

Inspire

Issue 37

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

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HEALED

**Wishing all our Readers a
Blessed Easter!**

Free of charge - please take a copy!

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Inspire is available to download from the church website:-
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine/

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This issue is kindly sponsored by

Sue & Phil Partridge
who would like to wish all the readers a
Very Happy Easter

In these challenging and turbulent times "let us remember
that the Sovereign Lord rules over all the earth"

Church Contacts:-

Vicar - Rev Liz Richardson The Vicarage, High Lea, 54 The Street,
Capel. vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711260

Parish Pastoral Assistant: Sylvie Beckett 07711 849338

Safeguarding Officer: Leigh de Souza 07732 825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

**Diocesan Safeguarding
Advisor:** Ian Barry
07544 566850
ian.berry@cofeguildford.org.uk

Churchwardens

Capel:

Norman Ede 01306 713247 & Joy Harman 01306 711482
churchwardens@capel-church.org.uk

Ockley:

Shirley Dean-Webster 01403 822967
churchwardens@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Treasurers:

Capel Debbie von Bergen 07774 784008
treasurer@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Ockley Helen Burt helenmb0909@gmail.com
01306 711671

Capel Organist & Choir Anthea Smallwood 01306 711883

Ockley Organist Andrew Collings 01403 265794

Weekly Sheets & InSpire Editor

Suzanne Cole editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk
01306 711449

Church website:

www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Webmaster: webmaster@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Parish Eco Team ecoteam@capelandockleychurch.org.uk
Team

Dear all,

It is hard to make sense of everything that is happening to our world when, if we are able to pass through the village, there are the most beautiful daffodils everywhere at the moment. It seems so contrary to what we are experiencing as we batten down the hatches and hope and pray that this Coronavirus does not hit us too hard.

Disappointments abound with plans having to be changed, special occasions postponed, along with my own planned for sabbatical which I wrote about last month. I hope if things ease up that we may be able to take at least some time later this summer or Autumn. Yet the beautiful daffodils and the other wonderful signs of Spring are so uplifting for us at this time aren't they? Signs of hope and new life which carry on regardless of pandemics. As that famous wartime slogan so beloved of us all says 'Keep Calm and Carry On'! And it is to a new life that we have to adapt to rather quickly at the moment. Schools have now closed, church services have ceased and in fact now churches have had to be shut altogether; an unprecedented act.

As I write now one week into 'lockdown' the shops are beginning to recover stocks somewhat but it is a very strange thing indeed to queue 2 metres apart down Dorking High Street waiting to be let into Waitrose. However, it all seems to be very civilised and even toilet paper is starting to appear again! First it was those over 70 years of age advised to be extra careful of social interaction and of course many have chosen or had to self isolate through necessity. It is a weird time indeed when we realise our diaries are suddenly cleared of all social activities and if we pass by in the street we have to keep a safe distance between one another. Life as we knew it is rather postponed generally. Yet there is another good and true saying "All things come to pass but they don't stay".

We have to remember this that ultimately the pandemic will pass and our lives will resume albeit with perhaps change that might even be positive - who knows? We might all have extremely tidy homes and gardens, have found new hobbies and interests, even new friends as we get to know our neighbours and others who if we are fit can help as never before. We all have such concern for the elderly and vulnerable and all who live alone for whom this time brings added anguish. Our lovely communities as ever, have like many other wonderful communities all over Britain galvanised us all to be able to offer help and assistance. I hope everyone by now has received the leaflet advertising the local Capel and Beare Green Parish Council scheme working together with Holmwood (St Mary Magdalene) and Capel Church (St John the Baptist) - [Coronavirus Parish Angels](#). Ockley Parish Council are offering similar help for people self isolating. I know that both communities have been working extremely hard to assist those who need help.

For us at church as we cannot meet together in the physical sense, all christenings have been postponed, many weddings also which is a huge disappointment to the couples and families who have been preparing for their big day. Funerals can take place although again not inside churches. If it is a cremation only five people are allowed to attend apart from the minister and chairs have been spaced out appropriately. If a burial is needed, then the service will take place at the graveside only, again with only those family and closest to the deceased. There will be an opportunity for families to hold a memorial and thanksgiving service when restrictions are lifted. We look forward to helping our families with their plans at all these vital offices the Church does so well when life gets back to normal.



Rev Liz's letter is continued on page 4.

Following the Government's guidance issued on Monday 23rd March 2020 in the Prime Minister's address to the nation, all public places of worship have now had to close.

There are **NO Services or Events until further notice**. Please see page 12 for a list of all cancellations.

To stay informed, please keep watching the church website and social media pages. For any queries please call Rev Liz.

Pastoral visiting again in the physical sense is really only in extremis but please remember that I am at the end of the telephone for you. I can almost hear Maureen Lipman saying 'It's good to talk'! So please, please do contact me, not just in an emergency, but just to chat if you like - I'd love to hear from you!

I hope you are receiving the usual weekly news sheet, with the usual weekly scripture readings along with items for prayer, general notices and a thought for the week. These can be accessed through the parish website www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk, or delivered to your homes if requested. If you are an online person, there are plenty of services of worship locally and nationally. It is interesting to see what the BBC is offering in the way of religious programming in their schedules as well. Bishop Andrew and Bishop Jo are taking it in turns to preach each week and you can access that through the diocesan website www.cofeguildford.org.uk. Alternatively let me know and I can send you a printed copy. I am planning to do a pre-recorded video for Easter Sunday so watch this space!!

Our wonderful InSpire faith magazine will I am sure continue to inspire us and Suzanne is putting up a regular inspirational uplifting quote each day on the InSpire facebook page so do contact InSpire Editor Suzanne if you have something to share: (01306 711449) editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk. Everything we publish and the latest information is also available on our church website www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk

Do let me know if you have a particular prayer request as a small group are praying one of the Church's oldest forms of prayer - the Daily Office. So be assured that your church is praying for you at all times. We will publish other resources for you to use so do keep an eye on the parish website and your inbox as well as your letterbox!

As Holy Week begins and Good Friday approaches, we may find new insight as we consider the cross of crucifixion, yet knowing that Easter Sunday arrived with the new life that God offers to all of us whether we know him or not. Our lives on earth change, we cannot predict the future and as has been frequently stated recently 'we live in unprecedented times'. Yet God remains the same, he is unchanging in his love for us created in his image. So I confidently wish you all a very Happy Easter and please do contact me if you wish to talk or need other information. Church worship may be suspended in our church buildings but your local churches are here strong in faith to help and sustain all who need it.

With my love and prayers especially at this time,

Rev Liz

A message from Bishop Andrew

published 18th March 2020



Dear Friends,

The last few days and weeks have been a confusing and bewildering time for us all. A growing number across our communities have contracted the coronavirus, of whom a small proportion have died. A far greater number are now self-isolating, including many able-bodied men and women over the age of 70. Social gatherings have increasingly come to a halt. The economy is in freefall.

And yesterday we all received the news that church services are to be suspended for the time being, so as to seek to contain the virus: another unprecedented move at a time when the very word 'unprecedented' is becoming almost a cliché.

In all this there has inevitably been much talk of closures, cancellations and postponements, including the postponement of a visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to our diocese, which was due to begin today. Is the Church just shutting up shop, people might be wondering - to which the answer is a resounding **No!** For this current crisis is a time for Christians (including we clergy) to step up not to give up: to let go of what's less important so as to focus on what's most important: to be not just the Church of England but the Church for England; to go deeper in our commitment to what Jesus described as the greatest commandment of them all: to 'love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves'.

So how might we love our neighbour at this time? Perhaps through committing ourselves to ten acts of kindness every day, especially in relation to those who are poorest and most disadvantaged among us: making sure that our Foodbanks

Continued opposite ...

remain properly stocked with provisions and volunteers; leafleting streets with offers to pray and to help; arranging for daily phone calls to those who are frail and housebound; joining in with local community initiatives (because Christians don't have a monopoly on good ideas or compassion).

Even the self-isolating can love their neighbour at the end of a phone-line, or in front of a computer, or by writing a good old-fashioned letter. How about expressing your appreciation of your Vicar, for example, at a time when she or he is likely to be feeling really pressurised?

