



# The Friends of The Royal Memorial Chapel

## Chapel Notes

The Friends Newsletter

Issue: Spring 2020

### Editor's Notes

This term's newsletter continues with the usual features; including some more insights into our Chapel, VC memorials and poetry corner. I join with our Chairman in congratulating our Honorary member, Florence Batts, in celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in December last year. Our Chaplaincy team and RMAS Commandant move on again, more details in our Chairman's update. Please also note the update for the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

At the time of writing we are dealing with the Covid19 outbreak. The situation in the Academy is reviewed on a daily basis; advice will be updated on the Chapel web site and sent to members as and when situations change.

*Peter Franklin*

Editor & Membership Secretary

### Chaplain's Update

Dear Friends,

The journey to Jerusalem through the season of Lent continues. It is a familiar one to many of us, yet never quite the same twice.

This year, Lent coincides with my final weeks at Sandhurst and as a result this traditional time of reflection in the church year has taken on a very different hue from usual. I can scarcely believe that my posting to Sandhurst is fast drawing to a close after the better part of two years. Following Easter, I move to 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade in Tidworth as Brigade Senior Chaplain.

Permanent staff involved with the regular commissioning often speak of the 14-week dash. At times, I have felt like I am running a marathon at the speed of a sprint. While the role has been demanding in a myriad of ways, I have also found it immensely rewarding and I have especially enjoyed working as part of a chaplaincy team, firstly with Dave and Chris and more recently with Antony and Pip.

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The chapel and its office have been my centre of gravity throughout my time at RMAS. Sunday worship lies at the heart of chapel life and I will miss hearing the choir's contribution week by week and the familiar faces of the congregation as well as those occasions when the chapel is bursting at the seams with the broader Sandhurst community.

I have also been privileged to lead a number of field services in my time here, most recently at St. Manvieu Cemetery in Normandy. After gale force winds and rain, we were blessed with a rainbow on our final day as we prepared to leave, a wonderful sign of God's enduring covenant with humanity. In times of change and uncertainty, the poet Ann Weems reminds us,

“a rainbow is not just a symphony of colours  
sent to calm the storm in our souls;  
it is a talk with God,  
a mysterious, miraculous conversation with God,  
heart to heart,  
the very heart of God saying to our hearts...  
'I am the God who keeps promises,  
and I have not forgotten our covenant.'  
This is the hope of the church:  
that God keeps promises.”

As the joy of Easter draws ever closer, may we rest in God's abiding promises of love, grace and forgiveness through all the seasons of our lives.

Warmest wishes,

Nicola

*Padre Nicola Frail*

**Assistant Chaplain**

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## Summer Term 2020 Calendar

*'Low Sunday' services may be subject to change*

26 April 2020 .....Ironing Board Sunday - HC  
03 May 2020 .....Academy Sunday + HC  
10 May 2020 .....Juniors to Chapel + HC  
17 May 2020 .....Holy Communion  
24 May 2020 .....Holy Communion  
31 May 2020 .....Holy Communion  
07 June 2020 .....Holy Communion  
14 June 2020 .....Choral Mattins + HC  
21 June 2020 .....Holy Communion – Heritage Day  
28 June 2020 .....Holy Communion - Friends' Sunday  
05 July 2020 .....Old College Sunday + HC  
12 July 2020 .....Holy Communion  
19 July 2020 .....Holy Communion  
26 July 2020 .....Holy Communion  
02 August 2020 .....Colours to Chapel  
05 August 2020 .....Commandant's Parade  
07 August 2020 .....Sovereign's Parade

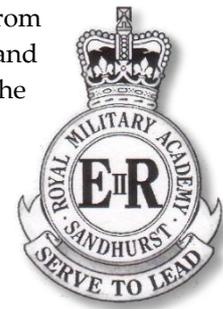
### **NOTE:**

All services start at 1030hrs unless otherwise stated. The exception is when the main morning service is not Holy Communion; then a short service of Eucharist follows at approximately 1200hrs.

A service of Holy Communion is celebrated each Wednesday in term time at 1230hrs in the South Africa Chapel, all are welcome.

