

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, UPSHIRE EN9 3SN

NEWSLETTER

June 2026



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This Newsletter is free: donations to Lyn Wackett. Copy date for July Newsletter: 14th June

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England website and also on the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

SERVICES AND DIARY FOR JUNE

Saturday 6th 3pm-4pm SEEDLINGS meet in the church with picnic in churchyard (weather permitting) all welcome to join us

Sunday 7th First Sunday after Trinity
9.15 am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Hosea 5:15 - 6:6 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sunday 14th Second Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Exodus 19:2-8a Matthew 9:35 – 10:8 (9-23)

2.30-4.30pm AFTERNOON TEAS

Wednesday 17th 11.30am for 12 noon COMMUNITY LUNCH in church. 07899 846711 to book, Please let us know if you have to cancel

Sunday 21st Third Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-13 Matthew 10:34-39

Sunday 28th Fourth Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Jeremiah 28:5-9 Matthew 10:40-end

2.30-4.30pm AFTERNOON TEAS

Saturday 4th July 3-4pm SEEDLINGS meet in the church

Sunday 5th Fifth Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Zechariah 9:9-12 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end

CHURCH FLOWERS

Each month we can create memorial dedications, wedding, anniversary or special occasion flowers - Contact Kate Dale email: dalek16@btinternet.com

THE VICAR WRITES

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the publication of the Tyndale New Testament in 1526. William Tyndale (1494–1536) was the first person to translate the New Testament into English directly from the original Greek, producing what is now known as the *Tyndale New Testament*. This was a landmark achievement. Not only did it open up the reading of the Bible to a much wider audience, it also shaped many of the translations that followed, right up to the present day.

Tyndale's work, however, came at great personal cost. At a time when translating the Bible into the language of ordinary people was forbidden, he was forced to live in exile in Europe. Eventually, he was betrayed, imprisoned, and executed in Belgium in 1536.

He is remembered, by many, as a martyr who gave his life to ensure access to God's word for all. And if that were not enough, he is also considered one of the key figures in shaping and influencing the English language. According to Donald Coggan, the 101st Archbishop of Canterbury, Tyndale is "the man who more than Shakespeare even or Bunyan has moulded and enriched our language."

In translating the Bible, Tyndale coined many new words and introduced numerous biblical phrases that remain familiar today.

Words such as *Passover* (as the name for the Jewish festival Pesach), *scapegoat*, *atonement*, and the use of *trespass* in the Lord's Prayer were all created or popularised by him.

Phrases such as "Let there be light", "sign of the times", "filthy lucre", "blessed are the peacemakers", "you reap what you sow", and "baptism of fire", to name but a few, first came from his pen.

William Tyndale has given us a remarkable legacy.

He explained his reason for translating the Bible as being to "cause a boy that driveth the plough to know more scripture than the clergy of the day." In other words, he placed the word of God into the hands of ordinary people — and we have never looked back.

As of 2026, the Bible has been translated in full into more than 796 languages, with the New Testament available in over 1,824 languages, and portions of Scripture translated into more than 1,500 additional languages. This means that at least some part of the Bible is now accessible in over 4,000 languages worldwide.

It remains the bestselling book of all time and has brought peace and solace to generations of ordinary people.

Only three copies of the original 1526 Tyndale New Testament are known to have survived, two of which are located here in Britain. One is housed in the library of St Paul's Cathedral in London.

If you would like to see it, a major new exhibition on Tyndale's life and work is due to open at St Paul's this summer.

A Dangerous Calling: 500 Years of William Tyndale's New Testament will run from 5 June 2026 until February 2027, telling the extraordinary story of one of the smallest — yet most dangerous — books in English history, 500 years on from its publication.

More details are available on the St Paul's Cathedral website.

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Rev'd Jane Yeadon

Team Vicar St Thomas, Upshire and Holy Innocents, High Beech

Benefice Youth Missioner

Deanery Vocations Advisor - Epping Forest and Ongar

MB: 07960 604416

Monday is my rest day

PRAYER REQUESTS

You are invited to offer names to be added to our prayer diary to remember those who are unwell or unhappy. First names only are required as God will know who we are praying for.