One of our churches has followed the Italian example in providing a little outdoor concert for those who are self-isolating in a block of flats in their parish. Another has taken round a hamper to their local GP surgery, to express their huge admiration and support of those on the frontline. Clergy will shortly be invited to join a diocesan Facebook group to share good ideas and learn from one another; and do please consult our diocesan website daily as we respond to the most pressing questions that are cropping up in our churches and our school

Loving our neighbour is one thing, but how about *loving the Lord our God* when corporate worship is on hold? What might that look like?

As you know, we're in the season of Lent, 40 days and 40 nights in which Jesus went into self-isolation, to be tested, yes, but also to pray, to meditate on the scriptures and to deepen his sense of calling for the future. During that time he was echoing the 40 years that Israel spent in the desert before entering the Promised Land: a time in which there was no church or temple, but just a makeshift tent (the tabernacle) in which Moses used to meet with God day by day.

So how might we meet with God over this time as we take time out to pray, to meditate on the scriptures and to reflect on our calling, now and in the future? What's our tabernacle? Again parishes around the diocese are being really creative on this one, keeping their churches open where possible, providing spiritual resources for those who need them, making use of technology to help people feel connected, and above all *praying*, and calling others to join in. This coming Sunday the Archbishops have called us to a Day of Prayer, symbolised by putting candles in the windows of our houses and together lighting it at 7pm. And again there are some wonderful resources appearing on the diocesan website to help spiritually nourish us during this time in the wilderness.

Loving God, loving our neighbours; and how important too, to love ourselves at this time: to be kind on ourselves as well as others, as we all adjust to a rapidly shifting landscape.

And so finally to God's Word through the prophet Isaiah: that ***'I will give you the treasures of darkness and the riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by name'*** (Isaiah 43:5). So what might be the treasures of darkness during this time?

Perhaps a new togetherness as a nation, following the deep divisions of the Brexit debate. Perhaps a new connection between the church in England and the people of England. Perhaps deeper discipleship and new vocations arising out of those forty days and forty nights of self-isolation (or however long it lasts). Perhaps a new commitment to prayer, and above all a new recognition of the sheer wonder of the Christian gospel – that nothing (not even loneliness or sickness or death itself) can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

And, in recognition that the call to suspend public worship fell on St. Patrick's day, a prayer from St Patrick's Breastplate:

***Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger,
Amen.***

Every Blessings,

Bishop Andrew

Diocese of
Guildford 

TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES

The following information has been distributed to all households in our Parish. However, in case anyone has not received one, we felt it was important to share this vital information with you.

INFORMATION: COVID-19 SELF ISOLATION

Coronavirus Parish Angels are here to help

If you have a NEW persistent cough, high fever or are short of breath, you are advised to self-isolate.

Call a number below, and if that is busy call another.
For the Capel & Coldharbour area CALL

0739 596 3129

0739 596 3147

0739 596 3156

For Beare Green, South Holmwood & Mid Holmwood CALL

0739 490 8229

0739 590 9548

0739 596 3146

HOW THIS WORKS:

Give your name, phone number, address and your request. If you want us to collect a prescription, add your date of birth. We will pass your request on to a local helper who will arrange delivery to your doorstep - whilst retaining a social distance.

Capel Parish Council working with local communities and churches

If you have not received the leaflet that this information was on, together with health guidelines on the reverse, please contact one of the above numbers so a full leaflet could be delivered to you. Thank you.

HELP is at the end of a phone.

Please note that some of the advice opposite is now out of date eg. Pubs, clubs and restaurants that are now ALL CLOSED, together with avoiding meetings of more than 10 which has now been superseded by isolating at home with your household only.

CURRENT Coronavirus Advice as of 17th March 2020 source NHS & Govt.

COVID -19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. The virus is carried on droplets dispersed in coughing or transmitted by surface contamination.

IF YOU HAVE NO SYMPTOMS – current Govt and NHS advice is:

- 1) Wash hands thoroughly and regularly – with soap and hot water or alcohol-based hand rub (sanitiser)
- 2) Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- 3) Maintain social distancing – basically keep 4 feet apart from anyone
- 4) Avoid touching when you are greeting – elbow “kissing” is suggested
- 5) Avoid gatherings and crowded places such as pubs, clubs, restaurants and theatres.
- 6) Work from home where possible - avoid meetings of more than 10
- 7) Avoid travelling (especially on public transport) unless essential
- 8) Stop unnecessary visits to family and relatives in care
- 9) Only use the NHS when you really need to
- 10) Do exercise outside, but remain at a social distance to others
- 11) Only go out to buy food, if no one in your household has symptoms
- 12) If someone in your family has symptoms, stay home for 14 days

Note: It is likely that the most at-risk people will be requested to self-isolate for 12 weeks by the 23rd March. So, stay informed as circumstances change daily

STAY AT HOME - if you have coronavirus symptoms – which are: -

- A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- A new continuous cough – this means coughing repeatedly
- (Leith Hill Practice add in) shortness of breath

DO NOT go to a GP Surgery, Pharmacy or Hospital.

YOU DO NOT need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you are staying at home

HOW LONG TO STAY AT HOME?

- If you have symptoms, stay home for 7 days.
- If you live with others, they should stay home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms.
- If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant, or has a weak immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.
- If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

USE NHS 111 online service or call 111 if:

- * You feel you cannot cope with the symptoms
- * Your conditions get worse
- * Your symptoms do not get better after 7 days.

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God. Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



Easter faith

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that He does not exist?

THE WAY I SEE IT: The Easter Paradox

This month - rather later than usual - we remember the events of Good Friday and celebrate the glory of Easter. The injustice and cruelty of the former and the hope and assurance of the latter may help us to make sense of the conflicting and often disturbing events taking place in our world.

On Good Friday the most honest, generous and open person who ever lived was cruelly executed. Around the cross stood His mother, and a few close friends and family. Beyond them, a crowd jeered. The soldiers went about their grim task. Even the sky was dark.

Yet in the gloom there was hope. Jesus forgave those who were killing him: 'they don't know what they're doing'. He asked His best friend to look after his mother. A criminal who was being executed alongside Jesus had a change of heart and asked Him to 'remember me when you come into your kingdom' - and received the most wonderful promise of paradise *today*. Even the Roman centurion, who had stood watching the condemned man die, testified that 'surely this man was a son of God'.

In other words, at the darkest time there was light, a Light which blazed out on Easter morning. Isn't that paradox - the truth that even in the worst moment there are signs of hope - the deep message of Easter? We are made in God's image. We are precious to God. But we are fallen, flawed, lost. Those two truths are right there in the story of Good Friday and Easter. And which one wins? No prizes for guessing.



Easter Story

The thud of nails on open palms,
'Father forgive' was all He said,
'Finished' was His final cry,
As death approached God bowed His head.

Born of a woman He entered our world,
Fully man yet fully divine,
Such is the mystery beyond comprehension
That One such as this should step into time.

He came to die and rise again
The firstfruits of the Father's love,
That man should follow in His train
On wings of light to realms above.

By Megan Carter



"Let nothing perturb you,
nothing frighten you.
All things pass.
God does not change.
Patience achieves everything."

St Teresa of Avila

"Courage is fear that has said it's prayers"

Dorothy Bernard

APRIL 2020

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.' Psalm 46:1-3

NEWNESS OF LIFE

WEDNESDAY 1st

Father, thank You for a fresh start today. Thank You for the reminder of renewal that Spring represents to us in the earth. Prepare us for all the new things you have for our lives. Help us to let go of the old things that hold us back, and help us to keep "springing forward" in our journey with You.

THURSDAY 2nd

Loving Father, draw us closer to You. Search our hearts, renew our spirit and help us to open up our hearts to You. Bring us into alignment with Your Spirit. We are thankful that we know that Your love is an unconditional, everlasting love.

FRIDAY 3rd

Dear Lord, thank You for the work You do in us. Teach us Your ways and reveal to us any area where we are not in agreement with Your Word. We pray for a deep revelation and understanding of Your truth

SATURDAY 4th

Creator God, You teach us about time and seasons through all of the different seasons we experience here on earth. You make things new and beautiful. Lovingly show us how we can be transformed, growing us into who You have created us to be.

PALM SUNDAY 5th

Jesus Christ, as people welcomed You with shouts of 'Hosannah!' and spread palms in Your way, make us ready to lay at Your feet all that we have and all that we are, that we too may welcome Your coming into our lives. Thank You for never leaving us as we walk this journey together. Help us to feel how close You are.

