

Tarleton & Rufford

Parish Magazine

APRIL / MAY
2025 ISSUE



Parishes of
Rufford & Tarleton

DW

DAVID WILKINSON

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16th May 2025**

from the rector

April 1st marks my 5th Anniversary as your Incumbent, that combined with our Diocesan Vision 2026 coming to a climax is a good time to reflect back on what we have achieved together over these years.

Much has been done with our ministry to children and young people, building on the wonderful work at Sunday School and Sunday Club. Diamond Disciples is going in to its third year as is Choir Church. This past year has seen the successful launch of Impact 4.12 for our KS3 children and the start of Forest Church at Mere Brow.

It is my hope that later this month we will be told that we will have some of the monies passed down to the Diocese by the Church of England centrally, with which we can employ a full-time youth worker. This will dovetail well in to the work Fr Joe and I do in our three Primary and one Secondary Church Schools.

On the physical front we have made our church buildings more suited to being at the centre of their communities. As COVID ended the west end of Holy Trinity Church was transformed in to a Community Space with an Accessible Loo and Served, along with better lighting. As I write, a similar scheme is under way at St Mary's, Rufford, with this programme including a special 'children's area'.

We have reached out to the Community in many ways, including support of the Food Pantry and our weekly Coffee & Chat sessions in Rufford and Tarleton. We have started to make Rufford an Eco-Church.

Much has been achieved - well done everyone!....but there is still much to do, may God give us the strength to go on growing His Kingdom.

Since my time with you, I have used this edition of the Magazine to say some thank yous - it is impossible to remember every one in these thanks. For we, as the body of Christ, all contribute to the life of our churches.

May I start by thanking the editor of this magazine for his on going excellent work in producing such a readable publication every other month. Thanks Colin!

We as a Parish are truly blessed in having Fr Joe as our Asst Curate, he has brought many gifts to the life of the parish, for that let us give thanks to God. I, certainly, could not ask for a better colleague.

Finally my thanks to the Wardens, Victoria, Graham & Shirley for their sterling work across the life of our parishes. Many thanks to the Three Musketeers!

Blessings of Easter (when it comes)
Mark

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- ☐ The Rectory, 92 Blackgate Lane, Tarleton, Preston PR4 6UT
- ☐ 07968 753978 / 01772 814431 rector@rsmtht.church
- ☒ Rufford St Mary's & Tarleton Holy Trinity Church



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Youth and Children's Worker

Both our PCCs have agreed to pursue the idea of acquiring a full time Youth & Children's Worker for the Incumbency.

A bid will be put in to the Diocese for circa £95,000 of the £25Million they got from the Church of England; and Tarleton PCC have committed £65,000 from the Harry Cookson Legacy for this project. This will fund the post for 5 years.

Please pray that our bid to the Diocese will be successful and that an appropriate person can be found to appoint. If you know somebody who might fulfil this role please contact the clergy.

If all goes to plan the new Youth & Children's Worker will start in the Summer.

Ordinand on Placement

Dr Joel Gillin an Ordinand in training at Oxford is with us for the first two weeks of April. He comes to ministry with an academic and journalistic back ground.

Hailing originally from the USA he has in recent years called Finland is home. While based in Colombia 2014-2015, he covered topics ranging from the FARC-government peace talks, the War on Drugs, Afro-Colombian rights, violence against journalists, ongoing displacement, and Venezuela-Colombia border issues, among other topics. Dr Gillin comes to us from Pusey House, Oxford.

Fr Mark writes, "It is good to have Joel with us for a time, I am sure you will all make him feel welcome".



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SERVICES

LENT CONTINUES

Lent continues through the first part of April

Wednesday, April 2 & 9th 6.30pm studying Prayer in the Bible with Bishop Phillip

Friday, April 4th & 11th 7.15 pm Holy Hour

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY - April 13th

8am Rufford

9.15am Blessing of Palms, Procession with a donkey and All Age Eucharist , Rufford

10.45am Blessing of Palms, Procession with a donkey and All Age Eucharist

HOLY MONDAY/TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

7pm Holy Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY- April 17th

7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars at Tarleton
followed by the Watch of the Passion until 10.30pm.