Contact Lyn Wackett on 01992 711573 or email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk

This month we pray for Laura, Alan & Pam, Lesley, Charlie & John, Anne, Pam & John, Barbara, Vernon, Mal, Sue, Ann & Cyril, Rosalind, Maureen, Carol & George, Terry, Jackie, Andrea & her Mum & Dad, Nina, Carmel & the Price family, Nigel, Lola, Pearl, Susan & Alan, Jackie & Linda, Graham, Christine, Chris, Izzie, Pennie, Steve, Dan, Kevin, Gina, Sue & Rosemary.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEAS

Our season of Sunday Afternoon Teas continue on Sundays 14th and 28th June, 2.30-4.30pm, and each 2nd and 4th Sunday until the end of September. Come and sit in our lovely little church or enjoy the views over London and the Lea Valley whilst sitting in the churchyard and spend a friendly afternoon at St Thomas'. Dogs on leads welcome.

St Thomas Church, Upshire Bank details
St Thomas Church Upshire PCC
HSBC Bank Sort Code 40 45 20 Account number 00724505
Any queries regarding setting up a Standing Order, giving a donation to the church, Gift Aid or about joining the Parish Giving Scheme please contact our Treasurer, Ruth Moore on 07852 668633
Ruth4366@gmail.com
If you are able to Gift Aid donations this increases your gift without any extra cost to yourself.



ST THOMAS' SEEDLINGS

1st Saturdays of each month (unless otherwise stated)

A free Stay and Play church group for children and those who care for them
Join us Saturdays 3-4pm for messy craft, play, songs and stories along with a welcome cuppa
St Thomas' Church, Horseshoe Hill, Upshire, EN9 3SS



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Our mailing list to receive the electronic version of the Newsletter is now in excess of 100 participants so if you are not one of those and wish to be included please send your email address to Kate at dalek16@btinternet.com or phone 02085083942. We are looking to reduce our 'paper footprint' for climate change by printing fewer copies – your contribution will help. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Thank you to the people who have sent in articles to be included in the Newsletter. Please keep them coming! Anything: maybe a poem you have written, what you have been doing in the garden, childhood memories, something that happened to make you smile, it all makes for interesting reading.

ANAGRAM Unscramble this 10 letter anagram: LONGTHRIFTY. The answer can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH COMMUNITY LUNCHEES 2026
3rd Wednesdays, 11.30 for 12noon start

17th June, 15th July, 19th August, 16th September, 21st October,
11th November (a week earlier than usual), 2nd December (Christmas Lunch)
If after booking you are unable to come, please phone to cancel,
we can then offer a place to people on the waiting list.

COPPER JAR

Our thanks to everyone who donated their coppers and small change to Water Aid via the copper jar, raising £30 in the jar and a generous 50/50 Club winner donation of £35, bringing the total to £65.

COMING UP AT ST THOMAS':

Monthly Community Lunches (see separate article)

Sunday Afternoon Teas 2nd & 4th Sundays 2.30-4.30pm

Sunday 26th July: Summer Fayre & Teas 1.30-4.30pm

Saturday 19th September: Macmillan Coffee Morning 10.30am-2.00pm

Sunday 27th September: Harvest and last Sunday of Afternoon Teas 2.30-4.30pm Service at 4.00pm

Saturday 17th October: Quiz Night 6.30 for 7.00pm

Saturday 21st November: Christmas Fayre in Village Hall 10.30am-2.00pm

Sunday 13th December: Brass Band Christmas Concert 3.00 for 3.30 start

GROWERS CORNER

The months are racing through and we have now made it to the half way point. The longest day will soon be upon us. It is lovely to see the roses blooming as well the lavenders and peonies. The borders are in their peak summer colour.

As much as I love this time of year, it comes with sadness. It will be two years since we said our goodbye to our dear Dad. (Stephen Brown) at the end of the month. We miss him dearly and is forever in our thoughts and hearts.

Update on the plots:

It's been a bit topsy turvy... the weather has been playing havoc. The temperature ranges have been huge and we had a very late May frost. It clipped the tops of potatoes, grapevines and some of the overwintered Dahlias. Frustrating as they were doing well let's hope they make a recovery.

We've had lots of visitors to plot which has been nice and a good reason to stop weeding and have a brew. I also put myself forward for photographer working with the National Allotment Society to visit the plot. Not sure what will come of it, so watch this space.

We have a lot of planting out to do. So this will keep us busy this month.

June to do:

- Regularly harvest crops such as peas, lettuce and radish
- Plant out tender crops like beans, courgettes and tomatoes
- Keep an eye for pests
- Harvest summer fruits such strawberries, currants and gooseberries
- Regularly feed plants and crops

June planting/sowings:

- Keep up with successional sowings of quick crops like salads, radish and carrots

June Flowers/shrubs/trees

- sow annuals like cosmos, sunflowers and zinnias
- Stake perennials to prevent them falling over
- If you haven't already you plant out dahlias. Keep an eye out for slugs and snails.
- Deadhead roses and other flowering plants
- Keep up the watering.