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY 6th

Loving Father, give us strength this day to walk faithfully with Jesus, even when the road we walk is rocky and times are hard to bear. Lord, You guide and encourage us through difficult times, do not forsake us.

TUESDAY 7th

Dear Lord, during this week, help us to keep in our minds our Saviour's gift and promise of new, abundant and eternal life for all who believe and trust in Him.

WEDNESDAY 8th

Merciful Lord, we pray that we would not be counted among the doubters hiding in the shadows or deny You as Peter did. We thank You that You are there when we call on Your name to bring comfort and love.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 9th

Lord God, You sent Your Son into the world and before His time had come, He washed His disciples' feet. Help us to learn from His example; help us to have a humble heart to serve others.

GOOD FRIDAY 10th

Healing and gentle Lord, when there is trouble, suffering and death and we cry out to You for help as Jesus did on the cross. Be near to us and save us so that we may praise You for Your deliverance.

SATURDAY 11th

Almighty God, as we wait for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, help us to be ever watchful, give us knowledge of His presence with us, that we may be strengthened and serve You continually in righteousness and truth.

EASTER DAY 12th

Lord of Life, You defeated death to show us that we can rise from all that binds us to this earth; pride, envy, anger and fear. Your resurrection has washed away our sins and brought us joy. Halleluia! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed!

FEAR

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15

MONDAY 13th

Lord, we confess we forget the truth that Your love is endless. You protect us completely and fully from anything that might arise. Sometimes we feel alone and without any protection. We repent of that worry and fear and trust in Your goodness toward us.

TUESDAY 14th

Loving Father, help us believe and live out the truth that You are always close, always protecting us, always watching over every step of our lives. Thank You Lord for Your great love.

WEDNESDAY 15th

God of peace, You are our strength and our salvation in a world of hurt, anguish, worry and fear. By the mighty power of Your Spirit, lift us up as we pray to You for rest and reassurance in Your loving arms. May we always know that You are our God, and that Your grace can overcome any fear or worry we may have.

THURSDAY 16th

God of Power, when we feel crushed by our worries and anxieties, help us to see the truth in all that You are. When fear grips us please free our hearts and help us to take things one-step at a time with You by our side.

FRIDAY 17th

God of Wisdom, calm us in these troubled times with Your quiet words of love and devotion. We choose to trust in You, each day, each hour, each moment and we know that we can cast our cares on You for, by giving Your life on the cross, You have set us free. Increase our faith, we pray, and help us through the rocky times. lieve for the future; that all Your promises will come to pass so we can rest forever in Your love.

SATURDAY 18th

Father God, we pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit so that we will keep Your essential commands; to believe in Christ, to love one another and to confess our sins.

SUNDAY 19th

Loving Father, May our faith in You help us to conquer our fears. May worry fall by the wayside, let doubt flee and allow our hope in You to flourish. Father, we cannot do this without You. Let the joy You bring emerge and bubble within us and infect those around us

HOPE**MONDAY 20th**

Lord Jesus, You are the hope of all who trust in You, the wisdom of all who serve You and the uniter of all who worship You. We thank You for Your presence in our lives.

TUESDAY 21st

Dear Lord, fill us all with strength and boldness according to Your promises that we might connect with each other in love and bring the message of hope to all. You provide us with perfect love at all times and have given us everything we need.

WEDNESDAY 22nd

Father God, thank you that in a world of despair, You are our Hope. In a world of darkness, You are our Light. In a world of sorrow, You are our joy.

THURSDAY 23rd

Giver of Wisdom, our only hope is in You. We thank You for the past, trust You for today and believe for the future; that all Your promises will come to pass so we can rest forever in Your love.

FRIDAY 24th

Our Heavenly Father, as we live through these difficult times, we ask that You bless us with Your peace and hope. Give us strength to face the adversities and to overcome the obstacles to normal living with grace and understanding. Give us hope for the future.

SATURDAY 25th

Father, we come before You today, helpless and weak. We need Your hope for love, kindness and for a better life, Lord. We ask that You fill us from head to toe with Your everlasting light. When we despair help us to walk in Your glorious light

SUNDAY 26th

Dear God, we pray for Your hand upon all who have been affected by Covid 19. Bring Your healing touch and we ask that You bless them. It's been a difficult time and we humbly ask for Your healing to restore health and hope, in Jesus' name.

MERCY AND COMPASSION

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
Matthew 25:40

MONDAY 27th

Dear God, thank You for being a God of compassion and love. Life is hard. Help us to show mercy to others and never let us forget to mirror to others the compassion You've shown us.

TUESDAY 28th

God of Love, no matter how much we grow in Christ, we are still going to fail. Life has taken us into places we don't want to go. And we don't always handle well what's thrown at us. Lord of compassion, we are grateful for Your heart. May we never be complacent.

WEDNESDAY 29th

Father, give us compassion and humility in our hearts. Let us be kind, gentle, generous, loving, giving and forgiving to others. Give us the strength to help one another with a willing heart, especially those who are lonely, alone, worried or grieving.

THURSDAY 30th

Caring Father, let us be an example of You to those around us. Let us be the light that they see so that You come through. When we see someone in need, lay that person on our hearts. May we create a better world by providing for those who cannot care for themselves.

**A prayer about the coronavirus outbreak**

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and
fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,
You made the world and care for all
creation.
But the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about
Coronavirus.
Many people are anxious because of it.
Many people are anxious that they might
get ill.
Many people are anxious about their
family and friends.

*Taken from a selection of Prayers for the
Coronavirus outbreak published by
The Church of England*

*The prayer leaflet is available on our
Parish website:*

*[https://
www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/
weekly-news-sheets/](https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/weekly-news-sheets/)*

Mary, did you know?

Luke 1

An Angel Tells about the Birth of Jesus

²⁶ *God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee ²⁷ with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. ²⁸ The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."*

²⁹ *Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. ³⁰ Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, ³¹ and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. ³³ He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."*

³⁴ *Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married!"*

³⁵ *The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So, your child will be called the holy Son of God. ³⁶ Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God!"*

³⁸ *Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." And the angel left her.*

My guess is that pretty much everyone reading this has had a mother. Indeed, some of you *are* mothers. And some of you are mothers of mothers! As a father, I know what it's like to have a mother and to have been married to a mother - but I don't know what it's like to actually *be* a mother. On that basis, clearly the best person to speak on this subject is Rev. Liz. After all, she's had a mother, she *is* a mother, she's the mother of a mother - and she's the vicar! I think that makes her qualified on *all* fronts. But she asked me if I'd put together a brief reflection on the subject of "mothers" for this year's Mothering Sunday service.

So - I did what I usually do in moments like that. First, I panic - then I turn to the bible. I know there are some stories in there about mothers. In fact, there's a story about possibly the most famous mother that ever lived. The familiar story that we hear every Christmas. Just the ordinary, everyday story of a 14-year-old girl, an impending marriage, an angel called Gabriel and the son of the Creator of the universe. It's taken for granted when it's read every Christmas. People are usually more focused on when the mulled wine is being served than what the true implications are of this extraordinary encounter.

Let's take a look at what's *really* going on here. Firstly, we have an ordinary, young teenage girl called Mary who is engaged to be married to a carpenter who is older than her! Right. Well, that's the first thing that sounds a bit dodgy to us living in Capel in the 21st century. But, actually, that was the regular custom of the time in the Middle East. We know that nowadays arranged marriages still take place in certain cultures - but it's inconceivable to us that the bride would be just 14 years old. But Mary was living in a different time.

Then there's the small matter of an angel. A supernatural being appearing out of nowhere, tapping Mary on the shoulder and saying, "Do not be afraid". How many of us, when approached by a winged messenger from the Almighty whose message begins, "There's no need to panic", would instantly think - do you know what, I think this is the perfect moment for some mild hysteria!?

But Mary seems quite happy to engage with Gabriel and listen to what he's got to say. "God is pleased with you", he says. So far - so good. "And you will have a son; and His name will be Jesus; and He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High; and The Lord God will make him king; and He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end." Time to up the level from mild hysteria to blind terror, I'd say. But Mary remains perfectly calm and politely points out that this is an unlikely scenario as she's not even married yet. "Not a problem", replies Gabriel in an instant. "Just leave it to God and His Holy Spirit and then your boy can be called the Son of God Most High. Simples" (Well, he didn't actually *say*, "simples", because he was an angel and not a meerkat - but you get the drift.)