GOOD FRIDAY - April 18th

10am Stations of the Cross, Rufford

2pm The Last Hour, Tarleton

EASTER EVE- April 19th

7.30pm Paschal Vigil, Tarleton

EASTER DAY - April 20th

8am Said Mass, Tarleton

9.15 Sung Eucharist, Rufford

10.45 Solemn Mass, Tarleton

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

Tarleton, Sunday April 27th

Rufford, Thursday, May 1st

DIARY DATES

MU Leyland Deanery Service at Tarleton on May 14th

Jt PCC Away Day - May 31st (Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

VE 80th Anniversary Parade Service on May 11th: 9.15am at Rufford & 10.45am at Tarleton

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SCHOOLS

Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England (Aided) Primary School, by Mr Stephen Smith

Time is just flying by – don't you think...??

This time last year I was full of anticipation for my up and coming 30th Wedding Anniversary in New York. It was an incredible holiday – but seems so long ago now. And here we are - a year later – Mrs Smith and I have been together for another year!! 31 married and 36 together!! I don't how she puts up with me – but I'm glad that she does!!

There are going to be some exciting times ahead at THT's two neighbouring church schools with both Mrs Livesey (Mere Brow) and Mrs Ellery (Rufford) retiring at the end of the academic year. I have known Mrs Livesey for very nearly 37 years – as we trained together at Edge Hill (College) from 1988 until 1992. We both studied Primary Education and we both studied Maths – so were pretty much in the same lectures!! We'll be sorry to see them both go – but looking forward to making some new friends and new partnerships with Mere Brow's and Rufford's respective new Headteachers.

And here at THT – Miss Jagger has been my Deputy Headteacher for over 2 years now!! Talk about time flying!!

This year we had a slightly different School Easter Holiday with the break being before the Easter weekend and coming back to school on the Tuesday after Easter Sunday. It's strange to think that we will be coming back to school after Easter when there may be still some Easter Eggs lying around the house!!

Mrs Seeley, as always, planned a lovely Easter service for us to have in church...once again – it was absolutely amazing!! As I wrote during my Easter entry in the Parish Magazine last year, a school act of worship, is like making a bolognaise sauce. There are many ingredients that make the perfect Worship:

Music to walk in to; A Bible Reading; The participation of the children; A message; A reflection; A prayer; And the beauty of over 200 children singing a hymn or a song!!

But there is a secret ingredient you can add to the recipe to get 201 children to sing even better – sing in church!!

Many people and companies have a special ingredient, and for me, holding a worship in church on the last day of term IS that extra special secret ingredient!! But don't tell everyone – as it's our secret – and you have to be a C of E school for it to work!!

The month of May is very much on the horizon and we are thinking about the SATs and the assessment tests that many of our children have to take part in. Only Year 6 now have the 'statutory' tests – but we still give each class some assessment tasks to see how well they have done during the year.

Good luck to all the children at THT taking part in their assessments – think about our Golden Rule Number 5 – 'Try as hard as you can in everything you do!!'

As I actually write this entry, we are still building up to the actual Sunday of Easter – and, as I've said before, I always think of my Gran at this time - On Good Friday we always woke up to the smell of toasting Hot Cross Buns for breakfast and then my Gran (who always came to stay at Easter) would make her famous Fish Pie for tea...Fond, fond memories.

So as you read this after the Easter weekend... whatever you got up to over the Easter Break – or indeed get up to during the May Holidays - make sure you make some memories – spend some time doing whatever you love to do...with the person (or people) who you love to do it with - and most importantly – we hope you had a Special and Blessed Easter!

What Talents has God given those people doing the jobs of people wearing these hats.



SCHOOLS

Both Mrs Sandra Livesey (Tarleton Mere Brow CE School) and Mrs Rachel Elleray (Rufford CE School) have announced their retirement at the end of the Academic Year. While there will be an opportunity in the future to say a proper goodbye and thank you, may I acknowledge here and now the wonderful service they have given to their respective schools and to the parish. Thank you ladies.

The respective School Governing Boards have started the process of recruiting their replacements.

Fr Mark



This term we have started creating a new Forest Schools area. We have planted trees, created seats and made a new bug hotel . We also had a beautiful Cherry Blossom tree donated by Mere Brow Smithy. Fox class had a super visit to Holy Trinity Church with Father Joe and the Ashing with Bishop Philip was truly transformational.