Tip: Use water butts as much as possible and water your patio perennials and baskets well in hot weather.

"It was June, and the world smelled of roses" Maud Hart Lovelace.

Happy Gardening

Love Louise.

It might surprise you to know that slugs have teeth. It may shock you more to find out how many. Some slugs are known to have up to 27,000 teeth, while garden slugs typically have up to 8,000. These are arranged on a ribbon-like structure, allowing them to break down food much like a cheese grater.

UPSHIRE MOTHERS' UNION

In April we welcomed Gillian Hambelton, a Chelmsford MU Trustee, for a 150th Celebratory visit and talk. Gillian started by saying she had been reading the history of our own branch and found it very interesting and how well we have done to be in our 135th year.

As a child Gillian went to Sunday School, then joined the Girls Brigade. She started to read the bible at 15. That is when she became a Christian. She has tried to install her values into her children and grandchildren. She became a Mothers Union Branch Leader following her retirement from work. Recently she became a Trustee.

Gillian then gave a timeline overview of the Mothers' Union from being founded by Mary Sumner, in 1876 in the parish of Old Alresford, near Winchester. She was inspired following the birth of her first grandchild, she wanted to create an organisation that would bring the heart of God into families, and build a network that would support mothers as they raised their children, focusing on transforming lives by supporting marriage and family life through prayer, community action, and advocacy.

In 1885, at a time when it was still unheard of for women to speak to large audiences, Mary Sumner was invited by the presiding Bishop to speak to a packed church congress session for women in Portsmouth. It inspired some of the women to start their own branch.

In 1886 the first overseas branch was formed in Christchurch, New Zealand, followed by Canada (1888), India (1889) and Australia (1892).

In 1897 First UK branch outside England was formed in Ireland (Raheny).

In 1897 Mothers' Union received royal patronage, Queen Victoria became a Royal Patron. From 1900 onwards, Mothers Union members started to campaign for law changes on issues of key importance, i.e. to stop children from collecting alcohol from public houses for their families, to eradicate child poverty and abuse, for the age of marriage for girls to be raised from 12 to 16 (1929), in later years for men's magazines to be moved to the top shelves, underwear advertisements to be removed from bus shelters and public places.

In 1909 Mothers' Union becomes Britain's largest voluntary organisation for women, membership had grown to over 316,000 and by 1939 it had reach over 500,000.

In 1926 Mothers' Union was granted a Royal charter. In 1952 Queen Elizabeth II became a Royal Patron.

In 1965 the Away From It All holiday scheme for disadvantaged families was launched.

In 1996 at least 125 members become priests in the Church of England following the approval of the Ordination of women.

In 2000 the Literacy and Development Programme was launched.

In 2005 Mothers' Union joined the Jubilee Debt Campaign calling for debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

In 2010 Mothers' Union research into the inappropriate commercialisation of children in media and marketing was launched.

In 2015 The English for Women project was setup by Heike Prentice, an Ordinand at Chelmsford Cathedral, after a chance meeting with a family from Afghanistan.

In 2023 the RISE UP Campaign was launched.

In 2025, Sophie, the Duchess of Edinburgh became a Royal Patron.

In 2026 Mothers' Union celebrate 150 years in operation.

The spiritual rationale for 150th year is Matthew – the ideal is to let light shine into dark places to become light. Mothers Union wants to shine lights this year.

Mother's Union started as a Christian group to support mothers and families and that remains at the core of their work and guiding principles. There are now over 4 million members worldwide and you can become a member whoever you are, you don't have to have children, be married, be a woman or be a churchgoer. If interested, you are welcome to come along to one of our meetings.

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

There is no meeting in June.

On June 6th, we are having a 150th celebratory picnic with the Seedlings group at the church. You are welcome to join us, tea, coffee, cake and sandwiches will be available, there is no charge but a donation to Mothers' Union would be appreciated. You are welcome to bring along food to share if you would like too, but not compulsory.

SHOEBOXES

Don't forget to keep saving your shoeboxes ready for them to be covered and filled with useful items for needy people in Ukraine and eastern Europe. Also keep watching out for bargains and special offers on items to go in the boxes. Boxes and goodies can be left with Lyn at 94 Upshire Road.