Mary's answer was exactly what you'd expect from a teenager who's accosted by a total stranger that's appeared out of nowhere. "Now listen here, pal", she says. "I don't know who you think you are hovering there with your wings flapping sending dust everywhere and spouting on about 'Mr. God who wants to give you a surprise baby because you're such a nice person' but my mum's told me all about blokes like you so you can sling your hook!" That might be *our* natural response but there must have been such an overwhelming sense of God's presence and peace that she simply replies, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." How much must she have loved and trusted God to say that - especially given the inevitable consequences?

And let's look at those consequences. Firstly, in the Middle East at that time when you became engaged to be married you spent time together with your husband-to-be living at your parent's house before moving to a home of your own. But you did not live as man and wife while you were doing that. It was unthinkable that you would become pregnant. If you did it was utterly shameful. You would be a marked woman for the rest of your life. You'd more than likely be kicked out of your family, the marriage would be over and the chances of you ever finding another husband were remote. You were a loose woman with no morals. So, saying "yes" to God was instantly compromising. And what about poor Joseph, Mary's husband? What would he think? How would he look in front of all his friends and family if he suddenly found out that his wife-to-be was expecting a child and he wasn't the father? He'd be completely humiliated and undermined.

So, here's Mary, our 14-year-old girl, with a massive problem in her life. If she says yes to God then she breaks the promises she's made to Joseph and if she says no to God then she breaks the promises she's made to Him to be a faithful servant. It's a terrible, no-win situation for her.

I wonder how many mums find themselves facing impossible decisions from time to time - or even perhaps on a daily basis. I'm guessing pretty much every one. Your lives are a constant series of prioritising commitments and deciding who you are today. Am I a mum, am I wife, am I a daughter, am I a lover, am I carer, am I chief cook and bottle washer? It's easy to get so consumed by the pressures of everyday life that you find the *real* you, the person that you used to be, disappearing from sight under the ever-increasing demands on your time and resources. Then you read something like this where a bloke talks to you about "Father God" and His "Son, Jesus" and you might be thinking, "Here we go again. It's all about men. Who is truly going to understand what I'm going through; what it's like to be mother and a woman in her own right?"

Well, that same God that met with Mary. The same God who understood what He was asking of her; who knew what the cost was going to be to *her*; who knew that He could trust her *so* much that He could have complete confidence in entrusting His only son, the ultimate expression of His love for all people, to the care of a simple 14 year-old girl. And when I say, "He", remember that I'm restricted by the limitations of language. God is neither male nor female - He's spirit. Remember that the bible tells us that "He" created all people "in His own image". Well if that's *all* people then that tells me that whether we are man or woman we are all created in His image. He clearly had the choice about whether or not the saviour He would send to earth would be male or female and he decided to have a son. But instead of just sending him down in a blaze of glory on a lightning bolt He chose that the ultimate honour of presenting Jesus to the world would be given to a woman.

Then remember that before Jesus returned to be with his father, he made a promise. ***"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*** (John 14) We're told at the beginning of Genesis that this Holy Spirit was present at the creation of the world. ***In the beginning God (plural) created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*** The word in the original text here for Spirit is *feminine* and gives the picture of a bird spreading its wings over her nest to protect her young. God has no problem at all in showing His feminine side!

So, was it such a difficult decision for Mary after all? Well, yes! She would have known her scripture (what we call the Old Testament) and would have known the book of Isaiah and particularly chapter 53 where it says of the promised Son of God, ***"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."***

So, what I see in Mary is what I see in every woman who has become a mother. A woman of courage, conscience and commitment. Ultimately, I see her *faith* in God to be everything she needed for the blessing that being a mother can be and her absolute *trust* in God to be all that she needed in the sacrifice that being a mother brings. It's the same faith and the same God that we can *all* experience today - but I have a feeling that there is an extra portion of grace and mercy that God reserves for those who are called to be our mothers.

Amen.

Rev Liz has mentioned in her Weekly sheets that are available on our church website that she is praying the Church of England Daily prayers and you can join in with these either in the morning or afternoon, normally at 9.30am and 5.30pm if you wish to be 'with her in prayer'.

You can either find them on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer>

OR you can download the Church of England App to your mobile phone and find the daily reflections on there.



Please note that in view of current Government guidelines regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, the following facilities offered will not operate until further notice:

The Pavilion Café at Ockley on Wednesdays

The after school Youth Café on Tuesdays

Messy Church

ALL Todder groups including The Ockley Mothers and Toddlers Group on mornings

Kindred Spirits Breakfasts

Village Teas at Ockley (normally third Monday of the month) at Ockley Village hall.

Capel Church Teas Sundays (was due to begin 22nd March)

Also

The two **Lent courses at Newdigate 'Discipleship Explored' and 'When Faith gets Shaken'** are cancelled.

Bible Study all currently cancelled



Thursday

**Working Party scheduled for
Saturday 4th April
Now cancelled!**

We hope to try later in the year. We will keep you informed. Thank you



**From the Registers
St John the Baptist, Capel**

We mourn the loss of
Peter James Ede
25th February 2020

See Norman's Tribute to Peter on pages 20 & 21

ALLOTMENTS IN CAPEL

Plots are available at Temple Lane, a really beautiful location, where our plots are 5 x 12 metres, or half that if you want. We are a small group, run by members, and in 2020 we are celebrating being established for 10 years.

When our plots are not in use, we cover them, so a new person has an easier start – and March/April is a great time to start, to fully benefit from the growing season, not least because our well-drained site is relatively easy to weed and work.

Contact philip_partridge@btinternet.com or call/text 07813 829 326

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

'The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.'

If you have any concerns contact our Safeguarding Officer 07732825908 leighdesouza@yahoo.com or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

This notice will appear each month in InSpire and the contact details for our Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor Mr Ian Barry will be published in our weekly pew sheets.

We will suspend the 'Star of the Month' award until we are all able to be together again and celebrate each individual's achievements and thank them personally!



The Editor

During the Coronavirus crisis and the inability to meet up or get into church, you can find extra materials being uploaded to the Parish Website regularly.

<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/weekly-news-sheets/>

Look under the 'Publications' tab





We learn to stop hating

'Lands apart, sky shared'

A quote from an ancient poem written on a shipment of masks and thermometers that was sent from Japan to China.

Perhaps this is the time we realise that we share the same earth - and many of the same problems. Perhaps a common adversary will unite us.

It might sound idealistic

...to talk too much of hope right now.

But rest assured that we will be giving you practical ways that you can make the world a better, fairer place over the next weeks and months.

We'll start with a short guide to the implications of the coronavirus on international trade and developing countries that will be with you next week.

Until then you can contact us any time by emailing hello@traidcraft.org - and if you feel compelled to support us in this difficult time, you can [support us here](#).

Thank you for everything you do.

<https://traidcraftexchange.org/blog/2020/3/20/its-time-to-stop>

It's time to stop.

The whole world is doing it... no more commuting, gathering or shaking hands.

The list of things we have to stop seems bigger than the list of things we're still allowed to do.

But look a bit deeper and you'll see that we aren't stopping because we are defeated - we're stopping because we will not be beaten.

We're stopping to protect the vulnerable in society. We're stopping to save lives.

Your inaction, is the best possible action.

Many are talking about their fears right now and it is certainly right to be cautious. But today we want to talk about our hopes.

Because there is value in stopping, and it could look like this..

We learn to stop polluting

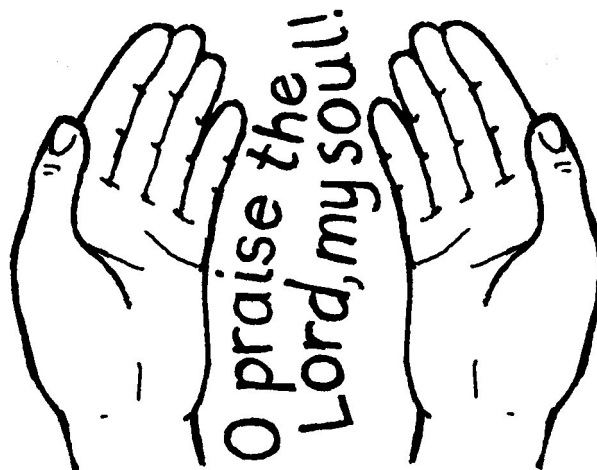
Researchers in New York are reporting a near 50% reduction in carbon monoxide compared to this time last year.

