Village Hall reopening in all it's grandeur so that we can resume all our meetings and then get 'Back to Business'
For anyone who is not a member but would like to have any details of our activities please contact Lizzie 853443 or Mal 858351

It's Show Time

June Scarecrow Trail

Yes it's soon to be that time again. Like last year our Scarecrow Trail will coincide with the Patronal Festival weekend along with the opening of the sparkling revamped village hall in late June.

This year's theme is 'SHOW TIME'

So scarecrows that take

- *music making*
- *dance*
- *sport*
- *cinema/theatre*

. *or other activities that showcase talents.*

Twenty-five scarecrows maintained this lovely Willersey tradition last year. Many of these are recorded on the Willersey website: willersey.org. For those who may be new to the village and fancy joining in please check them out. Come on in the water's fine; and what's the worst that could happen?

There will be a further update about the arrangements in the June edition. But now is a good time to mentally commit to taking part and mulling over the opportunities in this year's theme.

Bob Topp

"Welcome to Willersey" Booklet

The "Welcome to Willersey" booklet has been updated and reprinted. If you know of anyone or you who are new to the village and have not received a copy please get in touch.

Email willerseynews@gmail.com or telephone 858628 or 858601. This free booklet contains local area information and contact details of organisations in the Village.

THE JUNE 2021 CHURCH & VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the next news must be received by Monday **17th May** unless otherwise notified. Please send in any items of interest or notice of forthcoming events. Newsletter creation will start early in the morning of the next day, the 18th. Email them to willerseynews@gmail.com or phone Alan 858601 or Bill 858628, Thank you.
The Church and Village News is now published on the Internet no later than one week after the paper edition is delivered. You can find it at.
www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm
Comments on the Newsletter are always welcomed. Please email them to willerseynews@gmail.com
For later updates to any Church and Village News do look on our
Willersey Cotswolds Facebook page or on www.willersey.org

The Community Garden at the Village Hall.

We hope to start the project soon, there are still things to be decided. No decision on the Phone Box (book exchange) as yet! Thank you to everyone who has supported the idea of having it in the new garden.
We are still trying to put funding in place, which as you can imagine is difficult. We decided to do the project properly so it will last. This means the digging out etc must be done by the professionals. We thank everyone who has promised trees, shrubs and donations towards the cost. Our thanks to Stefan for the plants from his old garden. He's going all posh!

We will be holding a Cake Market on the day of the Election, May 6th from 10.30 in the car park, please buy a cake, make a donation. Cakes needed please. Please bring them on the day. We hope to raise money for a Tree Seat, Hose Pipe and other items. Your support would be fantastic.
There will be a plan of the Garden on the Village Hall notice board.
Thank you all for the great support. Can't wait to get cracking.

Ann and Jackie.

Willersey Covid-19 Community Support Group

If you are housebound, in isolation and require assistance during this difficult time, please call our numbers below, where your call will be directed to a local volunteer in the Parish.

Anthony Lishman on 07595 348506 or
Robert McNeil-Wilson on 07979 590826
leaving a message, if necessary, including
your name, address and phone number
and we will respond rapidly.

For medical assistance still call 111 or for emergencies 999. Please also contact us, confidentially, if you have concerns about any neighbours who may require assistance. Phone as above, or email: willerseycovid19@gmail.com

General Knowledge Quiz (on page 4) Answers

1. A Bench or Episcopate
2. John Adams
3. The Scoville scale
4. Line on ships hull, above waterline
5. Blue Zircon or Blue Topaz
6. Andrew Jackson
7. Fear of being stared at
8. Spacing between letters in typography, e.g. when capital T overhangs an adjacent o. (To)
9. Melchior, Caspar & Balthazar
10. Helium, Neon, Argon, Krypton, Xenon & Radon
11. 147 lbs
12. 120 decibels
13. 16.00 to 18.00 hours
14. 14.1 grammes or half an ounce
15. William Hartnell
16. Potential of Hydrogen
17. 200 degrees C
18. Seven minutes
19. 189,819 letters
20. "My Trade"
21. "Axis Sally"
22. 2000
23. 1902
24. Sainte-Mere-Eglise
25. Sunbeam Alpine

Mike Robinson

Notice of Elections Thursday 6th May 2021

Key dates
If you are on the electoral role you are registered to vote.

The following elections are taking place:

- Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire
- Gloucestershire County Council - Campden Vale Division Councillor

There are four candidates for the Gloucestershire CC election and five for the PCC election. You have a first and second choice in the PCC election. Votes with just a second choice will not count. Those with just a first choice will.

For more information visit www.willersey.org/election21.htm

OLIVE TUCKEY

Everyone in Willersey who knew her will be sorry to hear of the death of Olive on 29th March aged 92 years.

Olive and her husband Doug came to live in Collin Lane over thirty years ago. They both enjoyed travelling and the garden and were interested in village activities. For a few years Olive became Deputy Editor of the Church and Village News helping Jean Harris, only giving up when computers were used instead of typewriters.