We have had visits from the Fire service , a wonderful evening at glow in the dark dodge ball. We also had a Y6 winner in the TARDIS Maths in Motion event. Our Squirrel and Badger class had fun finding the bears in Southport and visiting the Atkinson to find out about Ancient Egyptians.

As I write this today most of the children and staff have dressed up for World book day , they have enjoyed stories by the camp fire and a hot chocolate. Local author Charlotte Simpson- Willaims has visited and shared her book with Y2 to Y6 and discussed how to become an author or illustrator. There are lots more exciting visit and visitors to come over the next term.

Mrs Livesey - Mere Brow CE Primary School

SCHOOLS



SCHOOLS



On January 27th we were pleased and honoured to host a deeply moving Holocaust Memorial Day service. Together, we paused to remember the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, as well as the countless others who lost their lives to Nazi persecution and more recent genocides.

Through reflection, prayer, and learning, we thought about how such atrocities could happen—and what we can do to ensure they never happen again. We explored the power of kindness, courage, and standing up for what is right, even when it's difficult.

Our thanks to all the students from our 3 church schools who did such an amazing job reading and assisting with the service. Let us continue to choose love and respect in the small actions of our daily lives—because they truly make a difference. **Fr Joe**



As we continue to be fully involved in the Diocesan Year of Prayer Diamond Disciples last month used Lego in their prayer.

Meanwhile the three church school heads and the clergy spent 24 hrs on Retreat with the Sisters of Jesus Way



Bishop Philip drops in on Choir Church

Plough, Garden implements and seeds blessed



Bird Boxes

Thank you for your help with making and sponsoring the bird boxes that are a big part of our re-wilding agenda. We have now erected them in the church yards so hopefully in the coming months robins, blue tits, tree creepers and possibly a barn owl (could be a wise move), will make their homes. There will be a map of where the boxes are to be located, however, you will probably notice one or two of them when walking around the church grounds.

A huge thanks to Mike Alexander for his help in locating and fixing the boxes. Mike volunteered his time to do this and there are other volunteers who have committed time to help maintain and improve the church environs. If you would like to join the team of volunteers and get out in the fresh air we would love to hear from you.

Why not have a “mindful moment” and contact Brenda Caslake on - 07821107341



Having thrown a few with the Bishop at the Cathedral Choir Church choristers tasted the pancakes... meanwhile back at the Rimmer's older Tarleton parishioners tasted some yummy pancakes.



The works to build a Disabled Toilet and Servery at Rufford have got underway. This phase 1 works to the tower and spire was moving on apace as we went to press.

As a thank offering for our new Loo in Rufford we have twinned with a loo in South Sudan



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Lenten Lunches

Having just celebrated the joy and hope of the birth of Christ we now look forward to the preparations for his death. Lent 2025 began on Wednesday 5th March and throughout the subsequent forty days Lenten Lunches are being hosted to emphasise the fasting aspect of this solemn observance. They will continue in to early April.

The dates and venues for the lunches are listed below (the lunches are taking place in two venues; Rufford Cricket Club and the Church Hall) :-

Tuesday 1st April - Church Hall.
Tuesday 8th April - Cricket Club.
Tuesday 15th April - Church Hall.

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SAINTS

23rd April St George the Martyr

For a saint so popular across Europe and the middle east hardly any facts are known about him. Pope Gelasius I (492 to 496CE) claimed George was one of the saints “whose names are justly revered among men, but whose actions are known only to God.” It is generally accepted that George was a native of Lydda (Lod, Israel). What is speculated is that he was raised a Christian and served as an imperial guard for the Emperor Diocletian. That he refused an order from Emperor Diocletian to offer a sacrifice to the gods and was executed on 23rd April 303CE at Nicomedia.

Saint George stands out among other saints and legends because he is known and revered by both Muslims and Christians. A church built in Lydda during the reign of Constantine the Great (306–337CE), (A new church was erected in 1872), along with the Mosque of Al-Khadr located in the city is believed to have housed his remains. The Crusaders gave great impetus to Western devotion to St. George, though venerated in the West long before. From about the thirteenth century, he came to be regarded as Patron of England. During the reign of Edward VI (1537-1553CE) all saints’ banners other than George’s were abolished in the English Reformation. He is the patron saint of England, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Ukraine, Malta, Ethiopia, the regions of Catalonia and Aragon, and the city of Moscow.