## Commissioning Course CC201

CC201 formed up with 264 Officer Cadets of whom 34 are Internationals. These include cadets from Barbados, Georgia, Hungary, Montenegro and Uruguay. Of the British cadets, the oldest is 31 and the youngest 18 with an average age of 23. 72% are university graduates, 59% were educated in the State sector, 14% have served in the Reserves, 24% in a University OTC and 34% were in one of the cadet forces. Finally, 21 of the cadets are Regular Army entrants.



Commissioning Course (Short) also formed up. This is a modular course with some cadets completing the whole eight weeks and others part of the course. There are five international cadets: three from Bahrain, a Radiologist and two GPs, one from the Maldives who is a WO2 who will be commissioned at the end of the course and finally a cadet from Bosnia Herzegovina who is a military Iman..

The Sovereign's Parade for this course is on December 11th and we wish the cadets all the very best for their 44 weeks at Sandhurst.

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## Chairman's update

As always I would like to say a huge thank you to the committee and the Chaplains for all their help and support. At the beginning of 2020 a new red carpet was fitted in the Chapel by a local commercial carpet fitting company and looks very nice. New carpet tiles have been fitted in the Crypt by RMAS Quartermaster's contractors, which with the recent redecoration of the Crypt makes it look very smart. Not only were new carpet tiles fitted in the Crypt but also on the stairs leading down to it with new tread nosings. Repairing those stairs had been long overdue. The Chaplains office and the Vestry have also been redecorated and new carpet laid, also long overdue. One of the big problems now in the Chapel is the leaking roof and not just in one place but several (last Sunday there was water dripping on the organist's head while he was playing for the morning service!). We also have problems with the lighting. Unfortunately all these things cost a great deal of money and so the Chaplains, with our support have to find ways of funding these repairs which at the moment is work in progress. There was talk of putting in a new toilet block next to the Chapel as there are no public toilets in the immediate vicinity and certainly no disabled toilet facility. These are very necessary particularly when there are large events in the Chapel, such as Memorial Services, funerals, weddings etc when people have travelled long distances to get there and a toilet needs to be their first port of call.

The Book of Remembrance for the Chaplains Department which stands in a cabinet to the left of the altar will shortly have a brass plaque put on it by the Friends saying "Royal Army Chaplains Department Book of Remembrance and Roll of Honour. Cabinet donated by the Friends of the Chapel – July 2019"

We have recently celebrated the 100th birthday of a regular member of our Sunday morning services. Florence Batts was 100 years old on the 20th December when we sent her a card and a large bouquet of flowers. On the 26th January we gave her a surprise party in the Crypt after the morning service with a beautiful cake made by Jenny Franklin and some Prosecco/coffee or tea. She is an amazing lady and the cadets who came for coffee and biscuits all shook hands with her and couldn't believe she was 100.

Sadly at the end of this term our present Commandant, Major General Paul Nanson CB, CBE is not only leaving Sandhurst but the Army. We will miss him and his wife Lu and wish them well in the future. General Nanson will be replaced as Commandant by Major General Duncan F. Capps CBE (late Royal Logistic Corps). General Nanson's other role will be taken by Major-General Christopher J. Bell (late Scots Guards): GOC, Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command at Upavon in April 2020. Padre Nicola Frail is also sadly leaving at the end of this term, we will miss her very much and wish her well in her new posting. Her successor is Padre Amy Walters who is coming from the Household Cavalry and is from a Methodist background.

God bless,

*Sue O'Sullivan*

**Chairman – Friends of the Royal Memorial Chapel Committee**

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Chapel will be held in the Chapel immediately after the Morning Service on Sunday 28th June 2020.

The Agenda will be:-

- Item 1 – Minutes of the 2019 A.G.M.
- Item 2 – Matters arising
- Item 3 – Report by the Chairman
- Item 4 – Report by the Treasurer
- Item 5 – Elections of Officers
- Item 6 – Honorary Membership
- Item 7 – Any other Business

You will be aware that the Committee was formally established in 2002. The Constitution allows for there to be seven elected members. Members are elected for a three year term at the end of which they must stand down albeit they may offer themselves for re-election. In order to establish a regular turnover of members it was decided by the Committee that members would stand down each year. Those standing down this year (together with their current responsibilities) are:-

Mrs. Ginny Prentice – Secretary  
Mrs. Sue Richardson – Friends Lunch Organiser

They have both agreed to continue with their duties and provided there are no further nominations there will be no need for a formal election and the two Members will be elected en bloc. However, if there are other nominations then an election will be held.