CRAFT MARKET

This next Craft Market and Table Top Sale in Waltham Abbey Town Hall will be on Tuesday 2nd June, and the first Tuesday of each month until December. 10.00am – 2.00pm. Admission free – also free tea/coffee.

STAMPS

Please continue to save your postage stamps and foreign or out of circulation coins as the charities we support can use them to raise funds. At present we collect the coins for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and The British Legion and stamps for British Heart Foundation. Stamps and coins can be left with Lyn & Dave at 94 Upshire Road – please leave in the porch if no reply. Please leave about ½“ of envelope around the stamps. Thank you.

HIGH BEACH CHURCH

Sunday Afternoon Teas every Sunday until 27th September, 2.00-5.00pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and sit in church or in our churchyard and enjoy home-made cake with tea/coffee and to ring the carillon. Please be careful where you park – you must NOT park on any single or double red line between 8.00am to 10.00pm otherwise you will receive a penalty notice.

Sunday 21st June, 3.00-4.00pm Walk in Concert by Joanne McGahon (The London Soprano). An afternoon of Opera Classics and Musical Theatre Favourites with retiring collection.

Sunday 28th June, 3.00-4.00pm Recital by Lily Barker, Soprano.

Sunday 5th July, 3.00-4.00pm Ceilidh Dance in the Forest. Everyone welcome to come and learn some country dancing in the Churchyard.

Sunday 28th June, 10.30am: Horseperson's service on the Green at the top of Avey Lane followed by Tack & Turnout Competition and Fun Dog Show. All welcome.

ANAGRAM The answer to the anagram is FORTNIGHTLY.

At **HOME INSTEAD** Epping Forest we recognise that as we get older, you may need help to be able to stay living in your own home. We Tailor our care packages to meet your needs making it possible for you to stay living in your own home where you are happiest.

Our services include Dementia Care, Personal Care, Home Help, Companionship and much more.

Our monthly Memory Lane and Singing for the Brain Sessions are held at Theydon Bois Village Hall providing lots of fun complimented with refreshments served by our lovely Team. Why not contact us to find out more and to get a copy of our What's on Where Guide (WOW Guide) and future newsletters.

Telephone 01992 666777 or email: Victoria.rigby@homeinstead.co.uk

Cooper's Cards

40a Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1EJ
(Library end)

Greetings cards, balloons, toys, wrapping paper, stationery and seasonal items

Family run and friendly shop, pet friendly

Monday to Saturday 8am to 5pm

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, NINEFIELDS

Saturday 27th June, 1.45pm for a 2pm start, in the school hall of Hillhouse C of E School,
FUN BINGO! With fun prizes and Afternoon Tea.

Adult ticket £10, child ticket £5.

Please contact Valerie on 01992 713996 by Wednesday 24th June.

ABBEY CHURCH Music for Lunch – Saturdays at 12 noon. Refreshments available from 11.30am. All welcome, free admission with retiring collection.

June 6th: Lin Xu-Zhang *piano*

13th: Aegean Duo, *piano & violin*

20th: Choir 18, *David Boarder, conductor*

27th: Robert Carver-Escritt, Ruihan Bao-Smith, *organ*

No recitals in July or August. Autumn season starts on September 5th.

UPSHIRE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Held in Upshire Village Hall, Mondays 2.00-4.30pm, Tuesdays 7.00-9.30pm No experience necessary.

Tuition and bowls available. It's fun to play! Contact Fred on 01992 711720 or Jean on 07733 084815.

WOOL Several of our members and their friends knit items for various charities but our supply of wool is running low again. If you have any spare wool you no longer need we would appreciate it: donations can be left with Lyn at 94 Upshire Road (leave in porch if no reply) or brought to church on any Sunday. Thank you

50/50 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 Club Draw in April who were:

1 st :	£35	No. 77	Norma Barrett of Waltham Abbey
2 nd :	£25	No. 41	Michael Hall of Waltham Abbey
3 rd :	£15	No. 91	Bill Wood of Waltham Abbey

It is now time to begin Draw 18 of St Thomas' 50/50 Club.

There will be monthly draws and the entry fee is £12.00 every six months (or £2 for every month of membership). Each member is entitled to a maximum of two entries, couples can have four. Please complete the form below and return it to me; payment by Bank Transfer is preferred or alternatively you may pay by cheque or cash to the address stated. Please let me know if you pay by Bank Transfer so I can include your number in the Draw (email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01992 711573).

Our thanks to all our members for their support of St Thomas' Church. Good luck to everyone who enters.