Perhaps this is a time where we can learn the value of reducing our emissions and our impact on the earth in the long term.

We learn to stop consuming

Forget about panic buying toilet rolls for a second and you can see that many of us are learning about what we really need - not focusing on the next big purchase.

Perhaps this is the time where we understand the value of what we consume and give our products and the people who make them the respect they deserve.



Update from the CEO of Traidcraft for customers

Dear Customers,

Page 17

We very much appreciate your patience and continued support in buying from Traidcraft. Rest assured, we have considerable stock in our warehouse and there is no danger of us running out of fairly traded goods to be delivered safely to your doorsteps. We are currently working on a 5-7 day delivery period.

As you can imagine, we are receiving a much higher volume of orders than anticipated for this period, with many of you stocking up with perhaps more than you need. We completely empathise with your desire to do this, but we must act responsibly, being kind and allowing others to get their provisions too. We believe that the key to buying less, is buying right and it is for this reason that we've put maximum quantities on popular items, such as our pasta, cleaning products and recycled toilet roll and kitchen roll.

Back here at base, we are all trying our hardest to ensure that we keep our business going, even through these incredibly challenging times. We are currently operating "normally"; taking orders, processing them and despatching them to you. We are trying our very hardest to keep lead times to a minimum.

However, given the volume of orders we are receiving, our turnaround times are growing longer and we are struggling to keep to our normal schedules. Staff are working long hours, under considerable personal stress, to make sure we keep the business running as normal.

If you have placed an order, it will be despatched to you. Please avoid sending us emails or phoning up to check your order status. This has the effect of slowing everything down as resources are taken away from picking, packing and despatching.

With many thanks for your understanding.

Robin
CEO Traidcraft



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

<http://www.molevalley.gov.uk> In line with many councils, Mole Valley has made off street town centre car parks free at times when they usually charge. However this relaxation does not apply on-street in permit parking areas or in Lidl and other private parking areas including the Waitrose side of the Church Street car park which has one entrance but two separate halves. <http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=54844#free-parking>

As businesses will need to work closely and network to get through and beyond this hiatus, with encouragement from MVDC the Leatherhead & District Chamber of Commerce has expanded its focus to the whole of Mole Valley, and offers free membership for six months. [Leatherheadchamber.co.uk](http://leatherheadchamber.co.uk)

The Rotary club listing of takeaways and local delivery options is being updated frequently. <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=801567&ClubID=1460&fbclid=IwAR0pRotary list>

Kerbside collection of small electricals, textiles etc is being halted but all other aspects of the Joint Waste Solutions refuse and recycling, food and garden waste collection continues. jointwastesolutions.org

<https://www.surreyep.org.uk/bin-collections-what-can-you-do-to-help/>

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/2989076774484967> CCC Chat is a local Facebook discussion group worth joining operating alongside the volunteers at tinyurl.com/ccs-surrey

Source: <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/feed/RH55LL/Capel>

(You can download the 'In your area' App onto your mobile phone)

In 
YourArea

Capel Concerts are gaining something of a reputation for producing wonderful concerts in our lovely church. On the 7th March it was the turn of Jacqui McShee of Pentangle to delight us. The church was packed with most seats having been reserved in advance, so we were all suitably impressed when not only did we have the wonderful Jacqui's lovely vocals, but Mike Piggott made a return visit to accompany her along with Kevin Dempsey.

Some of you will remember Pentangle from the late '60's – a folk band with an eclectic mix of folk, jazz and blues. The same is still true of Jacqui today, her vocal skills have not diminished at all as she treated us to a string of songs both old and new.

We are lucky that all the artists that have visited Capel have said how good the acoustics are in the church, those 12th century architects and builders obviously knew a thing or two! Smith & Brewer who were a resounding success in the Summer have agreed to return this Autumn (coronavirus willing) and I understand from Bob that Jacqui McShee will have agreed to come back in May 2022!

Book your tickets online – these concerts are now playing to a full house!

Debbie von Bergen

Palm waving

It was Palm Sunday, but five-year-old Jamie stayed at home with mum because of a bad cold. When his father and sisters returned, they were carrying several palm fronds. His sister explained: "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by."

"That's not fair!" Jamie protested. "The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

On the hop

Q: What do you get when you cross the Easter Bunny with an over-stressed minister during Holy Week?

A: An Easter Basket Case

Don't break'em

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady paused for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments," she said politely.

What God looks like

An infants teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. One little girl was working away furiously, and so she asked her what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."



Junior InSpire

We hope you enjoy the Wordsearch and the colouring in picture of the Mice and their Easter egg!



Mouse Makes

L A B R O A D
 O C R O S S E
 R H A P P Y B
 D O N K E Y S C
 F S C I A S C O
 A N E G E T A
 S N S P L O T
 T A P A L M S
 D I M O U R J E W S S L N P A T T C U P K J C B D
 R P A S S O V E R O B E A R R C H R I S T E R E E
 I G N A B O D Y K I L L I A R O O O L O T S U T A
 N E A T T M E A L G O D L Y E L R W I L L U C R T
 K D I S C I P L E S O N S U S T N N M E S S I A H
 E B R E A D W I N E D X G E T H S E M A N E F Y E
 D A R K N E S S H T L I N E N A H E A V E N Y Y D



H U G D A W N
 R T O M B M G
 E O O T P O E
 E C D E F R L
 D R N M R N K
 A O E P A I I
 Y W W L I N S
 S D S E S G S
 E A S T E R B
 G U A R D E U R
 S A V I O U R Y
 P R A I S E Y
 I D C U T K T E
 R I D J O Y E
 I C O I N S L
 T E T R E E L

- DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
- ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
- BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
- DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
- FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
- WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
- MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
- GETHESEMANE • PRAY • WILL
- BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
- CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
- THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
- CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
- TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
- TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
- BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
- DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
- HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
- GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
- PRaise • SAVIOUR • EASTER

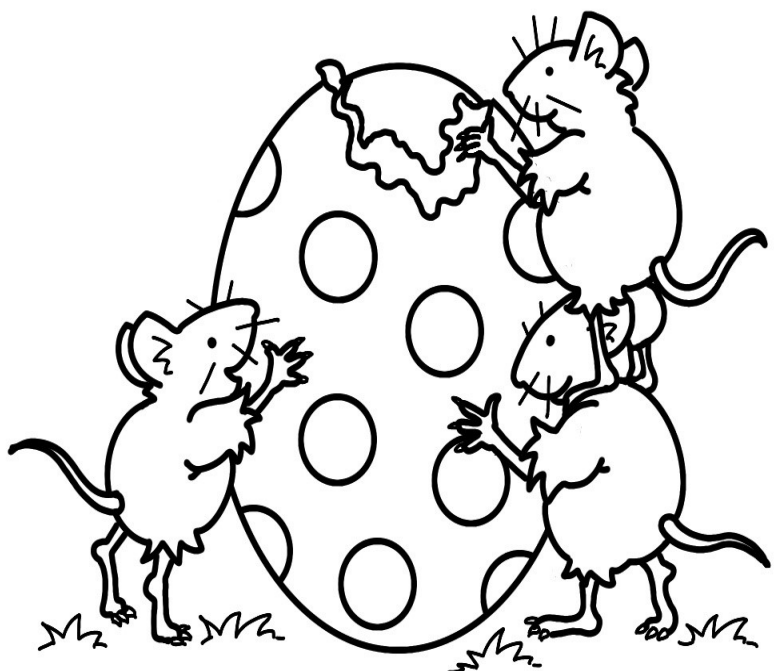
Apr20 © Deborah Noble • parishpump.co.uk

Happy Easter to our Junior InSpire readers!

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.
 You are with me in the day and in the night.
 You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
 You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
 You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.
 Today I am feeling *(name how you are feeling)*
 because *(reasons you are feeling this way)*.
 Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.

Amen.



Peter James Ede: Horticulturist, woodcutter, haulier, furniture relocation consultant (removal man), husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, bell-ringer, churchwarden, collector of walking sticks, umbrellas and anything shiny that didn't cost him anything, and poetry lover. When I say poetry, what I actually mean are risqué rhymes: does anyone know the one about the camel?

For those of you who were here on January 14th to say goodbye to Mary, you will know that Peter was born at Nightless Copse on the 15th of April 1930 – 11 weeks after Mary had been born at Capel Cottage Hospital. You must be thinking that they lived almost identical lengths of time? Well they did: Mary managed 89 years and 320 days; Peter 89 years and 315 days. Peter was born 8 months after his parents low-key wedding at Dorking Registry Office: he must have been premature, which could account for his small stature...

