

Mission Community of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland



# Rainbow of Hope



# Rainbow of Hope -a song by St. Andrew's Junior Choir

This must be one of the positive and good things to have come out of the Covid 19 pandemic and the lockdown. Please follow the link to hear the song and see the photo gallery -

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheStAndrewsJpplepenYouthChoir](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheStAndrewsJpplepenYouthChoir)

They reached their initial target - £1000 plus £192.50 of gift aid for Rowcroft Hospice was raised after just eight days "We are going to keep going and hope that we can maybe raise another £500 or even reach £2000."

Dr. Tom Morris, who facilitated the recording commented: "It's always a joy to give a group of talented children a little spark and discover what ignites. My greatest achievement with this project was to be able to incorporate all of the singers in the recording mix (some found singing to a backing track with headphones on quite a challenge - enormous gratitude to the parents for their encouragement) and the icing on the cake was to have flutes & tenor horn, which took a bit of patient learning of Garageband software and a couple of late nights."

The choir members had this to say:

*Lauren: "I enjoyed making the song and it has been a good break from school work. I enjoyed editing the video and seeing all the lovely rainbows around the village. Lockdown has been an interesting experience."*

*Charlotte: "Thinking of words for the song was enjoyable but recording it was frustrating because of technology problems."*

*Theo: "The song was good and we did help the company" (he means the charity)*

*Theo also said about lockdown: "Excellent, I don't have to go to school. It's absolutely perfect." though he misses his friends. He like the Zoom meeting chat with the rest of the choir and is looking forward to recording another song.*

*Emily: "It was a challenge to learn the tune without being able to meet as a Choir to practise it. We enjoyed the chance to be creative and we are pleased with the outcome. It was good to learn something new on the flute too."*

*Isabelle: "I enjoy listening to it now we've finished it, even though recording it was quite hard. It's really good to be supporting Rowcroft."*

*Katie: "It's great that we have hit our target and it's for such a good cause."*

*Rose & Paige's mum Carina: "Rose & Paige really enjoyed the Zoom chat – it gave them a boost after an otherwise pretty dull day. They are very excited about all of the new songs."*

The finished song is amazing, so poignant. "We feel really proud of them all and very grateful to everyone who has supported our fundraising for Rowcroft" commented one of the mums. We can only reiterate that comment. They made us all feel so good and proud.

Editor



# Rainbow of Hope

Composed by St Andrew's Ipplepen Youth Choir - 27/4/2020

These are strange times,  
We can pull together.  
There's a rainbow of hope  
Arching over us all.

The birds sound so clear (what must they think);  
No traffic to drown out their call.  
Neighbours emerge to clap and to cheer,  
Share stories, sing songs, give thanks to all.

"Wash hands! Stay safe!"  
"Social isolation!"  
We're contained in our space,  
The sanctuary of home.

The scent of sweet blossom that hangs in clean air;  
A sky filled with nothing but blue;  
Earth bursts with Spring flowers, buzzing bees in the trees,  
Let's care for each other and our Natural World too.

These are strange times,  
We can pull together.  
There's a rainbow of hope  
Arching over us all.  
Oh, such strange times,  
Yet we will succeed,  
With our rainbow above  
Arching over us all.



# Rainbow of Hope – background by Dr. Tom

**Lockdown:** at the start of this year, 2020, who could have predicted a situation where so much of the world's population has been confined to their home (whatever that home may be) and told not to move unless absolutely necessary; where pollution levels have been so suddenly and dramatically reduced (people in Punjab able to see the Himalayan Mountains for the first time in 30 years), no aeroplane flights, empty motorways and less marine traffic both small (on our rivers & waterways, like Venice), and massive (on our seas - cruise liners, Diamond Princess)? The effect of the Covid-19 virus infection is devastating and many families are suffering through fear, loneliness, illness & loss. There is a serious economic toll and some peoples' jobs won't recover. There are, however, so many aspects of this situation which give us hope for our future together and that of our Natural World - the "silver lining" to the Covid "Black cloud".

The St. Andrew's Ipplepen Youth Choir was formed in September 2019 and its members, currently 8, range from 7 - 12 years old.

In just 6 weeks the choir has composed and recorded the many and various experiences through Lockdown in a song. It is all the more remarkable to appreciate that this was achieved "Remotely".

We wanted to bring together those observations made during this time of continued Lockdown, which has coincided with extraordinarily good weather and through the most beautiful period of Spring.

## Observation & inspiration:

- *Morning Choruses, heard so clearly without background engine noise from traffic, trains and planes.*
- *Thursday evening's routine of standing outside our homes to show appreciation for NHS, Carers and Emergency Service Workers.*
- *The Government's strong recommendation to "Wash hands", "Stay Home", keep "Social Distancing" and "Isolate" if feeling ill. Terms we are currently hearing all the time.*
- *"Contained" - although we may be "contained in our space" this is, at present, the only and the best way that we can defeat the virus. By "containing" Covid-19 so that it has no human access, it can't survive!*
- *"Earth bursts with Spring flowers" - Isaiah 16 v 11. Spring unfurled so spectacularly sending out strong scents from the blossoms into the clean, unpolluted air. The lovely sight of a completely clear blue sky, unspoilt by vapour-trails.*
- *The joy of appreciating how good this situation continues to be for our wildlife, which is thriving as a result of reduced human interference.*
- *"Buzzing bees" is a reference to the Ipplepen community project for Primary school aged children to sow wild flower seeds to "Keep Ipplepen Buzzing".*

## Rainbow of Hope – continued

- *On the 5th April, Her Majesty, the Queen, addressed the nation. Her Majesty's closing comment was that, "We will succeed, and that success will belong to every one of us .....better days will come" - comforting and inspiring words.*
- *Hope is symbolised in all of the beautiful rainbow pictures drawn by children and displayed in windows, on houses and pavements all over the country.*

We hope that you enjoy our song and share our appreciation for all of the good that is being done and our hope for a better, brighter future.

St Andrew's Youth Choir, Ipplepen: as you listen to the recording: "Virtually L to R" Rose 12, Paige 11, Lauren 11, Isabelle 11, Theo 7, Emily 12, Charlotte 9, Katie 12. Flutes: Emily & Katie, Tenor Horn: Theo, Guitar & vocal: Tom

The choir wishes to support Rowcroft Hospice (Registered Charity No: 282723). Our local hospice stands to lose the majority of its income as fundraising events are cancelled. If you have enjoyed this song, please help the choir to reach its target by using the JustGiving link:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheStAndrewsIpplepenYouthChoir](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheStAndrewsIpplepenYouthChoir)

*Jo Innes Lumsden writes:*

I am immensely proud of the youth choir. Although I personally did not have anything to do with the wonderful song they have produced and the subsequent amazing total they have achieved for Rowcroft hospice, I am thrilled that Tom Morris has fired the enthusiasm of the choir to produce the music, albeit from the comfort of their own homes, a feat in itself. The choir seem keen to continue during this time and Tom and I have sent them songs to learn which they may record later. Thank you to all who have donated and given your support.









## A “Rainbow of Hope”

So sing the St. Andrew's Youth Choir in their remarkable video which has already raised over £1000 for Rowcroft Hospice.

But it feels strange to be listening to church services on YouTube or services from kitchens and clergy homes on the radio or television screens. No familiar faces. No obvious sign of our common life, our community. Of course, that doesn't mean they don't exist. Things are just different at the moment.

Many worshippers used to going to church have experienced a sense of loss in recent weeks, and sometimes even anger. Why are the churches closed, just at the time we need them most? Has the church abandoned the faithful? No, of course the church is still here – the fact you are listening to the Youth choir or reading this is witness to that. And the church is the people. Yes, our buildings matter – that is why not being allowed to gather in them hurts. But like all other enclosed public spaces, we will be allowed back, in time.

When things go wrong in our lives, it's natural to feel abandoned - by other people, by the church, or the government, or God. Centuries ago, after a terrible flood wiped out the people's known world, and the story of Noah was told, people needed the reassurance that God was on their side – that all was now well. A lot could be said about the account of the flood and the reasons for it. But the story of Noah and his ark is in the end a story of deliverance, and of a promise – a covenant between God and the people of God. Those who survived had been through so much, but now, whenever a rainbow was seen in the sky, it would serve as a reminder of God's promise to his people: he would not abandon them.