St Thomas' Church 50/50 Club Draw 18

July to December 2026

I wish to become a member of St Thomas' 50/50 Club and have paid by Bank Transfer to HSBC Bank, A/c St Thomas Church Upshire PCC, Sort Code 404520, A/c No: 00724505.

OR I enclose cash/cheque of £12 per entry (maximum 2 per person). Please make cheques payable to St Thomas' Church Upshire PCC and return your entries to Lyn Wackett, 94 Upshire Road, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3PA.

Name:
Address:
Telephone:

POPPY PROJECT

Saturday 6th June, 1.00-3.00pm. Monthly meet up at Waltham Abbey Library. Come along and get involved.

WALTHAM ABBEY FLOWER CLUB

We meet on the 4th Tuesday in the month except January, June, August and December at Waltham Abbey Community Centre, Crooked Mile, EN9 1QD. Doors open 1.45 for 2pm start.

Next meeting: June: outing to be arranged

28th July: Demonstration to celebrate our 60th Anniversary by Lisa Morgan

All are welcome, raffle, sales table, tea, coffee and homemade cake.

Further details from Chris on 07792 594443.

WALTHAM ABBEY'S GOT TALENT

Open call for everybody! Register your interest at eventsmanager@walthamabbey-tc.gov.uk

Potentially May or June 2026

WALTHAM ABBEY MEN'S SHED

Every Monday at Epping Forest District Museum, 1.00-3.00pm.

A welcoming, inclusive place for local men to get together, socialise and turn their hand to practical tasks. New members welcome. Free to join, free refreshments, just turn up.

For more information contact 01992 910701 or communityhub@vaef.org.uk

WALTHAM ABBEY ART TRAIL 2026

Calling all local artists to display work in lots of venues in our Town.

Email: walthamabbeyarttrail@outlook.com or call Jane on 07812 696087 or Vikki on 07986 977635 for more information.

WHAT'S ON AT EPPING FOREST DISTRICT MUSEUM!

Join us at the Epping Forest District Museum on Sun Street in Waltham Abbey for changing exhibitions, community curated displays, exciting events and lots more! We are the museum service for the Epping Forest District of Essex, housing around 75,000 items which tell the story of the people, places and events that have shaped our corner of Essex over many centuries. Visit the museum to discover and help shape the telling and display of your local heritage.

Upcoming at the museum...

Tuesday 26 and Friday 29 May – Drop in May half term crafts! 10:30am – 3:30pm, £3.50 per child.

Join us to celebrate Whitsun as the traditional working-class holiday, with May Day related crafts – make a dove and a May Day instrument!

Tuesday 26 May – Morris Dance taster session! 11-11:30am AND 1-1:30pm, FREE. Morris Dancing is a big part of local May time celebrations, so join us for a 30-minute taster session with Chingford Morris - adults and children welcome!

Tuesday 26 May – Memory Lane! 11:15am – 12:30pm, £3.50 per person, light refreshments included!

Join us for a trip down memory lane to reminisce about life in Waltham Abbey and the Epping Forest District through objects and photographs from our museum collection.

Wednesday 27 May – Candle decorating! 1-2pm, £5 per child. Join us to decorate candles with flowers and leaves from the museum garden! This workshop is only suitable for children 7+ with their adult.

Booking essential!

Wednesday 27 May – Ancient Rome Museum Late! £10pp, over 16s only. No need to go into central London for a cool museum late event, come to one right here in Waltham Abbey!

Wednesday 10 June - Talk: Life in Roman Colchester (Camulodunum)! 7-8pm, £7.00 per person. Join for a fascinating talk by Ben Paites, Senior Collections and Learning Curator at Colchester Museums.

Wednesday 17 June - Talk: Motorway Discoveries- Cotswold Archaeology's Excavations on M11 Junction 7a near Harlow! 7-8pm, £7.00 per person. Join us for a talk by Rob Sutton, Director of Heritage Consultancy at Cotswold Archaeology, and Jake Streatfeild-James, Principal Consultant at WSP in the UK.

Book via www.ticketsource.com/efdmuseum or call us on 01992 716882, or email us on enquiries@efdmuseum.org.uk or pop into the museum and book at the front desk!

THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIEND

Once upon a time there was a tavern/Where we used to raise a glass or two/Remember how we laughed away the hours/And dreamed of all the great things we would do/ Then the busy years went rushing by us. Sung by Mary Hopkin in 1968 after she was signed to Apple Records with the song produced by Paul McCartney; it was originally a Russian romance written in the 1920's which imagined a rosy future that has not been fulfilled.