St. George is usually represented on horseback vanquishing a dragon, to save a princess and/or village. In the medieval romances, the lance with which George slew the dragon was called Ascalon, after the city of Ashkelon, in Israel. The name Ascalon was used by Winston Churchill for his personal aircraft during World War II, according to records at Bletchley Park.

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SAINTS

25th May Venerable Bede

The Venerable Bede born in Northumbria in 673CE. He was educated at Jarrow, where he entered the monastic life under St Benet Biscop, and was ordained priest by St John of Beverley. While Bede spent most of his life in the monastery, he travelled to several abbeys and monasteries across the British Isles. He devoted himself to the study of Scripture and to teaching and writing, completing over 60 books, most of which have survived. Bede has left prose works on subjects ranging from expositions of the science of his day to commentaries on Holy Scripture. One of his major works was on the science of calculating calendar dates. One of the more important dates Bede tried to compute was Easter, an effort that was mired in controversy. He also helped popularize the practice of dating forward from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini—in the year of our Lord). His 'Historia Ecclesiastica - Church History of the English', earned him the title of "Father of English History." The account of his death (735CE), which took place on Ascension Eve, written by one of his pupils, is touching in its simplicity. His last words being "Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto. (Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.)" The title Venerable was formalized at the Council of Aachen in 853CE for his wisdom and learning. Bede's remains were enshrined in Durham Cathedral. He is the patron of English writers and historians.

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RECTOR FORSE'S LETTERS

RECTOR FORSES LETTERS

RECTOR'S WEEKLY NEWS — 2nd May 1946

My dear Boys and Girls,

There was no News Letter last week for three distinct reasons:

- 1: Holy Week is the busiest week of the year for all parsons and with a lot of other work in addition, I simply could not write it.
- 2: My typewriter broke down and had to go to Preston to be repaired. The shop I went to lent me another, a very old fashioned Underwood and I had to spend days getting used to it.
- 3: There were not sufficient letters from the lads away last week to make even a page of "Extracts".

However, more letters have come to hand this week and so here is the NL. But I have to say to the younger lads that if they wish me to continue sending the NL that they must do their part, and send me frequent letters. The elder lads were very good, as all know, and in their time in the Forces I always received between twenty and thirty letters each week. So sit down at once and write if you wish to receive a News Letter next week.

Well, all the news is overleaf, and so now you had better turn overleaf, read the latest from Tarleton, then what the lads have to say, and then sit down and write a letter to your old and devoted friend, L.N. Forse

Home Front News

Mr Robert Latham, JP, former Chairman of the West Lancashire R.D.C. and of the Tarleton Parish Council died last Sunday aged 85 years. He was buried at Tarleton, the Service being in the Methodist Chapel, which the rector attended, and afterwards the rector took the Committal Service at the graveside. Members of the Lancashire Constabulary carried the coffin to the grave. Mr Thomas Spencer, father of Mrs Bert Melling, died on Good Friday very

suddenly and was buried at Tarleton on Easter Monday. He was 72 years old. PC Robert Davies, the HB policeman, has been promoted to Sergeant and is taking over duty at Great Harwood. Mr Andrew Pollard, the cloggiar, Hesketh Lane, has sold his house, The Poplars, by auction. It fetched £2,895.00 and was bought by Mr James Sergeant of Garlick's Café. Mrs Buck Iddon (nee Alice Fazackerley) gave birth to a baby boy on Thursday but it only lived for a day. The rector being away it was christened with the name of Thomas by Dr Herbert Croft. The baby was buried in Tarleton Churchyard on Saturday by the rector. The mother is doing well. Tom Wilcock went for his medical on Tuesday and passed A1. Robert Latham Blackgate Lane, is home from Palestine on Class B. Release. The ATC have erected quite a large Club Room in front of the two small huts used by them in the school playground. Nellie Fazackerley, Gatcliffe Farm, was married on Easter Monday to John Blundell, Moss Lane, Hundred End, in Tarleton Parish Church. The rector officiated. Reception and Wedding breakfast in the schools. 108 guests. Irene Hague, the Smithy, Church Road, was married on Tuesday in Tarleton Parish church, by the rector, to William Ball (Scoot), Moss Lane. Reception and Wedding breakfast in the schools. Honeymoon in Isle of Man.