Here in our villages, one of the ways that children have been marking their support for key workers in the National Health Service, the NHS, has been to put pictures of rainbows in the windows of their houses. You may well pass

them as you take your daily exercise. These rainbows are a sign of our communities' commitment, and promise of support, to those working day and night to fight the pandemic. In the light of the Genesis story, if we believe that we are made in the image of God, do we also see in these symbols a reflection – or perhaps even a re-fraction – of God's promise to us? The rainbow reminds God's people that God is with them. Even when we are broken, and once again God is broken with us - re-fracted - love is poured out; and glorious light is dispersed in the gloom.

Some of us, in our current crisis, will be impatient for things to get back to normal. Others will be worried about that happening too quickly, before the danger is past. Some will feel very lucky, because we have remained virus free, or because we have been relatively unaffected, in the great scheme of things. Others, though, will know the acute pain of the loss of loved ones and perhaps be experiencing a sense that things can never be normal again. Once again today we remember those who are suffering grievously. As one friend of mine said this week, 'nothing will ever be the same again, and there is so much sadness to work through' – but there are things to look forward to, including being reunited with friends and loved ones, and we can make sure the future is a better place.

But there is hope, if we watch for the signs. Outside, despite all, our countryside views are stunning and gardens are blooming, and a rainbow of colours reminds us once again of God's promise and our hope in it. Spring and Summer do follow the winter, and in time, if we are patient, we will come to know the worst is past, and we will find that we are back close to where we want to be. But for now, we must keep looking out for rainbows. They may be for us the sign we need that God is here now, as He always has been and always will be; and that His Spirit is with us.

*Michael Price - Editor*

## In the time of Pandemic

And the people stayed home.  
And read books and listened, and rested and exercised,  
and made art and played games,  
and learned new ways of being and were still.  
And listened more deeply.  
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.  
Some met their shadows.  
And the people began to think differently.  
And the people healed.  
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and  
heartless ways the earth began to heal.  
And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again,  
they grieved their losses, and made new choices,  
and dreamed new images,  
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,  
as they had been healed.

*Written by Kate O'Meara*

*A retired teacher, Kitty O'Meara, from the city of Madison, in Wisconsin, turned to writing in an effort to curb her own anxiety amid the nerve-wracking news of the COVID-19 pandemic. The result, which she posted to her personal Facebook, has been widely read across the world offering hope that something good can come out of this collective state of 'together, apart.'*

*O'Meara's poem suggests that we view this era of social distancing as a chance to undertake purposeful activities like meditation, exercise, and dancing, and result in a kind of global healing.*

*Sent in by Steve Bassett*

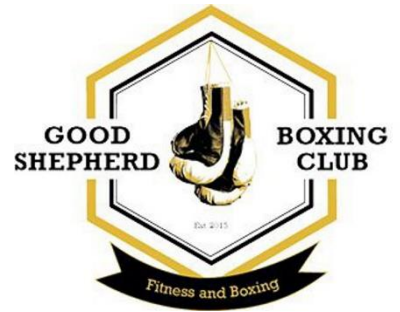
## A prayer worth sharing

*(From Tearfund)*

God of love and light,  
In this time of fear, give us your peace.  
In this time of isolation, give us your presence.  
In this time of sickness, give us your healing.  
In this time of uncertainty, give us your wisdom.  
In this time of darkness, shine your light upon us all.  
In Jesus' name, Amen



# Meeting Jesus in the ring



Five boxers dedicated their lives to Jesus recently at a ringside baptism service in East London. The men, who came to faith in God through a missional boxing project in Romford, shared their testimonies to friends and family in a ceremony set out like a boxing match. Stormzy was the backing track to the event at the Church of the Good Shepherd, where seats were laid out in the round with a baptismal pool in the centre. Following his submersion, one boxer said: "I feel like a clean person and the worries are off my shoulders," while another shared how his journey of faith had "re-lit the fire and belief that was always there, and with the help of the other guys, I discovered what it was - that I was lost. Being a part of this community has made me want to be a better person."

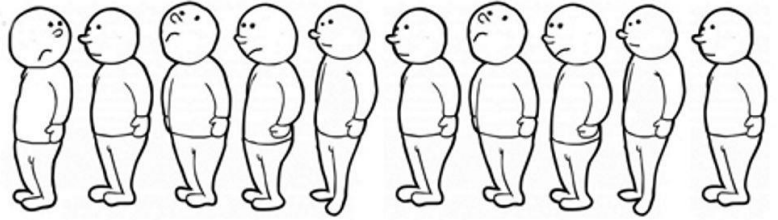
Church minister Dave Harrigan, launched The Good Shepherd Boxing Community in 2015, as a hub for the local community to build relationships and encounter God. He said: "This baptism is a fulfilment of our vision for pioneer ministry and is exciting proof that pioneer projects such as the Good Shepherd Boxing Community are an effective way of being 'church' for people who live outside the traditional bounds of the regular church and who wouldn't normally attend a Sunday service."

## Smile



- Two friends were discussing the vicar's sermon on tithing. "Times are difficult," said one, "but it seems an important subject and I suppose we should follow what he said." His friend commented, "I wonder, though, how far you can take this tithing business. For instance, in this time of shortages, if I managed to buy thirty toilet rolls, would I be expected to give three to the church?"
- *(This is a translation of a poster found in a church in France)*  
When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving away.
- A new boy turned up at a Sunday Club and the leader asked him a few questions to break the ice and ended with asking him what his father did. He's a magician, sir," said the boy. "How interesting," said the leader, "What's his favourite trick - what is he really very good at doing?" The boy replied, "He's very good at sawing people in half." The leader was impressed. "Now tell me something more about yourself, do you have any brothers and sisters?" asked the teacher. "Yes sir," replied Johnny, I have one brother and two half sisters."

# Ten Little Christians



*I know this is an old piece, but its message never changes - Editor*

Ten little Christians went to church when fine,  
but it started raining and then there were nine.  
Nine little Christians stayed up very late,  
one overslept, and then there were eight.  
Eight little Christians on the road to Heaven,  
one joined a rambling club, and then there were seven.  
Seven little Christians heard of Sunday 'flicks',  
one thought they'd like to go and then there were six.  
Six little Christians kept the place alive,  
till one bought a television then there were five.  
Five little Christians seemed loyal to the core,  
the minister upset one, and then there were four.  
Four little Christians argued heatedly  
over forms of worship and then there were three.  
Three little Christians sang the service through,  
got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two.  
Two little Christians disputed who should run  
the next coffee morning and then there was one.

One faithful Christian knowing what to do  
went and visited a friend and then there were two.  
Two sincere Christians went out to seek two more,  
so their numbers doubled and then there were four.  
Four devoted Christians simply couldn't wait,  
till they found four others and then there were eight.  
Eight eager Christians searching round for souls,  
praying, working, caring, drew others in by shoals,  
Shoals and shoals at every service cramming every pew,  
Lord, supply this grace and zeal right here in our Church too.





- A man running a little behind schedule arrived at a church film evening and, in the semi darkness, he managed to find a seat. As his eyes adjusted to the darkness, he was surprised to see a dog sitting beside its master in the row ahead, intently watching the film. It even seemed to be enjoying the film, wagging its tail in the happy bits, drooping its ears at the sad bits, and hiding its eyes with its paws at the scary bits. At the end the man approached the dog's owner, "Wow, I'm amazed at how your dog really seemed to enjoy the film" The owner replied, "Yes, I can't believe it myself, because he hated the book."
- It was late at night and a lady who was expecting her second child was at home only with her 3-year-old daughter, Molly. The lady started to go into labour and called 999. Only one paramedic was able to respond to the call. The room was dimly lit, so the paramedic asked Molly to hold a torch so he could see better to deliver the baby. Soon, a little baby boy was born and the paramedic lifted him up, spanked him gently and the baby began to cry. The paramedic then thanked the wide-eyed Molly for her help, and asked what she thought about the baby boy. She quickly responded, "He shouldn't have gone in there in the first place - spank him again."



## Letter to the Editor

Sir, The job of running a disparate group of rural parishes has always seemed to me to be an extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible, task to ask of any priest. Not only is he/she expected to lead regular services in the parishes, each with its own tradition, but also to officiate at weddings, funerals etc. whilst at the same time providing one-to-one pastoral care to those in need. On top of all this, he/she has to deal with all the administrative demands of a highly bureaucratic and rule-ridden organisation. In all, a huge challenge which allows little time for the priest to take care of their own spiritual needs.