Peter's brother John was born in 1932 and the two boys spent their first few years at Nightless Copse with no electricity, mains drainage or wi-fi and helped their parents Bob & Gladys look after chickens, goats and pigs as well as a succession of pet dogs – and a donkey!

It was during these formative years that Peter started his lifelong association with high-ranking clergy. In 1933 Bishop Greig came to visit Capel and was introduced to numerous villagers. The Reverend Bingley's account of the visitation which appeared in the November edition of the Capel Parish Magazine that year states, "So many, both young and old, had the opportunity of speaking to him, from Peter Ede, aged 3 ½, who warned him to beware of his dog...".

Peter developed mastoiditis aged 7 or 8. This condition led to a prolonged period off school and culminated in a burst eardrum, which accounted for his deafness in one ear for the rest of his life.

After several years at Capel School, Peter passed the entrance exam for the County School in Dorking (The Ashcombe as we know it today). He remained here until he was 16. Some of his reports from the County School were less than complimentary: -

'Quite good work but apt to be untidy'
'Rather untidy and careless'
'Not attentive enough'
'Could do well but does not make much effort'
'His ideas are very hazy'
'Very casual in his attitude to work'
'Sometimes good. Erratic'

By the time Peter left school in 1946, Ede Bros had been established for 20 years; Bob & Ted Ede having started trading soon after the General Strike in 1926. The business then was that of a general haulier: bricks by the thousand from the numerous local brickworks – all loaded and unloaded by hand; sand and gravel suppliers for construction projects, transporting scaffolding poles (wooden), from builders yards to their development sites and supplier of fencing posts and firewood cut from Strood Copse. The occasional household removal was achieved by lifting a canvas 'tilt' onto one of their flatbed vehicles so that personal possessions could be transported under cover. Sometimes the 'cargo' was live: Capel Football Club used Ede Bros to transport the team to and from local matches in the late 1920's. It was all rather heavy work for a small 16-year old (5' ¾" and 7 stone 5 ¾ lb in 1946), and so Peter went off to pursue a horticultural career. Between 1946 and 1947 he worked at Chalcrafts Nurseries in Dorking and then spent 18 months working in the glasshouses at Sutton Place near Guildford for The Duke of Sutherland. This was followed by 2 years in the glasshouses at Hever Castle, from where his reference written by Albert Pike, Head Gardener to Col. JJ & Lady Violet Astor states that Peter has, "a pleasant disposition with a ready willingness at all times to undertake whatever task may be set him". Characteristics that would follow him for the rest of his life.

From Hever, Peter went in 1950 to work at the brand-new John Innes Horticultural Institution at Bayfordbury, Hertfordshire. If you read the History page of the current John Innes Centre website today, you can understand the attraction of wanting to be involved in this new operation; but Peter has admitted that this move was a mistake and he didn't stay there long.

And so, in the early 1950's Peter came home to work for his father and uncle. Although I believe it led to friction between them all at times, Peter began to steer the firm in the direction of that of solely furniture removers.

Rolling the clock on to 1960 and removal work was very much at the forefront of Ede Bros.' activities. It was at this time that a certain Miss Mary Parr arrived to teach at Capel School. Mary had grown-up right on the county boundary at Shiremark Lodge, where her parents still lived at that time. For the preceding 10 years Mary had taught in London and Dorking, but now had jumped at the chance to teach at her local school. Soon after commencing her teaching position at Capel she joined The Wesley Guild, where both Peter and John were members. Peter and Mary were both now 30-years old and some thought that they both would remain single; but Peter had other ideas and they soon began seeing each other.

Peter and Mary became engaged whilst on holiday in Inverness in 1963 and they were married in this church on the 4th of April 1964, with the reception being held at where else but Capel Memorial Hall.

The removal and storage business was by now the dominant part of Ede Bros' activities at Nightless Copse, with proper coach-built pantechnicons and a small wooden-framed warehouse. Ted (Peter's uncle), had retired and sold his share of the partnership to his brother and nephew. Bob was never an out-and-out removal man and so in his own retirement, kept his hand in by driving a tipper lorry which was provided under contract to Surrey County Council for highways work, based at the Beare Green depot. Bob would collect his crew from there each morning, and they would spend most of their time road-mending in the locality. This arrangement was a historic contract for Ede Bros dating from the end of World War II and it continued until Surrey gave us 1 weeks' notice in the mid 1970's.

Peter's reputation for cheerfulness, honesty and fair-pricing led him to build-up an impressive array of clientele during the 60's and 70's – regularly moving furniture between the London houses and country seats for the numerous local 'old money' families. Long distance removals within the UK were as much of an adventure for Peter as European trips would become for me in more recent times. Trips to Scotland were always a favourite for Peter and his preferred route was always up 'The Great North Road' – the A1. Trips to the West Country were regular too; and I must admit to being as much of a fan of 'The Highway to the Sun' – the A303, as Dad was. We would always pull-up in Bruton, Somerset when heading westwards, so that he could buy his copy of The Daily Telegraph (my grandfather had favoured The Sun...), and then at a certain farmhouse just outside Honiton for clotted cream on the return journey.

Peter was always very active in the life of this church; serving on the PCC on and off since his early 20's. He has said to me that he and his brother, John, only really took to coming to Church to avoid the endless list of jobs that Bob would dish-out at home. Peter was a Churchwarden here for 14 years and counts the incumbents that he worked with as some of his best friends.

Horticulture was still a passion for Peter and each year he produced a myriad of vegetables, fruit and flowers at Nightless Copse. Numerous classes were always entered on Flower Show day and always numerous prizes won, including that of Most Meritorious Exhibit in the Show in 1990. Whether this award was for tomatoes or not I do not know, but this class was always hotly contested with Dr. Ashwood. Peter still managed to enter several classes up until 2018 and had been awarded life membership by Capel Horticultural Society several years ago.

Never one for sitting still; Peter carried on working well past state retirement age as he just liked getting out and about, meeting different people and going to different places – he was just nosey really! Holidays with Mary became longer than they had experienced before; more often that not touring around Scotland for a couple of weeks. When driving their own car over such distances became a chore, they enjoyed several coach tours which took them not only to Scotland but also to Ireland and mainland Europe.

Eventual full retirement (if you can ever describe it as that for Peter), saw him always busy at home and in various aspects of Capel life. It must be 10 years ago now that Parkinson's Disease was diagnosed, but he stoically carried on doing as much as this progressive condition would allow; his mobility, which had allowed him to achieve so much throughout his life, gradually being robbed. Eventually daytime carers came to assist with household chores that neither he or Mary could successfully manage any longer; and for the past 4 years, live-in carers to deal with every aspect of their lives. Great thanks must go to Almost Family for adapting to their needs and for providing such dedicated staff.

Over the past year or so the health of both Mary and Peter worsened, until the point came last Autumn when Mary needed to move into residential care. We surmised that she could well be the first of the pair to pass away, but that Peter was being the dutiful husband and 'hanging on' to be by her side. And so, this situation has played-out as predicted: Peter was born 78 days after Mary was born and passed away 73 days after her death – his job done. We have received many compliments to Peter. These have included: -

"A compact giant of a man."

"One of a kind." (or was that just a wry observation...?)

"He has left his footprint on the village."

"The only man to have a good swear-up in the Church!"

"Definitely a life well lived."

"His contribution to the community in Capel and the district probably irreplaceable."

And finally, back to that camel. One day in the late 1980's, Dad and I went to move a couple from Shamley Green. Dad was very tickled to read the following, which I seem to recall had been sign-written on the wall above their bed:

"The sexual life of the camel is stranger than anyone thinks.

In moments of amorous passion, it tries to make love to the sphinx.

But the sphinx's posterior exits are blocked by the sands of the Nile.

Which accounts for the hump on the camel's back and the sphinx's inscrutable smile!"

Dear Readers,

Well it's hard to know where to start this month! Although we were all well aware of the Coronavirus developing around the world, I think the speed of the restrictions on our daily life have completely confounded us! We are used to so much freedom in every sense as we are fortunate enough to live in a democracy that impositions on our daily life are unexpected to say the least! However, with the information to hand, it is clearly the right thing to do and we are not alone in this crisis either locally or nationally as the whole world is currently enveloped in it.