Anyone seeking to become a member of the Committee must complete the form provided in the associated document “Application Forms – Spring 2020” and send it to the Secretary c/o the Chapel Office to arrive no later than 8th May 2020. The signature of the applicant, proposer and seconder must be on the form. There should also be a short note of no more than 75 words on the applicant. This might include age, length of time a member of the Friends, present employment and length of association with the Chapel.

Voting will be at the A.G.M. The two candidates with the greatest number of votes will be elected to the Committee. Those existing Committee members who are re-elected will be expected to continue with their present responsibilities. New members elected to the Committee will be expected to assume the responsibilities of the member they displace if so asked.

*Ginny Prentice*

**Secretary to the Friends of The Royal Memorial Chapel Committee**

# Your Chapel

## West end windows

There are two windows at the West End above the door, both as memorials to Kings. The Lunette window immediately above the west door is the memorial to George V, and is by James Powell & Sons (Whitefriars), designer James Hogan. This window dates from 1937. The Whitefriars mark can be found in the lower right hand corner. There are seven more Powell windows to be found in the Chapel.



The second window, high up above the west gallery is the George VI memorial window, comprising three lights. These windows are by Lawrence Lee. An artist's impression of the original concept for the windows signed by Lawrence Lee can be found on the wall in the Choir Vestry. Lawrence Lee is also responsible for many other windows and several of the Field Marshal's Windows in the Clerestory high up in the Chapel.



Extract from Lawrence Lee's description of the windows:

*'...Firstly, there comes the amalgamation of Woolwich and Sandhurst. Secondly, the presentation of Colours by His Majesty in June 1947; and thirdly, the reintroduction of the King George V Banner, held by the Sovereign's Company by His Majesty's express command when taking the first passing out parade in 1948. The Queen's Colour appears in the centre light, lowered in salute. The Regimental Colour is displayed in the left hand light, which also bears the badge of The Royal Military Academy Woolwich, together with scrolls bearing the dates 1741-1946. The right hand light displays the King George Banner (presented to the Royal Military College in 1918), together with the badge of the Royal Military College Sandhurst, and scrolls bearing the dates 1799-1946. The amalgamation of Woolwich and Sandhurst is symbolised by the grouping of these badges and the union of the Colour Pikes behind the badge of The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst*

*The forms of the background are derived from the ceremonial drums, suggested by the piling of drums at the service of consecration of the colours following their presentation by His Majesty...'*

## The Old Chapel

Extracts from **The Annals of Sandhurst** – *A Chronicle of The Royal Military College* (1900)

Major A.F. Mockler-Ferryman FRGS, FZS, Barrister at Law

Oxfordshire Light Infantry, Instructor Royal Military College.

The original Chapel was situated in rear of the Grand Entrance, and opening out of it, and was built to seat five hundred persons. In 1813, soon after the cadets moved from Great Marlow to Sandhurst, the ceremony of consecration by the Bishop of Salisbury took place ; an organ was purchased at a cost of £500, and placed in a gallery over the doorway; and a little later in the same year, the first colours deposited in the Chapel were consecrated, when the Organist and Choir from Windsor and the band of the Royal Sussex Militia attended. Beyond these scanty records there is little to be said about the old Chapel, but it appears that, consequent on the increase in the numbers of the cadets, the accommodation it provided was soon found to be insufficient. It continued, however, to serve as the only place of worship for the population of the College until 1879, when the new Chapel was opened and the old one transformed, first into a museum, and then into a mess-room.

Christ Church (as the new Chapel was designated) was erected on the vacant space in the square between the main building of the College and the riding-schools. It is built of red brick, and is lined inside with white and occasional blue bricks. Although the edifice is a replica of an Italian church of some note, it is perhaps doubtful if the style of the architecture can be regarded as altogether pleasing in its general effect; much has, however, of recent years been done to improve the appearance of the interior, the walls having been faced to a height of some eight or ten feet with handsome marble, on which are tablets and panels bearing memorial inscriptions.