The current coronavirus crisis, however, may be showing us a way of easing this problem and that is through the use of modern communications technology. With church buildings shut, many priests are taking to social media to pursue the mission of the Church. One priest recently wrote:

*"This crisis has shown us a new way of doing things as a Church. Who would have thought we would be live streaming services, and putting videos on YouTube!*

*We are discovering ways of being church, being community, being connected that seem to work, and lead us in a slightly different direction. Who knows what we will have learned by the time this is all over.*

*It has also opened up new avenues of contact, or outreach. My Easter sermon was watched over 350 times which is so many more than the folk who would have heard it live in church.*

*Before lockdown, I would never have dared put something like that on YouTube!"*

Not only does the use of this technology ease the burden on the priest by cutting down on all those journeys from one parish to the next but it also **opens up new avenues of contact**. This is how the modern world communicates, not always by gathering together at a particular place on a particular day at a particular time but, increasingly, via a screen as and when time allows. We as a Church should recognise this and be prepared to adapt. Andrew is to be congratulated on leading the way in our Mission Community with his Easter Service and Reflections on YouTube.

Chris Parker

## Another prayer worth sharing

*(From the CofE website)*

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## Easter 2020 – a reflection

I made my first Communion sixty years ago this Easter, so it was doubly disappointing not to be able to take Communion on Easter Day. Of course, it was all different 60 years ago. I had been confirmed some weeks before, but the tradition was to wait until Easter to take one's first Communion. I was confirmed by the Bishop of Exeter, Robert Mortimer, who explained that we should take Communion at least 3 times a year - of which Easter must be one.

Communion was in those days a rare service in a country church. Matins was the rule and once a month (I can't remember how) Matins seamlessly changed half way through to the Communion service. There were occasional 8am Communion services, and a full Communion service at festivals as the main morning service.

Sixty years ago the services were all Prayer Book ones. I had not seen clergymen wearing vestments until I came to Ipplepen, and the Vicar/Rector always took a Communion service from an altar at the east end of the church, facing east, leading his congregation.

It was not until some time after I had come to Ipplepen that we became - as was said at the time - "matey with the Almighty" and changed to a nave altar with the clergyman facing his congregation.

Change has been inevitable, and I have accepted much of it, but I miss being able to hold the chalice, and I miss the prayer book words when the bread and wine are given - "the body/blood of Christ" is a very weak substitute indeed.

But going back to my thoughts this Easter, I was disappointed with the C of E's response. On Easter Day we watched the Pope celebrate mass in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. He was assisted by several other priests - at a distance. Afterwards the Pope gave his "Urbi et Orbi" address - to the city and to the world. In between, while he disrobed, the cameras gave us a wonderful tour of the empty Basilica - something it would be almost impossible to see if one visited when it was full of tourists.

And what did the dear old C of E do? The Archbishop of Canterbury managed a dull sort of service in his kitchen. He had a perfectly good chapel in Lambeth Palace very nearby and chose not to use it. The reason for this escapes me, although my newspaper called it "Virtue Signalling". At least we weren't given a complete tour of his cupboards and utensils.

I am also at a loss as to why churches are closed - it was certainly not a Government instruction. I can appreciate the need for social distancing (probably not too difficult in most churches on a Sunday morning). Certainly churches being open during the week for private prayer would, with a little ingenuity, have presented little or no risk to anyone.

Happily, we have been able to watch a televised service each Sunday morning from various cathedrals. Bangor, St. David's, and Hereford have all held services, with a limited number of participants, using previously recorded hymns from Songs of Praise in their churches.

I am sure we will all be glad to get back to "normal". Church leaders writing in the press say that the church will be all the stronger. Let's hope they are right.

*Stephen Bryant*

## A view from Torbryan



This month my feelings turn very much towards hope that we are over the worst of the coronavirus emergency that we have all been facing in recent months. Although it is becoming clear that it will take some time to return to the sorts of lifestyle that we had before this crisis arrived, there do seem to be some hints of a little more normality on the horizon.

I am struck by how blasé we all were about our former lives; how we took it for granted that we could go out to see a film, to a restaurant or for a pint of beer at a whim, activities that now seem almost decadent.

But of course these are petty concerns compared to those who have lost loved ones before their time. I am struck by how this virus seems to have targeted the more vulnerable in our society, for example the elderly and those on low incomes.

One thing truly to be thankful for is how COVID-19 has largely not infected children, although they haven't exactly been untouched by being off from school for so long and exposed to the constant worry that this virus has caused, something that some segments of our media almost seem to revel in reporting.

In fact I worry for the mental health of all of us in facing up to this unprecedented situation. Those on the front line in this situation - NHS staff, nurses, care home workers and key workers generally - are of course feeling the strain, but none of us are immune.

So at times like this we have to think of the silver linings, and here are a few of mine from this weekend: we took advantage of our new freedoms to visit the beautiful South Devon coastline on a beautiful sunny day and I swam in the sea for the first time in ages; in our garden the hedgehogs are running riot, eating slugs aplenty; and for the first time ever since living in this village I heard a cuckoo calling. These were all things that made me feel a little happier and forget about everything else that is happening.

*Georgie Brendon*



Listening to a service this morning on YouTube, I heard the message about Mental Health Awareness Week and how much we, as Christians, need to reach out to people who feel isolated and friendless at this time; or who feel unable to see a way through our current situation. Reaching out to those in need is difficult if we don't, know who needs help. I'm sure all of us feel lonely at some stage and miss seeing our friends, so please, don't feel shy in coming forward. Give someone in our church a call to let them know your concerns. As they say 'a worry shared is a worry halved'.

*Jo Innes-Lumsden*



# Values and Beliefs

“We need a set of values and beliefs to guide us.” These words give a flavour of the maiden speech in the House of Commons by Danny Kruger a new MP, before the ‘lockdown’.



At the end of his speech he said, *“I want to finish on a more abstract issue but I think it’s one that we’re going to find ourselves debating in many different forms in this Parliament. It’s the issue of identity, of who we are, both as individuals and in relation to each other. Traditionally, we had a sense of this. We are children of God, fallen but redeemed, capable of great wrong but capable of great virtue. And even for those that didn’t believe in God there was a sense that our country is rooted in Christianity, that our liberties derive from the Christian idea of absolute human dignity. And today these ideas are losing their purchase. So we are trying to find a new set of values to guide us, a new language of rights and wrongs, and a new idea of identity, based not on our universal inner value, or on our membership of a common culture, but on our particular differences.*

*“And I state this as neutrally as I can because I know that good people are trying hard to make a better world, and I know that Christianity in the Western past is badly stained by violence and injustice. But I’m not sure we should so casually throw away the inheritance of our culture. There is so much to be positive about. I share the Prime Minister’s exuberant optimism about the future, but we need a set of values and beliefs to guide us. As we advance at speed into a bewildering world where we are forced to ask the most profound questions about the limits of autonomy and what it means to be human, we may have reasons to look about for the old ways and seek wisdom in the old ideas which are in my view entirely timeless.”*



Antony Mitchell

## What is The Holy Spirit?? (discuss...)

The other day, I was called upon to help with my Grandson's RE home school work (wonder why they thought of me??!), and Something Came Up. He'd been told to research Pentecost, and one of the questions was "What is the Holy Spirit?" Leave aside that Father Andrew would have trouble with this, let alone an 8 year old (!), he duly read out a sentence he had found in his research. In full Teacher mode (poor little mite!), I said, "Do you know what that means?" He thought for a moment, then said. "It's like God's soul" and then, "It's like a messenger who's always there". Remarkable child – got good genes!! But that really is the whole point of Pentecost – as Anne says in her letter, the Spirit of God living among us, now and forever.

*PS. Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season. The Church now enters a calendar period known as "Ordinary Time". Yeah, right!!!*



*Photos by  
Antony Mitchell*



# Brother, sister, let me serve you

There is a modern hymn which begins with that line and which has very much reflected my life, in my work, in my hobbies and in my personal relationships. Being on the 'giving' end of service, like that, I have found the end of that verse –

'Pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant, too.'