As usual the school children took the Service in Tarleton Parish Church on Palm Sunday. There were forty girls in the choir in cassocks and surplices, young Jim Whittle (John's son) and Roy Barron (Tom, the newsagent's son) read the Lessons and John Trafford, of Doctor's Lane End, Sollom, said the prayers. The rector has now got his car back from Morrison's Garage, where it had a thorough overhauling, and he is now able, once again, to fetch home lads stranded at Preston Station in the early hours of the morning.

The following is the second list of the names of those who have sent subscriptions to Miss Kathleen Topping towards a gift we intend to present to Miss

RECTOR FORSE'S LETTERS

Evelyn Webster to mark our appreciation of the colossal task she has performed so well in addressing, stamping and sending the 100,000 envelopes containing the NLs sent to those in HM Forces.

Hugh Rowland; Margaret Moss; Henry Moss; Thomas A. Harrison (Holmes) Elsie Winstanley; Hubert Tindsley; John Tindsley, Mick Melling; Herbert Parkinson; Harry Cookson; David Hanson Thomas Coulton; Maurice Haskell; William Barker (Moss Lane), John Rowland; John Hornby B.E.M. Hoole; Lawrence Hunter (Hoole); Harry Price; William Hull; Walter Rawsthorne; Roger Watson, Harry Hindley (Moss Lane); George Almond; Hugh Melling; Leslie Clarkson (Bretherton); Frank McKean; Thomas Tindsley; Miss Gore (Hesketh Lane P.O) Thomas Rigby (Toll Bar); Mr & Mrs Richard Burns (Birkdale- was Dick Burns of Tarleton); Robert Iddon (Hesketh Bank); Stanley Johnson. Subscriptions towards this testimonial to Miss Evelyn Webster should be sent direct to Miss Kathleen Topping, Ferndale, Church Road, Tarleton, who is the Hon. Treasurer of the Fund; they should not be given or sent to the rector Mr and Mrs Harry Spencer, Whittles Farm, Church Road have adopted the baby girl of Mrs Hugh Prescott who died when the child was born. Mr Hugh Prescott already had four children the eldest being thirteen. She is now looking after the home. Harold Baybutt, of Sollom, was married last Saturday in Hesketh Bank Methodist Church to a H.B. girl, name unknown. Teddy Silcock, eldest son of Herbert Silcock, the proprietor of the Roundabouts and Fair Ground, who comes every year to Tarleton for our Field Day, is to be married in Tarleton Parish Church on June 12th to Anita Williams, whose parents are also in the "Show" line of business. Silcock's Fairground will be coming to Tarleton on June 11th for a fortnight, for the Church and Methodist Field days. Teddy is a very old friend of the Rector who has known him since he was a tiny baby twenty three years ago. The wedding breakfast and reception will be in the schools, honeymoon at the

Isle of Man. While in the Army of Occupation William Staziker of Rufford, became engaged to a young Belgian widow named Madeleine Louise Bellot living in Brussels. She has now come to England, to Rufford, and they are to be married shortly. Tom Dickinson is home of leave from the Navy. Elizabeth (Bessie) Boston, Beconsall Lane, Hesketh Bank was married last Wednesday at HB Chapel to Richard Spencer, farmer of Freckleton. 300 guests at the Reception. Honeymoon in Hoyle. Longton and District Light Horse Show took place on Saturday - there were 450 entries of which 200 were in the jumping section. Nurse Freeman is in hospital suffering from appendicitis. She has been operated upon, but is still very ill. Mr and Mrs Sidney Fleet have left Bank Bridge and have gone to Wales to take charge of a Café. Sidney Fleet, who was in the Merchant Navy, married Mary Pye, of Bank Bridge. He has just been demobbed.

William Ainscough, aged 22 of Hundred End, home on agricultural leave, found a car parked outside the Fermor Arms, Rufford and took a joy ride in it, smashed into another car on the Liverpool Road, near Tarleton, left the scene of the accident, went on to Morrison's garage, where he found Dr Ashton's (Croston) car parked, took that and went a joy ride, was caught by the police and fined £42.10s at Chorley and had his licence suspended for twelve months. At the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on Wednesday evening Mr Bailey resigned his position as Churchwarden and the rector appointed Mr John Coulton jnr in his stead. Mr Arthur Dandy was re-elected as People's Warden. Several demobbed Church lads including James Parkinson, John Counce, John Robinson and Ernie Ball, were elected Sidesmen. While old Mrs Edgar was out for an hour yesterday mid-day someone broke into her house, ransacked every drawer, broke open the electric meter and also stole a gold watch. Whoever was the thief left a bicycle with a punctured tyre outside the house. So far no arrest has been made.