Much as it may affect many of our lives in different ways, it will be even more devastating for poorer countries with camps full of immigrants trying to escape warzones for a better life. As a sponsor of a child in Mexico via Compassion UK, I have an immediate concern for the girl we sponsor who lives there. I know many of you also sponsor a child around the world with Compassion UK. I hope and pray that the virus does not ravage some of these poorer zones and I pray for the people who will be trying to help them.

Likewise, I pray for those on the frontline here whether they are in the NHS, teachers, retail staff, delivery drivers, the emergency services and anyone else that I haven't mentioned. Right now they rightly demand our respect and our obedience to obey the current restrictions to keep us all as safe as possible and SAVE LIVES. Several of our parishioners are in these crucial roles and my respect to them as they face an unprecedented event with great courage.

Personally, I am missing being able to hug my Mum very much when I pop over with supplies. It feels so wrong, but I know it to be the right thing to do. Also, I am very much missing seeing our eldest son as he works from home in Kent together with being able to catch up with my many friends from so many areas of my life in the way I would normally take for granted. But like everyone else, I am adapting to the circumstances I find myself in and have discovered all sorts of new uses to technology! This includes being 'invited to meetings' online with Rev Liz and Debbie von Bergen at regular intervals to discuss church matters and how best we can keep people feel informed and connected to one another when we can't actually be together physically. We are so lucky to have this technology to hand - to be able to communicate 'face to face' with both loved ones on video calls and to 'meet' online with others is a godsend right now.

And finally talking of 'godsend' it is only right to finish with the main event of the month which is of course Easter! The greatest gift God ever sent us was his Son - what a 'godsend'! I wish you all the happiest Easter that you can have in the circumstances. But perhaps in the quieter environment we find ourselves, we might actually feel closer to God than we have before with some more time and quiet surroundings to find Him. There will be many positive outcomes to this crisis, despite heartache and worry for so many, and it is already heartwarming to see communities at work together in a way we have not witnessed before. It seems God is working among us

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer" *Mother Teresa*

"To live by faith means to put our lives in the hands of God, especially in the most difficult moments" *Pope Francis*

Wishing you all a Happy Easter,

Suzanne



"The organist isn't too sure about it, he says he can't play that fast."



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!

THE VICARAGE FETE 2020

** It is possible that the Annual Fete could be cancelled if current restrictions or further restrictions are still in place.*

We will keep you informed but are currently planning as if we are going ahead.

This year's Capel Vicarage Fete will be held on

Saturday 20th June 2020
12.00 until 3.00 pm
at a venue to be confirmed.

There will be lots to do, plenty of stalls and lots on offer to eat and drink too!

We will be appealing for the loan of gazebos, party tents and baked goodies for the cake stall nearer the time! Thank you

CAPEL CHRISTMAS FAIR

The first Capel Christmas Fair in aid of our two Parish Churches and the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA)

will be held on

Saturday 14th November 2020
from 12.00 until 4.00 pm

in the Memorial Hall AND Parish Halls, Capel

with lots of tempting stalls to choose from, together with hot food and refreshments and all in aid of good causes!

Why not make it your Christmas shopping event!

FIVE simple ways to deal with loneliness and isolation.

1. **Pray.** Light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.
2. **Talk about how you feel.** This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but do use the telephone, internet, and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor this can be arranged by your GP, or via local agencies, or privately. The [Samaritans are there](#) 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.
3. **Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.**
4. **Look after yourself - physically, emotionally, spiritually.** Plan in things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.
5. **Look after others. Even if only in small ways, but do what you can:** a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

With Holy Week and Easter in mind...

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. *E Thomson*

Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless. *Charles M. Crowe*

Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime. *Martin Luther*

Spring bursts to-day, for Christ is risen and all the earth's at play. *Christina G. Rossetti*

Easter tells us that life is to be interpreted not simply in terms of things but in terms of ideals. *Charles M. Crowe*

Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life. *S.D. Gordon*

If Easter says anything to us today, it says this: You can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise! *Clarence W. Hall*

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. *Pope John Paul II*

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. *Anon*

The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the Church. *WR Nicoll*

Miscellaneous observations on life

It is the person who most knows himself liable to fall that will be most ready to overlook any offences from his fellow men. *Alexander Auld*

Those who say they will forgive but can't forget, simply bury the hatchet but leave the handle out for immediate use. *D L Moody*

Swallowing of pride seldom leads to indigestion. *Anon*

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. *Matthew Henry*

And finally, some one-liners...

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

Give God what's right - not what's left.

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

To be almost saved is to be totally lost.

Why do we paint Easter eggs? Because it's easier than trying to wallpaper them!

[Psalm 91](#) is a beautiful song that speaks of trust in God in the darkest of times. Because of its references to 'diseases' and 'plagues', it seems to be designed for what the world is going through at the moment with the coronavirus.

The psalmist talks about God's protection, likening him to a mother hen with its chicks – 'He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care', he says ([verse 4](#), GNB); 'A thousand may fall dead beside you, 10,000 all around you, but you will not be harmed' ([verse 7](#)).

These are lovely words. But when we begin to think about them, we might start to wonder just how we're meant to understand them. Perhaps there's a niggling doubt – after all, Christians do get ill and die. A few of us will catch the coronavirus, and some of us – though a tiny minority – will not recover. So is the Bible just plain wrong?

There's a clue in the New Testament about how we're meant to understand Psalm 91. In Matthew 4 (and in Luke 4) we read about the devil tempting Jesus in the wilderness. One of the temptations is for Jesus to cast himself down from the highest point of the temple; quoting [Psalm 91.11–12](#), the devil says, 'If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says: "God will give orders to his angels about you; they will hold you up with their hands, so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones."' Jesus answers with another Scripture: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test' ([Deuteronomy 6.16](#)).

One way of reading this is to say that Jesus is refusing to let the devil turn Scripture into a sort of exam on God's faithfulness. He knows very well that God's word can be trusted, and he won't let the devil twist it to say something it doesn't – a hint to us that we're to read Psalm 91 in the context of the whole of Scripture, rather than just looking at a few verses by themselves.

When we do that, we find that God's people often suffer harm. There's a stirring list of sufferings in [Hebrews 11](#): 'Some were mocked and whipped, and others were put in chains and taken off to prison. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword. They went round clothed in skins of sheep or goats – poor, persecuted, and ill-treated. The world was not good enough for them!' ([verses 36–38](#)). But these martyrs all knew about God's faithfulness – and many of them, if not all, would have known Psalm 91, with its lovely promise that 'no violence will come near your home'.

So when we're thinking about [Psalm 91](#) today, perhaps there are four things we can say.

First, don't tempt God. It would be quite wrong, for instance, for Christians to take these words literally and refuse to stop meeting together in spite of the dangers posed by the virus, as a test of faith. We have Jesus' example to show us that it doesn't work like that.

Second, let's trust the experience of our elders. The martyrs who've died for the gospel – like the ones the author of Hebrews writes about – didn't feel the Bible contradicted itself or was not 'true', just because they suffered. When we're tempted to doubt, we should remember those who've gone before us, and believe as they did.

Third, let's hear the hope in [Psalm 91](#). The psalm uses poetic language – vivid imagery, with striking comparisons and contrasts, to say something deeply meaningful: that God always intends the best for us and that he is always faithful. It doesn't just describe the world as it is, but the world as it ought to be. It's not a dry statement of fact, but a prayer.

So **fourth**, let's believe for the future. When God says in the last few verses, 'I will save those who love me ... I will reward them with long life; I will save them' ([14–16](#)), we can take these words as meaning not just salvation for this life, but for eternity. Things may go well for us in the here and now, or they may not. But God's salvation is for ever.

Author: Mark Woods, 27 March 2020



“During these challenging times three local businesses have teamed up to make sure those that can’t leave their homes within Mole Valley can get access to bread, milk and pork products, delivered direct to their door. Hill House Farm, Chalk Hills Bakery in Reigate & Alderhurst Farm in Capel, are delighted to be working together to offer Mole Valley residents free delivery of fresh pasturised milk, freshly baked bread and Hill House farm ham, bacon, sausages, pork, as well as sausage rolls and quiches on all orders over £10. Those unable to leave their homes can call us on 01306 264000 or email us at sales@learnandleisure.com before 4.30pm each day and we will deliver to your door within 24 hours.”