- quite difficult to put into practice. ***Then along came That Virus.***

Being well past the big Seven Oh and with a heart condition, I find myself largely shut indoors, apart from walking the dog daily, carefully avoiding the few other pedestrians that I meet. Now I have no choice but to let others be my servant, doing our shopping and such jobs. While I didn't find it easy at first, I have recognised it as being inevitable and am able to go along with it. I am surprised to realise that I don't find it as hard as I expected. I am able to understand the twin purposes of avoiding catching the virus and avoiding being an unintentional carrier, passing it on to other people.

We really should think about the words that we sing and say Sunday by Sunday because that way they can suddenly have special meaning for us. They can cease to be just words off the page and become lessons to us and prayers to God.

*Edward Goodman*

## Straplines

- When you think of the incredible beauty of creation, a host of impressive historical facts and countless lives that have been wonderfully changed, it must take an awful lot of faith to be an atheist.
- When times get dark and I despair, belief that I am not alone and there is a God looking down on me who I can pray to and who does not judge me, takes a burden off my shoulders. (*Henry Cockburn*)
- When you get to the point where you think you understand your children, you're probably too old for it to matter.
- It's dangerous to try and be number one, because when all is said and done, it is next to nothing.

## 'Time for us girls' - a poem by Pam Ayres

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.  
You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.  
They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.  
We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!  
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.  
Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?  
We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead

Is like a red rag to a bull!  
So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!  
It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!  
Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.  
At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!  
So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.  
We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide

To fit through the flaming gates!

## Church Notice Board

- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

# Blame the chair, not me!

*(A timely message from Jenny Edwards MBE of the Disabled Christian Fellowship)*

I am a long-term wheelchair user and my electric wheelchair is an amazing tool in many ways, but as with so many wonderful things it can also go wrong. And that is a wonderful illustration of how we feel at times - and how God can intervene at the not-so-good times.

Do you sometimes have days when you feel things are just not running smoothly? I often do, and on those days I frequently find my chair simply does what it wants to do and not what I want it to do! For instance, doors and walls get in the way and I crash into them knocking off the paint and causing even more frustration than before. Admittedly, this is mainly due to my not concentrating whilst driving, but at the time I see it as a wheelchair fault! Another situation is when the chair takes on a mind of its own. The joystick on the chair is extremely sensitive and the slightest knock can send me in a direction I do not want to go, and at a speed that is frightening! This often happens when someone rests their arm on the chair, hitting the joystick. Again, I blame the chair, but really, if I had turned it off that would not happen. Once I actually had to be rescued from a bush in a ditch because I failed to turn the chair off whilst talking to someone! Another chair incident can be caused by failing to turn the battery charger on at night - no battery charge, chair no go!

You will have no doubt realised that every one of these incidents could have been avoided if I had been more careful. It is so easy to blame things or people when the day does not go to plan. I blame my chair, but that does not make me feel any better. However, just stopping still for a while, and using that time to connect with God, can and does change the day. A day that does not start with a conversation with God is never a good day for me, but the wonderful thing is, I can stop and connect with Him.



*Antony Mitchell*



# A timely prayer

Loving God,  
If we are ill, strengthen us.  
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.  
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.  
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.  
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.  
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.  
Help us always to hold fast to the good,  
See the good in others,  
And remember there is just one world, one hope,  
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.  
In Jesus we make our prayer,  
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,  
In whom we trust these days and all days,  
Amen.

*(Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference)*

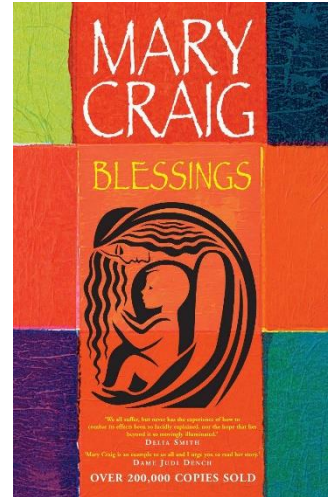


*Antony Mitchell*

## Book review - 'Blessings' by Mary Craig

*This book is about a family who outwardly had the lot: breeding, intelligence, education, money, good jobs. Then slowly life begins to unravel into a nightmare. The initial sense of overwhelming horror was followed by resentment – 'Why me?'- and finally, 'Get on with it.' I think Blessings should be made compulsory reading for all doctors! When you read it you will understand why.*

*I am one of those odd people who is intrigued reading 'Obituaries'. People's lives, their views, achievements and perhaps their philosophy of life often fascinate and very occasionally 'inspire'. In December there was one such obituary in the Times which I found inspirational:*



Mary Haig was born in 1928 at St. Helens in Lancashire. She never met her father or brother who both tragically died 4 months before Mary was born. Mary's mother, a devout catholic, became a headmistress at the primary school in St. Helens and at seventeen daughter Mary secured a place at St. Anne's Oxford to read French. In her first term she met Frank Craig at the Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy. He was reading chemistry and shared tutorials with the future Prime Minister, Margaret Roberts. He went on to work as a director of Burma Oil UK alongside Dennis Thatcher. Frank and Mary married in 1952 and had their first child Anthony, now a retired computer consultant.

A family who outwardly had the lot; breeding, money, good jobs before slowly life began to unravel into a nightmare. Another pregnancy followed 2 years later - Paul was born. He had a very rare genetic disorder, Hurler's syndrome, characterised by multiple abnormalities, severe mental impairment and a reduced life expectancy. A condition we would call gargoylism. Paul was doubly incontinent and unable to speak. It was a 24 hour a day job to keep him clean and fed. After 5 years caring for Paul, Mary began to disintegrate under the pressure. A Roman Catholic and a firm believer, she nonetheless found herself shouting at God for the hand she had been dealt and asking what should she do. The answer came from husband Frank who suggested that she go away for a week. She decided to volunteer at the Sue Ryder home in Cavendish in Suffolk, which housed victims of the concentration camps and seriously disabled soldiers of the Second World War. It was a week during which she was filled with awe at the humour and humanity of the residents despite their tales of horror. "I felt" she said "as if I had been sent here to come to terms with the suffering of my own life. I had tried to deal with it by fighting it. But I became aware that though suffering poses the greatest challenge to our belief in God yet it offers our best opportunity to draw close to him. We can turn in on ourselves or we can grow. The choice is always ours."

Before her stay at Cavendish she had given birth to her 3<sup>rd</sup> son Mark, who is now a consultant vet. But 2 years later her fourth child Nicholas was born with Down's syndrome. She now had two disabled children. When Nicholas was born she described "falling into an abyss of terror and hopelessness". Yet in the darkness she recalled a line from a prayer book that Sue Ryder, Nicholas's godmother had given her: 'Our tragedy is not that we suffer, but that we waste suffering. We waste the opportunity to grow into compassion.' There followed what she



## Book Review - continued

described as “my only mystical experience. I felt I was firm, safe from further falling, and a voice was telling me, ‘there is a way through this, but you must find it for yourself. Remember I am here.’”

She went on to give enormous help with organising funds for the Sue Ryder homes and trips to Poland in lorries with food and medicine for the dispossessed and concentration camp victims. She discovered a talent for public speaking that led to a broadcasting career on BBC programmes such as ‘Woman’s Hour’ and ‘Does he take sugar?’ which explored attitudes towards disability.

In 1979 she wrote a book which I felt I had to read entitled of all things ‘Blessings’ a candid memoir of her dialogue and despair with God as she tried to make sense of her situation. It is a book in which the emotions are like April weather, tears of joy and sorrow, showers one minute sun the next. Its main purpose Mary reflected “was to suggest that it is not the external happenings in our lives that shape us, but how we choose to respond to them.”

She wrote in her book “It is like the moment that Jesus faced in the Garden of Gethsemane. With the sweat of fear pouring down his brow, he knelt in prayer and begged to be let off the grinding agony that lay in wait for him. But he added the words, ‘Father, if it be possible,’ and, if it should not be possible, then ‘Thy will be done’. He accepted that he would have to go through his ordeal to the bitter end, so that the work of redemption could be done. He may have uttered those words – ‘thy will be done’ – with difficulty, but they meant that he accepted and would be ready to face and to use whatever was in store for him. It was his spoken assurance that he would not run away, that generosity of soul would triumph over fear. That moment in the Garden has always seemed to me a crucial one, the moment in which Jesus faced up to his own Passion, perhaps in doubt and fear of his own capacity to endure it, but in full acceptance of what had to be. That is a moment we all face at some time or other, when we can opt to run away to lose ourselves in fantasy or superstition, to submerge ourselves in self-pity; or, to look reality in the face, exactly as it is, with all its implications. If we refuse to face reality, we run away from ourselves and turn our backs on the possibility of wholeness.”