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At Bretherton and Croston they are building some Norwegian houses. They are a kind of prefabricated house the lower part brick and the upper part wood. So far no new houses of any kind have been built in Tarleton, but in last Thursday's Daily Post there was an advertisement by the West Lancs Rural District Council asking for tenders for the construction of 32 houses in Sutton Avenue, Tarleton and 8 houses in Tabby Nook, Mere Brow. When the rector was at North Western Command HQ at Chester on Wednesday last, a Staff Officer told him that when Rommel was chasing our lads back across the desert, they rested for a short breather and no sooner had they sat down than he, the Staff Officer, saw a lad take out a book from his pocket and began to read it. Rather curious to know what was holding the lad's attention at such a moment, the Staff Officer went up to him and asked him what he was reading. It was the rector's News Letter. When the rector was introduced to the Staff Officer on Wednesday he, the Staff Officer, said "directly I heard your name I knew the parish from which you came, because I have read one of your NLs." He then told the rector about the incident recorded above. The question the rector would now like to know is "Who was the lad reading the NL in the desert?" Tom Spencer, son of Mr and Mrs George Spencer, Curacy House, now of Moss Lane was married last week in Ireland to an Irish girl whom he met when his ship was based on a Northern Ireland port. His bride comes from Eire.

Extracts from letters

LAC Freddy Coupe writes from Montreal "I left Goose (Labrador) about a week ago, and arrived safe and sound in Montreal. I shall be staying here till I am sent home and hope to get to England in May. I have not received any mail since I arrived here as it will all be going to Goose. I am glad to be away from all the ice and snow of Labrador, and to be back in civilisation. It is very warm here where I am. I've been into Montreal once or twice, and it certainly looks ok, but

things are very expensive." Crpl Fred Taylor writes from CMF: "I have just been up for a talk with the C.O. about Class B release; but I turned it down because I have only about three months to do for Class A, and that is better than being tied for six months with Class B. It is just like summer here, but for all that I would sooner be in the old village of Tarleton. Please remember me, through the NL, to all my friends." Corpl. Kenneth Nicholson writes from his ship HMS Colossus - "We are all enjoying ourselves in South Africa, and many marriages have taken place. When we hear of the food shortages at home and look at the food we can get ashore, it makes us wonder just what International Food Dumps could mean to the world. Corpl Harry Price writes that he has travelled more miles than any Tarletonian. Rather a rash statement if he includes the Navy in his statement, as many members will agree. To all now serving I send the greeting "A speedy return". Dvr. Thomas Sutton (Holmeswood Hall Farm) writes from BACR; "I've been in hospital for two weeks and have had an operation. I feel alright now only my leg is a bit swollen through the injections, and I am resting in a Convalescent Hospital here in Brunswick. The weather is perfect, too good to be inside. I quite agree with an extract from one of my friends - Robert Bond, in which he says that the B Class release is not being fairly dished out. For instance, I know of one man who was got out on B release for work as a Porter at a railway station. They can't tell me that this work is more important than that of an agricultural worker."

LAC Walter Rawsthorne writes from BAOR "When I got back to my Unit after being in hospital for a fortnight I found that part of the Unit, including my section, had moved to Hamburg; so I went back to my original section and so I am still here, in good old Ghent. But in a few days' time I shall be leaving here, and also my wife. Still it won't be a long separation as I shall be demobbed by the end of May or early June, and she will join me in England. I shall be sorry to leave this town which has been my home for nine

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months. I have really grown to like it. My wife is looking forward to taking up her residence in England. Her brief visit last year showed her that we are much better than the people over here think, not quite so stiff and sedate" Corpl Hugh Melling writes from BCOF "At the moment I am in a Transit camp about 12 miles outside Madras. I've been here nearly six weeks waiting to move to Japan. I've been into Madras two or three times but wasn't very impressed; like every other place in India, it stinks! I understand that when we get into Japan we are to take over an aerodrome near Hiroshima, so I don't suppose that there will be much life there. Hiroshima, you will remember, was the town that received one of the atom bombs, I don't know when I shall be released, but if the RAF keeps to its promise I expect to be home about October. Remember me to all the other Tarletonians."