For the purpose of keeping up and adding to the memorial marbles there is a special fund, to which all cadets and officers serving at the College contribute. The names of ex-cadets killed in action are placed on the panels devoted to the particular campaigns in which they lost their lives; circular tablets to the memory of Governors of the College are ranged at intervals above the panels; while the spaces between the panels are used for the purpose of recording the names of ex-cadets who have died on active service in the field, or elsewhere. In the latter case the names are cut only at the request of relatives or friends, who are charged a small fee. A few other tablets are to be found on the walls of the porch of the Church, having been moved there from the old Chapel, and not erected in the body of the Church, for the reason that their nature was not considered to be in keeping with the newer marbles.

Five stands of old Regimental colours hang from the pillars of the nave near the chancel steps, the brass plates below them bearing the following inscriptions :

*Colours of the 9<sup>th</sup> Foot, commanded by Lt.-Col. Hill in the American War, 1776-77, presented by the Rev. E. J. Rogers, Chaplain of the Tower, late Chaplain of this College, and his son, Colonel Rogers, Royal Irish Regiment. Deposited in the Church in 1877.*

*Colours of the 9<sup>th</sup> Foot, East Norfolk Regiment, commanded by Sir John Cameron, K.C.B., in the actions of Roleia, Vimiera, Corunna, Busaco, Salamanca, Vittoria, St. Sebastian, Nive. Deposited in the Church in 1875 by his son, General Sir Duncan Cameron, G.C.B., Governor of this College.*

*Colours of the 28<sup>th</sup> Foot, North Gloucestershire Regiment. Carried by the Regiment, 1816-32 ; presented by Miss Paget to this Church, 1887.*

*Colours of the 28<sup>th</sup> Foot, North Gloucestershire Regiment. Carried by the Regiment, 1832-50 ; presented by Mr. Hugh Paget to this Church in 1877.*

*Colours of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Royal Highlanders, The Black Watch. Carried by the Regiment from 1860 to 1870. Deposited in the Church in 1875 by General Sir Duncan Cameron, G.C.B., Colonel of the Regiment and Governor of this College.*

## Reminiscences

*The Annals of Sandhurst (1900)*

'...The military instructors were not without their peculiarities, for the College was not unfrequently the refuge for maimed officers who were unfitted for active service in the Army, and whose wooden legs and other misfortunes were hardly looked on by the fourteen-year-old boys as marks of honourable service. There was one veteran of many campaigns who suffered from weak eyes, for which he carried a lotion, yet his unfeeling class generally seized the opportunity of the bottle being left in the hall of study to fill it up with tobacco juice, awaiting with a certain amount of gusto the future applications of the lotion.

A man with a wooden leg was always known by the nickname "Tosh," which seems to have been the cadet slang for foot (the foot-tubs provided for each cadet's ablutions were called "tosh"-cans, and ultimately the bathing-rooms at the end of each passage got the title of "tosh"-rooms); and a wooden leg was dear to the cadets because it warned them of its owner's approach. Captain Daly, who commanded A Company at the end of the forties, had lost a leg when serving with the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment at Bhurtapore, and wore a wooden one, the stumping of which down the passages at "lights out" gave timely notice that he was going the rounds. The word was passed from room to room, "'Tosh', Daly's on the stump," and forthwith everyone was under the bedclothes, though ready to be out again and smoking hard up the chimney five minutes later.

Of other noticeable officers of the College Staff of half a century or more ago we may mention Major McDermott, the Superintendent of Studies, who had gained a commission for his gallantry while serving as a corporal in the old American War—a great hero in the eyes of the cadets, and fond of relating his vast experiences. Captain Turnpenny, filling the post of Classical Master at the Royal Military College, had led a forlorn hope at Badajoz; while there were at different times instructors and company officers who had served with considerable distinction, and had been more or less severely wounded in the Peninsular War, the Waterloo campaign, the Crimea, and the Indian Mutiny. Many of these officers were popular heroes; there were some, however, who were equally unpopular, and such nicknames as "Swinks," and "Ginger-wig," will still be within the recollection of many an old cadet.