It is no good sinking ourselves in good works, she wrote, “if we are in flight from ourselves, we have nothing to offer other than our own emptiness. However tempting the flight into unreality may be, there is no lasting comfort in it. The only cure for suffering she wrote is to face it head-on, grasp it round the neck and use it.”



*First published in 1997 by Hodder and Stoughton Ltd. Reprinted in 2012 by Canterbury Press.  
EISBN 978 1 84825 2608*

*Michael Price*



# Fear – by Gideon Heugh

*We received this very timely and challenging poem from Tearfund. It was written by Gideon Heugh*

These are the days we hoped we'd never see.  
Panic. Confusion. Fear and uncertainty.  
These are the days when faith is put to the test:  
our souls shrinking back amid growing distress,  
while I guess that hope is on lock-down these days –  
this pandemic of anxiety seeming less like a phase  
and more like the status quo.  
When there's no where left to turn, where are we meant to go?  
These are the days to remember who we're made to be:  
loved, accepted, worthy, free -  
days to see that a saviour is shining in the dark  
declaring that love is alive and it's designed for our hearts;  
these are the days for stones to be rolled back  
for joy to rise up and peace go on the attack  
because the fact is that you can't put grace into isolation,  
you can't stop the spring, there will always be a resurrection.  
These days will show that darkness is just a place where light begins,  
and that no matter how strong the fear, love always wins.

## Straplines

- Children have clearly started to develop when they stop asking where they came from and are not keen to tell you where they are going.
- Have you noticed that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks its neck out.
- Holding a grudge is like letting someone live rent free in your head.
- I don't care what is written about me, so long as it isn't true. *(Katharine Hepburn)*
- Suburbia is a place where they often cut down beautiful God-given trees and then name streets after them.

# The Empty Vessel

Martin Luther was a miner's son from Saxony and he became a monk in fulfilment of a vow he had made during a thunderstorm. Having studied philosophy, he became a lecturer and he was soon a Doctor of Theology and professor of Scripture. Tormented by doubts about his standing before God, in about 1512 he experienced an overwhelming conviction that it was by faith in Christ alone he could be saved. From then on, he fought everything in the church that contradicted this.

This is one of his prayers:

*Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbour. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. Or Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. Wash me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, from whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.*

## Smile



- Little Tommy's Sunday School teacher heard him use some questionable language. She was shocked and said, "Tommy, don't you ever use such language again, and certainly not where your friends and I can hear it. Where on earth did you learn that?" "I got it from my dad, Miss," replied Tommy. "Well, your daddy should be ashamed. I hope you don't know what all that means." "Oh but I do," said Tommy, "It meant the car wouldn't start when we were ready to come to church this morning."
- Do you sometimes get pestered by unwanted telephone calls from people who want to either sell you something or get you to take part in a survey? If you see a number on your phone you don't recognise, try answering the phone with, "Hello, thanks for ringing. You're on the air now!" Most of them will hang up.
- A country conference centre which was much used by church groups had as its motto, "There are no problems here, only opportunities." A minister booked it for a weekend retreat with a group from his church. The day arrived and they all signed in and were shown to their rooms. A few minutes later the minister returned to the reception desk and said he had a problem. The receptionist responded with a smile and said, "Sir we don't have problems here, only opportunities." The minister said, "Call it what you like, but there's already a woman in my room."

## An Icon 'for such a time as this'

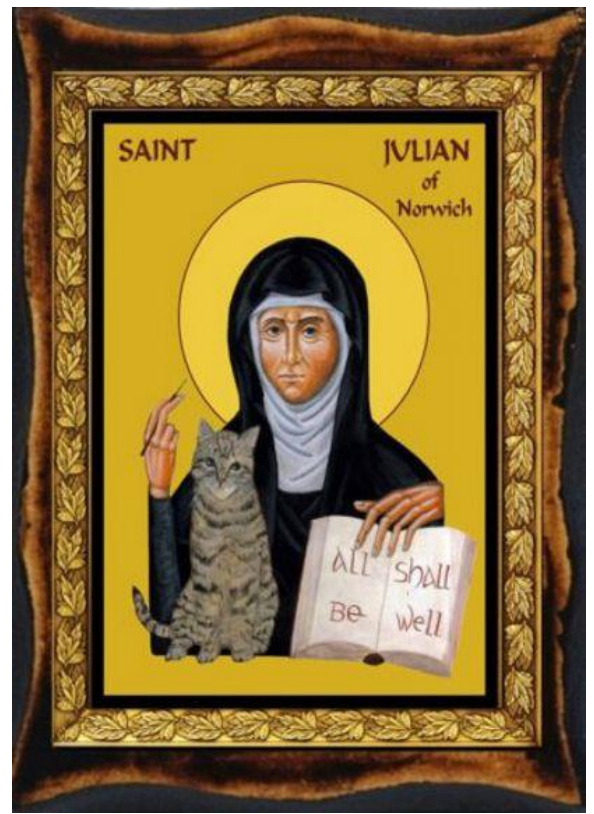
The experience of Julian of Norwich is relevant 'for such a time as this' (Esther 4.14), and I find she is a great comfort. Mother Julian lived through three waves of the Black Death, in 14<sup>th</sup> century Norwich. She knew people who died. She may have lost some people very close to her and mourned them - perhaps at a distance - unable to attend their funeral.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused many people to self-isolate. Julian knew, by vocation, obedience and choice, what it is like to live isolated from others. She may have had access to a small enclosed garden, but we don't really know. Those of us with gardens can get some fresh air and see nature growing, but that is less easy if you live in an apartment or high-rise flat. The solitary, limited, enclosed life has become a reality for many this year, with no choice in the matter.

Today we can keep in touch via e-mails, texts, Facebook, What's App, Skype, FaceTime, phone calls, post, etc. Julian had none of these in the 14th century. She had limited contact with her priest, spiritual director and servants. Also with the many people who came to her for spiritual counsel, but whom she did not see as her window was heavily curtained.

The Black Death spread differently from Covid-19, and we now know much more about hygiene and infection control, medical and scientific research, epidemiological mapping and vaccines. But we seem to be as susceptible to panic, fear, despair, selfishness and believing misinformation and 'fake news' as our mediaeval sisters and brothers were. The media is two-edged - a good way to disseminate helpful advice and information but also capable of whipping things out of proportion and worrying people. We are also seeing the best is being brought out in people in wonderful instances of love, care and self-sacrifice and community awareness. We should all follow the official advice we are given to stay as safe as we can. But perhaps we can follow Julian by filling time with thoughts of the love of God rather than being lead off-track by the media circus.

The God she shows us in the suffering and compassionate Jesus is the same God for us. "He did not say, 'You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be work-weary, you shall not be discomfited.' But he said 'You shall not be overcome'. God wants us to heed these words so that we shall be strong in trust, both in sorrow and in joy."



*(With thanks to Gill Butterworth who is a Companion with Julian of Norwich, for this article)*



## Some observations

*Some observations -with thanks to Pam Perriman*

For those who are growing old,  
There is nothing the matter with me  
I'm as healthy as I can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street,  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
But every morning I find I'm alright.  
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape that I'm in.

The moral is this as my tale I unfold  
That for you and me that are growing old,  
It's better to say I'm fine with a grin,  
Than let folks know the shape we are in.

## Why my soul survives

He is with me in the morning  
He is with me in the night  
He is with me in the peace  
And in the fight  
He is with me  
In the terror  
Spilling words to calm my fear  
And remind me of his sovereign  
Presence near  
That is why my soul survives

© Ruthie Thomas

## A very frank prayer

*(I received this prayer from another church magazine editor who told me it was an anonymous contribution but I later discovered it was attributed to a Mother Superior-Editor)*

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself  
that I am growing older and will some day be  
old.

Keep me from getting talkative, and  
particularly from the fatal habit of thinking  
that I must say something on every subject  
and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out  
everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind from the recital of endless  
details and give me wings to come to the  
point.

I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales  
of others' pains.

Help me to endure then with patience.

But seal my lips on my own aches and  
pains; they are increasing and my love of  
rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the  
days go by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that  
occasionally it is possible that I may be  
mistaken.