Dve. Billy Whittle writes from BAOR: "Just for the moment the food here has gone 'off colour'; we've been cut down to half rations and, believe me, I'm feeling the pinch. This cook we have here is about as sympathetic about it all as a brick wall. I've told him more than once that his heart is made of granite. What I would like to know is how come so many releases in Class B. There's a snag somewhere, surely, or shall we call it a spot of "red tape" in the various Ministries that have to deal with the matter." Pte. W. Briggs (worked for Arthur Balshaw, Plox Brow) writes from Cambridge "We have been moving about so much lately that I do not know whether I am on my head or my feet. I think that one or two of the NLs must have been lost in the post. I received one last week which was posted to me before Christmas. It was covered with addresses of camps all over England. However, I think we shall be stationed in this place for some time to come. Please remember me, through the NL, to Bob Howard." Pte. Barbara Coupe, ATS, writes from Leeds "I am being demobbed next month (thank goodness) and I shall then have done 3 years and 10 months. We are getting 4 days' leave on Friday and I

am going to Scarborough with my friend, so if the weather is kind to us we should have a good time. If you have a spare corner in the NL could you remember me to all in the Forces and wish them a speedy return." Charlie Wright (Chuck) writes from Port Gordon, Scotland "Well I am demobbed at last, and back in Civvy Street once again. I have been home just one week now and my wife has given birth to a baby son, so I reckon I have my hands full. Both are doing well. I am spending a few weeks up in Scotland while the wife gets on her feet again. Then I am coming to good old Mere Brow again. I would like to be remembered to all my old friends in the Forces, especially Charlie Wright, RAF, Tommy Sutton, and the rest, and here's hoping that they all get a speedy demob."

Gunner Harold Aspey writes from Rainham, Essex, "I am now very near Dagenham and Barking and only about 14 miles from London. This camp is not as good as the one we have left. Please remember me to all the boys and girls who are still in the Forces." Jack Parker (Liverpool) writes "I have found myself a job as a male nurse at Broadgreen Hospital. One more thing – the most important – Peggy and I have decided to be married on April 29th."

Pte Robert Ball (Hesketh Bank) writes from Catterick Camp. "Although this camp is pretty deadly, I am glad to say that I, myself, have a good billet and good food, but there is very little entertainment, and wherever you go there is nothing but soldiers. If there are any local lads in this camp I should like to see them. I'm at the fire station at the camp entrance – you can't miss it. I believe that James Sutton is in this camp, but so far I have not managed to find him. Remember me to Frank Foulds, Frank Taylor, Jackie Sutton and Arnold Bailey via the N.L." Pam Fairey writes from the Anchorage, Hesketh Lane, "Just to let you know that I am now finally released from the WAAF and am on demob leave."

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Also, to thank you very much for sending the NL. No matter what else failed they always turned up, and I am going to miss them. Civvy Street seems to have changed very much, but I expect that I shall get adjusted to it in time."

-o-O-o-

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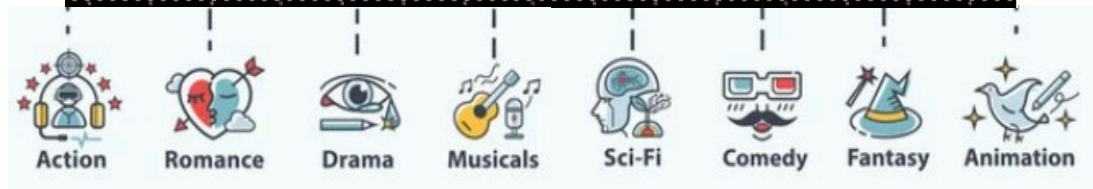
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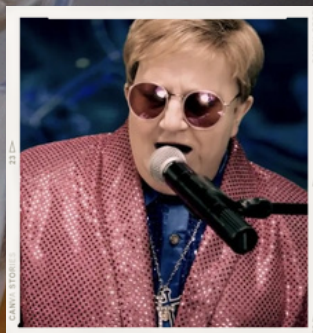
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