I had been in conversation with a friend about the awful postal deliveries that we have been experiencing lately and I mentioned that we used to have two deliveries a day and one on Sunday which was viewed with some incredulity. I can remember a letter in a newspaper some while ago where the writer who was a London Solicitor saying that he had received a letter by first post to which he had replied and posted and then had received a reply to it in the afternoon post. Somehow I don't think modern solicitors work that quickly these days! Talking of only one delivery on a Sunday reminded me that when a child I can remember having a delivery on Christmas Day. In fact some people used to post their Christmas cards on Christmas Eve so that the recipients would get them on the Day. Christmas used to be so busy that college students would be taken on to help. They would only be supplied with a brown hessian bag in which to carry the post and an arm band stating 'Royal Mail' rather than the full uniform. Indeed, not only were students employed but pantechincons were hired to carry the post usually with a large sign stuck to the front window also proclaiming 'Royal Mail.'

Our conversation then drifted onto the forthcoming summertime which I mentioned was for a time permanent. I was working on a farm at the time and we had to have lights fitted so that we could see to feed the cattle being that it was darker till late in the morning. However, back in the war years, my father told me, there used to be double summertime so here in London it would often be light until midnight! All to enable people to work longer hours. This reminiscing led us onto the driving test for my friend mentioned that one now had to take a separate licence to tow a trailer. I took my test at seventeen and from then on I was allowed to drive any four-wheel vehicle, even if towing, except for lorries which I would not be able to drive until attaining the age of twenty-one and then without a further test. We had a ten-ton lorry on the farm where I worked and the farmer wanted me to take it to our other farm some miles away. I had to remind him that at eighteen that was not possible, tractors towing large loads of hay was though permissible and it was a regular occurrence to bring these loads along the A3, the main road from London to Portsmouth which it must be admitted was a lot quieter then than now!

Talking of roads, do you remember the race that was advertised on the Jimmy Young programme on Radio 2? He used to have several features on his show: a solicitor discussing legal problems, the editor of the Grocer magazine who related problems with food production and a motoring section with one of the BBC's correspondents. On this particular day they discussed the forthcoming race which was to be held over Easter weekend on the M25. The road was to be shut for the race and anyone could enter with their vehicles put into one of the many different classes dependent on the engine size and type of car. The race would be run in a clockwise direction and one feature would be that all entrants would have to stop at the tunnel (no bridge in those days) to pay the toll. Finally it was mentioned that applications could now be sent in to take part. Much later in the programme Jimmy Young had to ask people to stop phoning the BBC as it was noticed that neither he nor the motoring correspondent had mentioned the address to which to send the applications, evidently the BBC switchboard had been flooded with calls asking for the address. What a lot of listeners hadn't noticed was the date of the programme – April 1st!

The mention of the Grocer magazine reminded me about two adverts that used to be screened on TV around this time. One was for the Yorkie Bar, a large bar of chocolate now a fraction of its original size. The bar, the advert said, was designed for working men and it was implied that women were too feeble to be able to manage it. The bar was pictured being eaten by a very muscular man who was driving a large lorry. Gosh, imagine the furore if that was shown now especially as a lot of lorries, and buses for that matter, are driven by women, and very expertly too. The other advert was for Ryvitas, a cracker that I enjoy. If you also eat them you will have noticed that one side has dimples and the other is smooth. Well, that is for a reason, so the advert explained to us when the cracker was launched on the market. If one wanted to be sparing with your butter or spread you'd use the smooth side whereas if you liked lashings then the dimple side was to be used as it could hold a large quantity of the spread. The dietary people took a bit of exception to this and eventually the advert was dropped. Mind you I still subscribe to it as I like nothing better than to smother the dimple side in Marmite then put a layer of cheese on followed by lashings of butter on the dimple side of another cracker. Put the two together so that you have a Marmite cheese Ryvita sandwich. You can keep your MasterChef recipes as this is delicious – try it and see; oh, and ignore the diet fanatics while you savoury the tangy flavour of the Marmite against the sharpness of a nice piece of cheddar. As the song says: *Nothing seemed the way it used to be/Oh my friend we're older but no wiser/For in our hearts the dreams are still the same/Those were the days my friend/We thought they'd never end.* Progress has taken over, some say though, not for the best.

Adrian J Liddle

Just a thought..... I don't think it is so much the actual bath that most cats dislike; I think it's the fact that they have to spend a good part of the day putting their hair back in place.