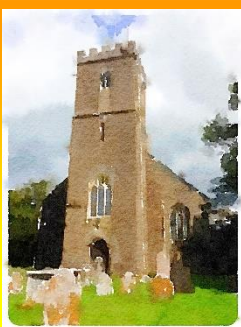
Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want  
to be a saint - some of them are so hard to  
live with - but a sour old woman is one of the  
crowning works of the devil.

Make me thoughtful; but not moody;  
helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a  
pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord,  
that I want a few friends at the end.

## News from Broadhempston

St. Peter and St. Paul



As this article is being prepared we are just entering our 7<sup>th</sup> week of "Lockdown" associated with the coronavirus pandemic. In keeping with most religious buildings throughout the country, the church at Broadhempston is locked and no services are being held. At the same time many villagers are unable to work or are working from home. We are being asked only to make essential journeys, to go out for exercise no more than once a day and for all over 70 not to leave their homes. Such nationwide restrictions are unique in living memory.

Human beings are on the whole very resilient and seem to cope even under the most difficult of situations. In the past, coping with an event such as Covid-19 would have been helped by support of family members living close to one another and most communities having access to a range of small shops providing the majority of everyday requirements. Today, however, families are often widely dispersed and especially in the smaller rural communities the small shops have all but disappeared.

Despite these social changes I sense that we are coping. To our natural resilience we can now add a much better communications network making it possible to remain in close aural and often visual contact with our loved ones. Here in Broadhempston we should once again applaud the insight of those who saw the

need for a community shop. For it the pandemic brought significant problems, its important social role was drastically reduced by the need for social distancing and many of its band of volunteers were unable to continue working. Fortunately a number of new volunteers put themselves forward, a good supply of produce has been maintained and it is now able to open longer. Added to this has been a delivery service for those confined to

their home which has delivered to between 20 and 60 homes per week in Broadhempston and some of the surrounding villages. Our two pubs, hit heavily by enforced closure are providing take-away meals. Less easily to quantify is the undoubted help being offered by many villagers to those unable to leave or who have difficulty in leaving their home.

To those helping within the village others are helping causes outside the village. Dawn Brewer has a group making protective clothes for those working in the hospital. Ronni Hale has joined Crafting for Carers and NHS staff, a group of 300 making a variety of products needed by the support services. The Broadhempston Gardening Group is selling plants and seedlings from Alison Moorley's house at 1, Stoop Orchard, all proceeds going to MIND.

Within the village are a number of individuals who are employed to maintain the various services

required to deal not only with the pandemic but also the other essential services that enable life to go on. Our thanks go to all of them.

Let us hope and pray that by the time the next Beacon is published that Covid-19 will be under effective control and that some of the current restrictions relaxed.

*David Heath, PCC member*





*Jane Douthwaite has just come across these cuttings from the Daily Telegraph from 1983!*

- **Pathtoral Care - From a Devon Parish magazine:**

"The restoration of the church was completed by the resurfacing of the driveway when, to the applause of all who had helped, the vicar and his wife rolled in the new gravel".

- **From Exeter:**

In the church to which I was regularly taken as a child, there was a small collecting box hanging from a nail on the wall. On it were the words: " for the curate's stipend."

I could never understand why, if it was for the curate to spend, it couldn't be spelt correctly.

- **Drudgery Divine:**

As a young child I thought, when hearing at prayers "O Lord make clean our hearts within us," that "Innus" was the name of a domestic product used for cleaning and that when necessary, the heart was removed, polished up, and popped back in again".



*Antony Mitchell*



# “Don’t quit!”

*The poem "Don't Quit", originally written by John Greenleaf Whittier and modified by Edgar A. Guest - a British born American, known as the People's Poet - was published in a syndicated US newspaper column in 1921. It has been used by the BBC for publicity purposes about Coronavirus and read by Idris Elba.*

When things go wrong as they sometimes will/ When the road you're trudging seems all up hill.

When the funds are low but the debts are high/ And you want to smile, but you have to sigh.  
When care is pressing you down a bit/ Rest if you must - but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns/ As every one of us sometimes learns.  
And many failures turn about/ When he might have won had he stuck it out.  
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow/ You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out/ The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.  
And you can never tell how close you are/ It may be near when it seems so far.  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit/ It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

*Thanks to the Radio Times. Words that could be used for various aspects of life but especially at the moment.*

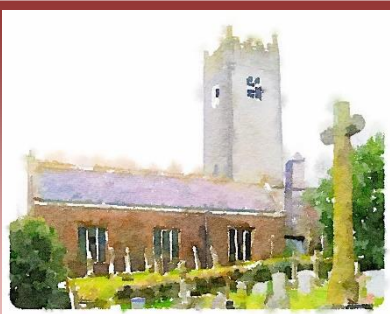
Vanessa Bevan

## Straplines

- Tears shed for self can be tears of weakness, but tears shed for others are a sign of strength. *(Billy Graham)*
- The fact that we are all different is the one thing we have in common.
- Reality is that which, when you stop believing it, doesn't go away.
- The greatest nourishment for children is not what goes into their mouths, but what comes out of ours.
- There is more to Jesus than anyone has so far discovered.

## News from Woodland

**St. John the  
Baptist**



“Strange times that we live in.” I have heard this statement from so many people recently and not only is it so true, but it is something that we have all had a need to acknowledge to each other. In Woodland, where homes and farms are more scattered and widely dispersed rather than concentrated together in a village centre, one result of the current situation has, perversely, been that I have seen some of my neighbours more frequently than usual as they and I have been taking our allowed daily exercise around the village lanes and byways. Indeed, over the last month we have all been seeing increasing amounts of walkers and cyclists exploring the village. One neighbour commented to me that being able to speak to neighbours regularly over the garden hedge had given her a real positive sense of community. Right from the start the inhabitants of Woodland have acted together, with so many little kindnesses done for each other that make such a positive difference. I don’t presume to know them all but the notable ones that I do know of include getting shopping for others and putting flowers on a grave for somebody who was unable to themselves due to ill health. Mind you, these people have been doing such kind acts, and more, for others in the village for years. I have fantastic neighbours and am well aware that I have benefitted from their benevolence on many occasions over the years that I have lived here. In many ways, this pulling together and helping others in the community in times of need has always been an aspect of village life. Delving into my own family archive I have found an account of how, in the days long before the creation of the NHS, my own great

and great great grandmothers walked miles around their own village lanes to help others by nursing the sick, laying out the dead and delivering babies, as well as cleaning the church and making sure the oil lamps were trimmed ready for Sunday services. Perhaps one thing that this period of lock down has given many of us is more time with less distraction. Time to notice these small acts of kindness and time to appreciate them as we should.

Since writing my last article for the Beacon, wet winter has changed into a very dry spring. Fields that appeared to be semi marshland have now dried so rapidly that they are instead like concrete, with every hoof or wheel mark a corrugated rut. Indeed, the ground under my lawn is so hard that I had the pleasure the other day of watching a woodpecker drilling holes in it in search of leatherjackets to eat. Still, all the corn fields which had to remain barren over the winter as the ground was too wet to plant are now tilled and flourishing with growth. The warmth and sunshine has meant that the grass has been growing rapidly, as anyone with a lawn to mow will be aware, and the first silage cuts have started to be taken. The early spring grasses always make silage that is sweeter, with a higher nutrient content, good for feeding to milking cows and growing young stock. Later cut grasses are less nutrient rich but contain more fibre so have their own importance in maintaining a healthy bodyweight for the animals that they are fed to. The tree blossom this year is probably the most spectacular I have ever seen, quite outdoing the carpets of woodland bluebells in magnificence and scent. The animals in the fields have certainly been happier for being out in the sunshine and I think that, for us humans too, those sunny days have made a huge difference in ensuring that lockdown has been all the more bearable.

*Helen Pearse*

## News from Denbury

### St. Mary the Virgin



As many of us wander past the closed church and churchyard on our daily exercise walks, it does seem very much longer than two months ago that we were together holding our last service at St. Mary the Virgin before the lockdown. This period of isolation has made us all appreciate and value our times of fellowship both at formal worship and at the social chats over coffee and biscuits following the services so much more, and we miss them greatly.

Those of us who are not great fans of I.T. (the writer included) have had

to admit that the laptop has been a good way of keeping in touch whilst we are unable to leave home. Many parishioners have tuned in to, and very much enjoyed, Father Andrew's services and reflections on U-Tube and also the Sunday broadcasts from local churches. E-mails have proved a very efficient way of passing information around to many village folk and vitally keeping people in touch during this difficult period.