To the last-named was probably due the little mutiny of 1862—one of the most amusing events of Sandhurst history. At this period the cadets had ceased to be of a tender age, and should have learned something of discipline; they persuaded themselves, however, that they had grievances—some of which, as a matter of fact, certainly required looking into. Their food was miserable, and there is no doubt that they were treated harshly, and subjected to unnecessarily petty annoyances. They put their heads together and plotted open mutiny. There then existed, in the angle formed by the roads between the cricket-ground and the boat-house, a redoubt, in which the whole College decided to take refuge and remain until the grievances should be redressed. The redoubt was secretly provisioned to withstand a siege, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, when warned for extra drill, the cadets refused to attend, but fell in and were marched by their corporals to the redoubt. The authorities, seeing that matters had assumed a serious aspect, endeavoured to talk the mutineers into reason.

Colonel Scott proceeded to the redoubt to open up negotiations, but the parapets were manned by cadets armed with loaves of bread, and he was warned to say what he wanted at a distance. No sooner did he open his mouth than he was received with hoots and jeers, and he retired discomfited. Colonel Napier then tried his hand, but with little success, though he was received in a friendly spirit and his speech lustily cheered. Eventually, the Governor, Sir Harry Jones, agreed to listen to their grievances if the cadets would surrender and come on to parade. This they did; but next day, before any redress had been offered, all the corporals were arrested; and the cadets, furious at the breach of faith, returned forthwith to the redoubt. They now refused all terms, and they remained in a state of mutiny until the arrival of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, who, after dressing them down in his own inimitable style, saw that justice was done to them, and ordered the corporals to be restored to their rank. So ended this little affair...'

## Upcoming Events

### Sovereign's Parade

As you will be aware the Commandant has allowed the Friends of The Chapel to have six pairs of tickets for the Sovereign's Parade and afterwards for lunch at the New College Officers' Mess.

If you would like to attend the Sovereign's Parade on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 please complete the application form and return it to the Chapel Office, with a cheque for £20 per person (payable to RMAS Central Bank) *{no post dated cheques please}*, to cover the cost of lunch in the Mess.

All requests must be with me by no later than Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020. If you are unsuccessful in the ticket allocation your cheque will be returned uncashed.

Please include all names of those attending not just the person applying for the tickets.

**NB:** Application form is provided in associated document '*Application Forms – Spring 2020*' provided in pdf format along with the newsletter, and can also be downloaded from the Friends page of the Chapel web site [www.royalmemorialchapel.com](http://www.royalmemorialchapel.com).

*Graham Fleuty*

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### Friends Lunch

#### THE FRIENDS' MORNING SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

The next Friends' Service and Luncheon will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 The Service will start as usual at 10.30 hrs. Friends are reminded that those not attending the luncheon may still have a drink in the Officers' Mess.

Lunch will be served at 1300 hours with the bar opening at 1200 hours. The cost of lunch will be £17.00 per head, and will include a couple of glasses of wine. As usual, tickets will be issued for this event. Those applying to attend are asked to **enclose a stamped addressed envelope with** their application. Should you be able to bring guests, and they intend coming in their own car and do not have RMAS pass facilities, please provide their car details on the application form .

If you wish to attend, please complete the application form and return it to the Chapel Office by  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**NB:** Application form is provided in associated document '*Application Forms – Spring 2020*' provided in pdf format along with the newsletter, and can also be downloaded from the Friends page of the Chapel web site [www.royalmemorialchapel.com](http://www.royalmemorialchapel.com).

*Sue Richardson*

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## Chapel VC Memorials



*Here dead we lie  
because we did not choose  
to live and shame the land  
from which we sprung*

*Life, to be sure,  
is nothing much to lose,  
but young men think it is,  
and we were young*

A.E. Housman

### **Captain, Acting Lt Col, Walter Lorrain Brodie VC MC**

For conspicuous gallantry near Becelaere on the 11th November, in clearing the enemy out of a portion of our trenches which they had succeeded in occupying. Heading the charge, he bayoneted several of the enemy, and thereby relieved a dangerous situation. As a result of Lt. Brodie's promptitude, 80 of the enemy were killed and 51 taken prisoners.