After Doug died in 2011, Olive's main interest became the garden although she did enjoy coach holidays in the United Kingdom. She enjoyed reading and was regularly seen walking up to the local shop for her newspaper until it closed in October 2020.
For her 90th Birthday in May 2018 Olive's friends took her for a lovely day out to Marlborough in Wiltshire. She also celebrated with a party at her home in Collin Lane with friends.

After a fall in late 2020 she was unable to stay in her home and became resident in a Nursing home in Worcester where she died on Monday 29th March. She will be very much missed by her friends and neighbours.

Wordsearch solution from page 6

"After a year of working from home, Anthony will seize any opportunity to put on a suit"

Willersey Methodists May 2021

The mornings, first thing, are still beautiful but I'm not sure whether our plum blossom will last its course, or will we lose it in the frosts? Have you noticed how little rain we're having this Spring. I know we grumble about rain but our gardens do need it and it will be 'fruit growing time' soon. /

We've started having more 'formal' services on a Sunday. They're not very long – so if you have 30 minutes to spare we can fit you in!! We do have discussion times and those are quite good. They are interesting as one topic leads on to another. So far there hasn't been a fight! It has all been in good humour.

We are intending to have a 'Plant' stall in our garden at the front – probably on a weekly basis. We have lots of plants that are spreading and taking over and the money (we thought £1 for about 3 bulbs/roots) would help our church recover after this pandemic and lack of services. We hope you'll see the signs and support us. If you have any plants you'd like to give us to sell, then call and let us know. (25 Collin Close, 853306)

Croquet will start again in May and Vick has offered to help with the mowing, which is wonderful! Thank you Vick! Hope I'm spelling it correctly, and croquet gets going really well this year. It is a good sport and, in the past, the meetings have been monthly, however it has been suggested we try fortnightly. If you're interested, come along to our first meeting on Wednesday May 5th afternoon from 2.30 onwards?! (The first Wednesday in the month)

Hope to see everyone in the sunshine and, of course, wearing summer clothes, very soon.

Penny (Ingles) 853306

PUBLIC NOTICES MAY 2021

MONDAY BINS KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS.

The next dates for all bins are **Mon 3rd, Mon 17th & Mon 31st May 2021**
Please put all bins and bags out by 7.00am. The Waste Hotline is 01285 623123.
https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/check-your-collection-day/
Please note that the situation on these can change at any time if say the weather is bad. Just leave your bins out for later collection.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Office is currently closed. Please e-mail
willerseyparishcouncil@btinternet.com

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL

Currently closed. Result of Hall refurbishment and Coronavirus outbreak. Planned June opening.

METHODIST COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE

Currently closed. Tel: Penny Ingles 01386 853306.

The **MOBILE POST OFFICE**

Willersey on Friday at The Bell Inn 12:45 to 14:45**.** **F**or Lloyds customers, their Mobile Bank visits Broadway alternate Fridays 10:00 to 14:30. **Not with Lloyds? – use the Co-Op Post Office or the Mobile Post Office in Willersey.**

NEAREST LIBRARY The nearest library is in Broadway.
Open Mon & Wed, 10am - 2pm. 01905 822722

COTSWOLD VOLUNTEERS NORTH

Anybody who wishes to have transport for hospital and medical appointments should ring the CVN Help Centre: 01608 651415. This telephone is manned from 09:30-15:30 Monday to Friday. At other times there is an Answerphone.

TRAVEL SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS

National Rail Enquiries	08457 48 49 50 or 03457 48 49 50
National Bus Traveline	0871 2002233
Hedgehog	01386 841849
N. N. Cresswell to Evesham	01386 48655 for route R4
Johnsons to Stratford-upon-Avon	01564 797000 for route 1
Pulhams Coaches to Cheltenham	01451 820369 for route 606

Bus timetables for Gloucestershire are at www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/ and on the Willersey website at www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus

Contact numbers for Breakdown of Services & Police

Electric Power Faults - 0800 328 1111 or 105. Gas Emergency – 0800 111 999
Floodline – 0845 988 1188. Severn Trent. Sewage – 08007 834444
Thames Water - Water Supply – 0800 980 8800
Police – Telephone 101 www.gloucestershire.police.uk
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Martin, at Martin Grinnell Funeral Services in Evesham's Bewdley Street, has almost 30 years' experience of helping and guiding bereaved families from in and around the Evesham area.

"As independent funeral directors, we are able to do what the families require and provide funerals bespoke to their needs," explains Martin.

"We also offer woodland burials, religious and non religious services and cremation only services, when people don't require any type of service."

The team offers pre paid funeral plans, which are becoming ever more popular, as well as a choice of hearse. Requests have included a motor bike, Land Rover and a horse drawn hearse.

"Times have changed a lot with many differing wish-lists for marking a loved one's passing. That's why we offer so many different options," adds Martin.

He and his team are hand for support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"It has been a privilege to have served so many families over the years and we are honoured to continue to continue that service."

SUPPLIED Photo : Chris Brown

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