To keep the contact going some Denbury folk held a virtual 'coffee morning' using the Zoom conferencing facility which was enjoyed by all participants so much so that it is being repeated as a regular opportunity for a catch up.

A great way to keep in touch and share experiences until we are able to meet again.

*Mike Bray*



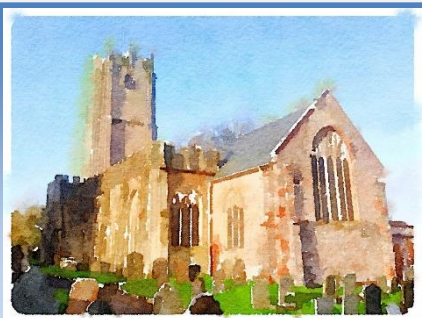
## Church Notice Board

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the Water.' .The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.



## News from Ipplepen

St. Andrew



As I write this report I realise that eight weeks ago our lives changed dramatically as our Churches were closed and we were in lockdown, how strange was that! We had experienced in our Services on the 8<sup>th</sup> March led by Andrew and Steven Sheldon, no shaking of hands during the Peace and no wine during Communion. Also on March 15<sup>th</sup> Andrew encouraged us to say Peace be with you with our eyes and Hillarie Griggs gave the address.

Leading up to Easter we had two Compline Services which Jane Outhwaite prepared and were as special as usual with candles, music, readings, meditations and prayers.

We were lucky to have our choir/bell ringers and friends dinner at Dainton Golf Club on March 12<sup>th</sup>. A lovely social occasion and we also had a quiz sheet on each table set by Jo which was fun.

After that our social lives are confined to our homes or a quick chat from a distance to neighbour's or whilst shopping in the Village or walking in our beautiful countryside.

We found it very strange the first Sunday of lockdown with no getting ready to ring the bells for Tony and myself for Church. We found a live service from Ellon in Scotland, where we had worshipped with Lorraine a relative, on YouTube which we enjoyed with just the Minister, a couple of people reading and a young lady singing whilst playing the piano. It was good to read the Collect. Readings and a Reflection from Rev. Andrew sent by email for Mothering Sunday. We have also been on YouTube for Andrew's Services that he broadcast and thanks to him and Claire especially over Holy Week and Easter Day and for Caren keeping us informed also Rev. Anne and Rev. Tony's contributions. We have since Andrew being on sick leave been on [YouTube.com/GarethRegan](https://www.youtube.com/GarethRegan) for a local

Service from Newton Abbot. I also like to watch BBC for Sunday Worship and Songs of Praise.

For those people on Facebook Liz Lamport was inspired to set up a St Andrew's Facebook Page with help from myself, Tony, Jo and Charles. We are learning as we go but trying to put things of interest on connected with Church. Please visit the page like it and comment or send an article. We are grateful to Emma Matthews for her lovely singing and you can hear 'Amazing Grace' and 'The Prayer' on our Page.

Also breaking news.... St. Andrew's Youth Choir consisting of Emily, Katie, Rose, Paige, Isabelle, Lauren, Charlotte and Theo with Dr Tom Morris have written and recorded a wonderful song 'Rainbow of Hope' and have set up a just giving page for donations to Rowcroft hospice.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team are keeping in touch with some of our congregation who are unwell by telephone particularly Winnie Bryant who is very dedicated to ringing people every week and letting Vanessa know who sends an email on to us. A telephone call is appreciated by people particularly those on their own.

We heard the sad news on Easter Sunday that Betty Elders had died that afternoon. Her funeral was at Torquay Crematorium on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. Shona her daughter asked if Tony and I would like to attend as ten people were allowed and also Winnie and Rachel from Share and Care, her carer and two friends. It was a lovely service taken by Fr. Nick Debney Vicar of St. Luke's Milner. The seating was arranged two metres apart and we sang two hymns to piped music 'The Day thou gavest Lord, is ended' and 'Eternal Father, strong to save'. The entrance music and reception of the coffin to Enigma Variations by Elgar and the recessional music was Jerusalem. Although unable to have a wake, the Undertakers provided a glass of bubbly in the rose garden afterwards for us to toast Betty. She was such a character who will be sadly missed. Shona is hoping to have a Memorial Service for her later in the year. God Bless Betty.

*Marilyn Clark*

# Opportunity or a Threat?

I was casually listening to the radio, when my attention was attracted by a comment that 25% of the population had accessed a virtual church service. I thought the reporter said the source was the Christian charity Tearfund. I went on the Tearfund website, but found no reference to the report. The figure of 25% is very significant, so I decided to investigate the subject further.

The national lockdown meant all churches had to be closed. The Church of England was very keen to maintain a presence in the lives of people even if they could not attend services. In response the Church adopted modern IT and produced virtual services that could be accessed on line or radio.

This new development in communication has been very successful.

The national virtual service recorded in the crypt chapel of Lambeth Palace and led by the Archbishop of Canterbury was seen or heard by 5 million people. Facebook post had reached a further 2 million and nearly 30% of those watching on line were under the age of 34.

These figures compare with an average of 871,000 people attending services and acts of worship each week in 2018 (latest figures available)

The Palm Sunday service conducted by David Walker (Bishop of Manchester) was watched by nearly 500,000 people.

Of course, these figures do not include the hundreds of churches and cathedrals that are also livestreaming services every week. The Church has also reported that its “Daily Prayer” app has seen a 400% increase in users in seven days.

Extraordinary times call for unprecedented action. The Church of England and our own Rector reacted very quickly, adopting imaginative new ideas and should be congratulated. This new medium has enabled people to continue to derive comfort from their faith, which helps them get through this difficult period.

We often hear predictions that life will not return to what it was before the pandemic; instead new practices adopted during the lockdown will continue. It is suggested more people will choose to work from home and video conferencing will replace meetings; Zoom will become an integral part of life. In this narrative, what are the implications for the Church when lockdown is over?

As usual there will be opportunities and threats.

## Opportunities

- The pandemic has encouraged the Church to adapt to the era of Wi-Fi and smartphones and in so doing has discovered that social media is one of the most effective and necessary ways of reaching new members. The Church of England’s response to the increase in demand for online services has been positive with the expansion of the number of digital and printing resources to support people praying at home and growing in faith in new ways. Just a few of the resources available on line include: Time to Pray app, A church near you.com, #Live lent and Smart Speaker app. The Smart Speaker app enables millions of users to ask the Church of England for prayers, explanation of the Christian faith and

information about local church events and more. The app can be operated through Alexa by instructing “Alexa, open the Church of England” or through Google by instructing “Hey Google, talk to the Church of England.” In the first 30 days the number of people using the Alexa app rose by 70%. There is a telephone service for those without internet.

- If the objective is to spread the Christian faith amongst a wider population, then it would seem these new developments have been very successful and should be continued.
- Is it a case that there was this latent, dormant faith in the population just waiting for the right medium for it to be released?
- One can understand the attraction of the online presentation. Firstly, it is very flexible in that it can be viewed at the most convenient time in the comfort of your own home. Secondly, social media is now the main method of communicating, especially amongst the younger generation. No more turning out to sit on hard seats in a cold church with a danger that someone will ask you to do a job or take on a responsibility.

For whatever reason, the population has responded to the online provision and this is a matter for rejoicing. It is also a matter for the Church to consider the future direction of this form of communication.

## **Threats**

- Is there a risk of people substituting going to church with online worship? If that were to happen, then the outcome could be similar to banks. As people increasingly use online banking, branches become less used and then closed to save costs. Churches are expensive buildings to maintain and the attraction to save costs is obvious.
- Such a move would be detrimental and, in my view, is unlikely to happen for the following reasons.
- Going to church represents a positive act that makes a statement.
- The atmosphere and ambiance of a church changes physical and mental disposition. George Thomas, a much respected Speaker of the House of Commons, was asked why he wore ceremonial dress, including a full bottomed wig. He replied “when I am robed I am Mr Speaker Thomas and am reminded of my duties. When I am not robed, I am Mr George Thomas”. The same sentiment applies when you are in a House of God.
- Communal services enable the congregation to get to know one another and the priest. Do we want the same relationship with our Priest as we currently have with our bank manager?
- Christian worship is based on a communal act.
- Many people enjoy the social interaction, especially after the service.
- How is the holy sacrament delivered online?
- People want the tradition and spectacle associated with the Church of England.
- Most people, including non churchgoers, want to see the Church as part of the community and are very protective of the historic building.