*London Gazette 12th Dec 1914*

He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from August 1914, twice mentioned in dispatches, was killed in action on 23 August 1918 age 34, and is buried at Blenvillers-au-Bois.

## Committee

The following is a list of the current membership of the Friends of The Chapel Management Committee. You are asked to deal directly with the committee member to which your query is related either in person or by email. Enquiries relating to the Friends must not be made to the Chapel Office.

### Elected Members

Chairman	Mrs Sue O'Sullivan
Secretary/Head Sides person	Mrs Ginny Prentice
Treasurer	Dr John Walton
Friends' Lunches	Mrs Sue Richardson
Guides/Sovereign's Parade	Mr Graham Fleuty Col Nigel Flower

### Co-opted Members

Newsletter Editor	} Mrs Jean Carrington Mr Peter Franklin
Membership Secretary	

### Ex Officio Members

Chaplain/Dep Chairman	Padre Antony Feltham-White CF OBE
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**If you wish to contact the committee, either approach any of the members directly, or email [friendsrmachapel@gmail.com](mailto:friendsrmachapel@gmail.com)**

If you wish to attend a Sunday service in term time, but do not have a pass, let the Chapel office know in good time, preferably three days' notice. You need to give your full name, and whether you will be entering by Staff College Gate (A30), or College Town Gate. Your name will then be left at the appropriate gate, and you will be given a temporary day pass to attend the Chapel. Contact either by email [rmcrmas@gmail.com](mailto:rmcrmas@gmail.com) or phone 01276 412543 (you may have to leave a message due to staff shortages in the office). Regular attendees may be eligible for a pass to attend Sunday services in the Chapel, subject to the approval of the Academy Chaplain.

Attendance at services in The Royal Memorial Chapel is often down to between fifteen and twenty people. One of the reasons cited by a lot of people is that it is difficult to get access because of increased security requirements at the Academy. Sadly, today's cultural and political environment makes this a necessity, and cannot be reduced. The protection of the Academy, its staff, residents and officer cadets must be the first priority.

However, we are aiming to provide a system where registered Friends of The Chapel will have an easier means of attending Sunday Services. A list of members of The Friends of The Chapel who have registered a desire to attend services at least once a month during term time will be placed at both gates. Anyone arriving for a Sunday service will be checked against the list and still required to provide photographic ID (Photo driving licence, passport, bus pass or similar), after which they will be provided with a day pass to attend the Chapel. This process is in its early stages of development and will need to be approved by RMAS Security, but it is fully supported by the Academy Chaplain. Regular attendance, at least twice a month in term time, may qualify a member for an annually renewable pass.

If you would like to be included on the list, please either send an email to [friendsrmachapel@gmail.com](mailto:friendsrmachapel@gmail.com) or write to the Membership Secretary at the address below registering your interest. No reply will indicate that you do not want to be included in the system.

Friends Membership Secretary  
c/o The Chaplains' Office  
The Royal Memorial Chapel  
The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst  
Camberley  
GU15 4PQ

## Poetry Corner

This Newsletter's poem is from John Clare. Clare was born in Helpston, 6 miles to the north of the city of Peterborough. In his lifetime, the village was in the Soke of Peterborough in Northamptonshire and his memorial calls him "The Northamptonshire Peasant Poet". Helpston is now administered by the City of Peterborough unitary authority.

He became an agricultural labourer while still a child; however, he attended school in Glinton church until he was 12. In his early adult years, Clare became a potboy in the Blue Bell public house and fell in love with Mary Joyce; but her father, a prosperous farmer, forbade her to meet him. Subsequently, he was a gardener at Burghley House. He enlisted in the militia, tried camp life with Gypsies, and worked in Pickworth, Rutland as a lime burner in 1817. In the following year he was obliged to accept parish relief. Malnutrition stemming from childhood may have been the main factor behind his five-foot stature and have contributed to his poor physical health in later life.

Clare was constantly torn between the two worlds of literary London and his often illiterate neighbours; between the need to write poetry and the need for money to feed and clothe his children. His health began to suffer, and he had bouts of severe depression, which became worse after his sixth child was born in 1830 and as his poetry sold less well. In 1832, his friends and his London patrons clubbed together to move the family to a larger cottage with a smallholding in the village of Northborough, not far from Helpston. However, he only felt more alienated there.

His last work, the Rural Muse (1835), was noticed favourably by Christopher North and other reviewers, but this was not enough to support his wife and seven children. Clare's mental health began to worsen. As his alcohol consumption steadily increased along with his dissatisfaction with his own identity, Clare's behaviour became more erratic. A notable instance of this behaviour was demonstrated in his interruption of a performance of The Merchant of Venice, in which Clare verbally assaulted Shylock. He was becoming a burden to his family, and in July 1837, on the recommendation of his publishing friend, John Taylor, Clare went of his own volition to Dr Matthew Allen's private asylum High Beach near Loughton, in Epping Forest. Taylor had assured Clare that he would receive the best medical care.

Clare was reported as being '*full of many strange delusions*'. He believed himself to be a prize fighter and that he had two wives, Patty and Mary. He started to claim he was Lord Byron. Allen wrote about Clare to The Times in 1840:

*'...It is most singular that ever since he came... the moment he gets pen or pencil in hand he begins to write most poetical effusions. Yet he has never been able to obtain in conversation, nor even in writing prose, the appearance of sanity for two minutes or two lines together, and yet there is no indication of insanity in any of his poetry....'*

### Young Lambs

*John Clare (1793-1864)*



The spring is coming by a many signs;  
The trays are up, the hedges broken down,  
That fenced the haystack, and the remnant shines  
Like some old antique fragment weathered brown.  
And where suns peep, in every sheltered place,  
The little early buttercups unfold  
A glittering star or two--till many trace  
The edges of the blackthorn clumps in gold.  
And then a little lamb bolts up behind  
The hill and wags his tail to meet the yoe,  
And then another, sheltered from the wind,  
Lies all his length as dead--and lets me go  
Close bye and never stirs but baking lies,  
With legs stretched out as though he could not rise.

## Helpful texts

In the turbulence of life, scripture verses to help and encourage when you feel:

A failure .....Psalm 73:26, Proverbs 15:22, Hebrews 4:14-16  
Afraid .....Psalm 27:1-3, Psalm 56, Matthew 10:26-31  
Bereaved.....Matthew 5:4, John 11:25, Revelation 21:1-4  
Depressed .....Psalm 34, Psalm 142, Romans 8:28'  
Discouraged.....2 Timothy 4:16-18, 1 Peter 3:13-17  
Far from God .....Psalm 139, Luke 1,5:11-24, Acts 17:22-30.  
In danger .....Psalm 91, Proverbs 27:12, Romans 8:35  
In doubt.....Job 38-39, John 20:24-29 James 1:12  
Lonely .....Psalm 13, Psalm 25:16-18, John 14:15-21  
Tempted .....Psalm 119:9,1 Corinthians 10:13, James 1:13-15  
Tired.....Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:28-31, Matthew 11:28-30  
Worried .....Psalm 46, Matthew 6:25-34,1 Peter 5:7

And scripture verses when you want:

Courage .....Joshua 1:9, Ephesians 6:10-18, 2 Timothy 1:7  
Forgiveness .....Psalms 32, Psalm 51, Luke 17; 1-4, 1 John 1:9  
Help .....Psalm 121, Philippians 4:19  
Inspiration.....Psalm 37, Proverbs 3:5-6, James 1:5-6  
Joy .....Luke 15:3-10, John 15:1-11, Romans 5:1-11  
Peace .....Psalm 34:14, Matthew 5:9, Philippians 4:6-7  
Strength.....Isaiah 40:28-31, Acts 1:8, 1 Peter.5:10  
To find God.....Romans 3:23,6:23, John 3:16,1 John 5:9-12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:8-10  
To talk to God.....Luke 11:1-13, Timothy 2:1-6, 1 John5:13-15  
To live for God .....Romans 12 & 13, Ephesians 4:17 to 69

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