The challenge for all is how to harness this surge in participation with online worship to encourage greater church attendance.



## Reflections shared

I think many of us who worship in our mission community come under the umbrella of vulnerable because of our age. Most of the time I have felt quite positive and used this time of Lock down to catch up on chores I usually don't get round to. I have even sorted out my paper work! I have enjoyed my exercise walks when it is often possible to pass the time of day with fellow walkers. Our village has proved itself to be full of friendly people and more than ever we offer greetings to erstwhile strangers previously not acknowledged.

It has also given me a time to explore other ways of worshipping and I have logged into various churches and cathedrals to fulfil my spiritual needs. Of course I miss the fellowship we feel when together in church and above all I miss singing the hymns. Our church's youth choir, under the guidance of Tom Morris has produced a remarkable song which we hope to send out to the media to raise money for charity. The children wrote the words and Tom set it to music which they learnt and recorded in their own homes so that Tom could mix it and make a final piece.

There have been moments when I have woken in the morning feeling a little less positive, but when this happened the other day the following hymn came to my mind and I hope it will also help you to raise your spirits when you feel less than positive.

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Jo Innes Lumsden

For me, a moving prayer screened during the administration of Holy Communion at Santa Margarita Anglican Church in Menorca used during the lockdown in Spain at the 'streamed' celebration of the Eucharist. This somehow eased my absence and was a powerful experience.

*'In union, O God, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled today from tasting the bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will come spiritually into my heart, cleanse and strengthen me with your grace and unite me with all baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.'*

*Come Lord Jesus dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.'* Amen

Michael Price

I have just followed the VE service conducted by the Bishop of Plymouth. In it he quoted Theodore Roosevelt. I thought the quotation was applicable today as we fight the Coronavirus.

*"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."*

John Usher

# Floodlighting

The towers at both Denbury and Ipplepen have floodlighting which needs sponsorship to cover the cost of electricity and maintenance. Sponsorship is usually for a week at a time, and people often like to sponsor to mark a special occasion.

For Denbury, contact Rachel Belringer 01803 812529  
Mobile: 07751804007  
For Ipplepen, contact the Church office on 01803 814078



## Denbury:

### New

A villager who likes to see the church lit up (Anon.)

## Ipplepen:

### Retrospective

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> April    | Ivor Partridge, Janice Julie & Adam remembering Daphne Partridge, a dear wife, mother & Gran on her birthday on 15 <sup>th</sup> April. |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> May      | From Clive Tompkins in memory of his dear late wife Nicola to commemorate their wedding anniversary on the 14 <sup>th</sup> May.        |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> May – 13 <sup>th</sup> June | To celebrate the 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday of Phil Davey on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May. Lots of love Cath, Lyn, Neil, Max and Tom.            |

### New

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> July  | Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the birthday of Enzo Dewhirst on 7 <sup>th</sup> July.              |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> July | Ivor Partridge remembering his wife Daphne Partridge on their Wedding Anniversary on 13 <sup>th</sup> July. |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> July | Alistair and Judy Dewhirst to celebrate the wedding anniversary of Edd and Maddie on 19 <sup>th</sup> July. |

# WEEKLY CYCLE OF PRAYER

People may like to use the following weekly cycle of prayer which has been put together by Andrew.

Every day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life</li> <li>• In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs</li> </ul>
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The universal Church</li> <li>• Bishops, synods and all who lead the Church</li> <li>• The leaders of the nations</li> <li>• The natural world and the resources of the earth</li> <li>• All who are in any kind of need</li> </ul>
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The media and the arts</li> <li>• Farming and fishing</li> <li>• Commerce and industry</li> <li>• Those whose work is unfulfilling, stressful or fraught with danger</li> <li>• All who are unemployed</li> </ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All who are sick in body, mind or spirit</li> <li>• Those in the midst of famine or disaster</li> <li>• Victims of abuse and violence, intolerance and prejudice</li> <li>• Those who are bereaved</li> <li>• All who work in the medical and healing professions</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The social services</li> <li>• All who work in the criminal justice system</li> <li>• Victims and perpetrators of crime</li> <li>• The work of aid agencies throughout the world</li> <li>• Those living in poverty or under oppression</li> </ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local government, community leaders</li> <li>• All who provide local services</li> <li>• Those who work with young or elderly people</li> <li>• Schools, colleges and universities</li> <li>• Emergency and rescue organizations</li> </ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Queen, members of parliament and the armed forces</li> <li>• Peace and justice in the world</li> <li>• Those who work for reconciliation</li> <li>• All whose lives are devastated by war and civil strife</li> <li>• Prisoners, refugees and homeless people</li> </ul>
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our homes, families, friends and all whom we love</li> <li>• Those whose time is spent caring for others</li> <li>• Those who are close to death</li> <li>• Those who have lost hope</li> <li>• The worship of the Church</li> </ul>



## Diary – June and July

- See the website for weekly notices and other information. [www.missioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk)

## Intercessions for the Mission Community – June and July

Sunday	Mission Community	Ipplepen	Denbury	Broadhempston	Woodland
Jun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Intercessors	Ipplepen Road	East Street	Community Shop	Barton House
Jun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Introducers	The Grange & Grange Close	West Street	Radfords	Rose Cottages
Jun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship teams	Ledsgrove	South Street	Beaston	Wickeridge Mews
Jun 28 <sup>th</sup>	Social/Hospitality groups	Luscombe Close	The Post Office and Shop	Downe	Merryfield Farm
Jul 5 <sup>th</sup>	Refreshments after church	Mayfair Road	The Union Inn	Knowle	Pulsford Cottages
Jul 12 <sup>th</sup>	Cleaners	Meadow Park	Glas-Denbury	Hemsford	Springfield Wickeridge Farm
Jul 19 <sup>th</sup>	Hall bookings	Moor Road	The Manor	Village Hall	Forder Cottage
Jul 26 <sup>th</sup>	Outreach groups	Silver Street & Newhayes	Community Groups	Monks Retreat & Coppa Dolla	Butlers Retreat Wickeridge Farm

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 Mrs Hillarie Griggs ☎ 812197

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### The Beacon

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### Covid 19 - Confronting human mortality

The fragility of life is on everyone's mind right now. I am reminded of the story from the Second World War, Archie Cochrane, a young Scottish physician, was captured in Crete and became a medical officer in a variety of prisoner of war camps, including some in Nazi Germany. He went on to become a renowned epidemiologist, the father of modern evidence-based medicine.

In the camps though, the lessons he learnt were not of numbers, but of the heart. In his autobiography, Cochrane describes caring for a moribund Russian prisoner, dumped by German soldiers on the ward late one night.

Malnutrition was rife, medical supplies next to nothing. The patient shrieked in pain, yet Cochrane had minimal drugs to offer. With the ward full, and all the other patients sleeping, he put the young man in his own room, diagnosing an aggressive pneumonia as the cause of his pain and screaming. What happened next was remarkable:

"I had no morphia, just aspirin, which had no effect. I felt desperate. I knew very little Russian then and there was no one in the ward who did. I finally instinctively sat down on the bed and took him in my arms, and the screaming stopped almost at once. He died peacefully in my arms a few hours later. It was not the pleurisy that caused the screaming but the loneliness. It was a wonderful education about the care of the dying. I was ashamed of my misdiagnosis and kept the story secret."

For the hours he clasped a dying man in his arms, Cochrane administered the most vital medicine- his human presence at the bedside. And in the end, when death bears down, there is no situation that cannot be made better by someone reaching out, with love and tenderness, towards one of our own. What we have in a pandemic is each other.

A further thought for this Edition of the Beacon:

It's a sobering thought that those people who were born in 1945 will now be aged 75 and all those born after that year will have no direct experience of what it was like to live through a period when food was rationed and there was widespread concern over safety and health. Many older people are saying today that the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 virus take their minds back to the wartime days. People today need hope and surely through our magazine we have an opportunity to remind our readers that the love of God, demonstrated by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, is the foundation for hope upon which our lives can be built. We have an opportunity to reflect this in the content of our magazine.

Stay safe, Help others.

Articles for the August edition should reach me by July 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Michael Price*

[www.missioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk)

*The Beacon is produced at no  
cost to the Mission Community*

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