We are also now offering eggs from Etherley Farm & also beer from the Dorking Brewery to anyone who needs a home delivery at the present time.

Many thanks once again and if we can do anything to support you, the club or your businesses then please do let us know.

Click [HERE](#) for HHF price list
Click [HERE](#) for Bakery price list

Best wishes

Ian Jones

Winner of Surrey Hills Enterprises’ Gold Trade Mark Award 2020

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M: 0747 030 9797

Things to make you smile!

From church notice-sheets:

- ⇒ This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our children’s minister, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- ⇒ Baptisms: after Easter, the North and South ends of the church will be utilised. Children will be baptised at both ends.
- ⇒ *Coming up:* Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.
- ⇒ Next Sunday Mrs Brown will sing a solo at the morning service before the vicar preaches on the subject of ‘Terrible experiences and how to survive them’.
- ⇒ Players picked for St Andrew’s darts team will be pinned to the board on Thursday.



The Hubble Space Telescope

The Hubble Space Telescope was launched 30 years ago, on 24th April 1990. It was named after Edwin Hubble, an outstanding expert on extragalactic astronomy in the 1920s and 1930s.

The launch, originally scheduled for 1983, had been delayed by technical and budget problems and by the Challenger disaster. Ironically the NASA error that caused the Challenger tragedy was similar to the one that led to the Hubble telescope being launched with a defective mirror – unwillingness to accept technical warnings when there was great pressure from above to go ahead.

In the case of the Hubble telescope, also built by NASA with help from the European Space Agency, a more basic machine revealed the problem with the mirror, but those in charge did not believe it because a newer, more complex machine had given the go-ahead.

The problem was put right by astronauts in 1993 – the telescope was always designed to be serviced in orbit – and since then its position outside the Earth's atmosphere has enabled it to record many detailed visible light images that have enabled scientists a deep view into space, leading to new theories in astrophysics.

The telescope is estimated to remain in working order until 2030-2040.

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

How Can a Christian be a Scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered, who could make it in the world of science and still hold onto their faith? Soon enough I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, some of whom were at my own university. So what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges that a life in science holds for a Christian?

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things in the world, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. Exploring the world is a great thing to do to express our gratitude to the Creator. There is a sense of awe and wonder that comes when we expand our minds and our horizons by discovering things about the universe can feed into our worship.

Of course, there may be things in science that some Christians don't want to get involved in because of what they believe. But there should also be ethical issues that make them want to get stuck into new research that will help people, protect creation, or tackle injustices. I am glad to see that many senior scientists do their best to find appropriate ways to make their own faith visible, so that people like my younger self can find role models and mentors.

Another helpful thing about science is that although our beliefs may at times affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they shouldn't affect the outcome of experiments themselves. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of that worldview.

In my work at [The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion](#), and my involvement with [Christians in Science](#), I have the privilege of meeting a great number of scientists who are also Christians. One of the most famous living biologists is Francis Collins, who was Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA. He wrote that it is "possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation." (Francis Collins, [The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief](#) (Simon and Schuster, 2007)

William Wordsworth – the ‘Church of England pantheist’

William Wordsworth, the Romantic poet always associated with the Lake District, was born 250 years ago, on 7th April 1770. He was Poet Laureate from 1843 to 1850, though he produced no new poetry during that period.

In his youth Wordsworth travelled in France and came to share the radical politics of the French Revolution. He also fell in love with Annette Vallon, by whom he had a daughter in 1792. They were kept apart by the difficult relationship between England and France, but eventually met again, and the poet supported his daughter, though he married Mary Hutchinson, a friend of his beloved sister and muse, Dorothy. He had five children with Mary, three of whom predeceased them.

Wordsworth’s political views soon softened, and he never rejected Christianity. He has been described as a “Church of England pantheist” and saw himself as a people’s poet. He produced *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798 with his friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who inspired his last great poem, *The Prelude*.

Many Christians, especially those in the Anglo-Catholic movement, deeply admired Wordsworth. During his later years and in the next generation, he was regarded as a defender of the Faith. He himself seemed content that many found his poetry helpful in trying times.



I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By [William Wordsworth](#)

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



Soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage

by Canon Mark Oakley

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POETRY is the person of faith's native language. We live in a Google world of facts on tap, quick information at the click of a mouse. There are some who argue that religious faith should equally give immediate and ready answers to every possible question, and that religions have scriptures to be used as text-books to find out what those answers are. This approach fails to recognise, of course, that every text is filtered through the eyes of the reader.

Also, as the novelist Marilynne Robinson has written in her novel *Gilead*, "nothing true can be said about God from a posture of defence," and we all know how biblical bullets can be fired in debates to score against the enemy. Such weaponised reading will never nurture souls. This "simple-answer" approach to faith fails to recognise something else — that, from its very beginnings, the human intuition that the world is a gift, that it has a divine origin, and that life and love come from this same source, was explored and shared poetically. No other language could possibly begin to do justice to these inspiring, daunting mysteries of reality itself.

IN SCRIPTURE, truth is expressed through poetry for the faithful. It is not just a better way of saying truth, but, rather, truth is found in this form. Truth for the person of faith is inseparable from the way it is spoken. You might say that truth is far too important to be literalistic with. We know this when we fall in love and try to express how we feel. Literalism won't do. We turn to every poetic device we can muster to try to ensure that our love is communicated and received. If poetry is the language of love, it must also be the language of faith, the language of the Church, and the language of God. The curse of literalism is that it often misses meaning and turns resonant truth to stone. It stops the flight of the moth of sacred poetry and pins it down so that it no longer dances near the divine flame but becomes just another bit of controlled and routine argument like so much else.

THE eucharist is the sacrament that feeds us by making us hungrier. It deepens our desire for God. Faith intensifies rather than satisfies our longing for God. Are our words to do the same, feeding by their refusal to be captured? In poetry, the poem never has the last word. To use an image of D. H. Lawrence, if you try to nail down the meaning of a poem, either it kills the poem or the poem gets up and walks away with the nail.

Poetry reminds us that words are not just a medium for conveying something else but are themselves an essential constituent in the experience. Thomas Howard describes this well: a poem is a thing. It is not a set of fancy trimmings to an otherwise obvious truth.



Many readers suppose that that is exactly what poetry is: fancy trimmings. On the contrary, poetry is language brought to its most scorching, most succinct, most pellucid purity, like a Bunsen burner, where we want, not a bonfire, but a small prick of blue flame. It is because of the open-ended images of poetic forms that their power is exercised. All imagery forces us beyond containment. Words carefully crafted induce us to move beyond their literal meaning towards thinking in quite a different way, and so, potentially, of a quite different order of reality.

Poetry allows a creative freedom in terms of "constructing meaning" as opposed to "being told something". The great poet Geoffrey Hill calls this poetry's "democracy". As readers of scripture we jump all too quickly to a single meaning, whereas scripture derives much of its power from the fact that the images are multivalent, that is they allow our imaginations the possibility of moving in more than one direction. Language must be richer than our prejudices. Even in a clash or dissonance of words, words can function sacramentally.

Our faith is nothing without metaphor, without analogy, without sacramental shape and sound. Scriptural poetry liberates words from a hardened possession of definition in praise of a God beyond our imagining, and yet intimate with our realities. The whole scriptural enterprise is that of trying to read the love between the lines.

THE questions here for those of us with Christian faith are: When I go into church, how are my ears tuned? When I sit down to study the scriptures, how then am I tuned in? When I take part in a liturgy, a Bible study, a retreat, how have I adjusted my hearing?

Continued on page 30

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FROM THE CHURCH TIMES 'Lift your Hearts'

The following is an excerpt from
a Church Times sample.

WELCOME to a new initiative from the Church Times. Each week for the foreseeable future — not that much is foreseeable at the moment — we plan to produce a collection of prayers and reflections which, we hope, will help to support people who are deprived of the gifts that come from churchgoing.

Everything here will appear on www.churchtimes.co.uk, and, from next week, on a page in the printed paper; but we are designing it to fit on an A4 sheet, down-loadable for free from our website, so that individuals and churches can print copies for distribution to those stuck at home. This first edition is a sample.

We are busy signing up a rota of authors, priests, poets, etc. to act as mentors and guides. But, because this is the first one — and to be frank, because we don't know how many words to commission until we've tried it — I'm putting it together this week. We shall ask each contributor for a line or two about their situation. One of the aspects of this "plague year" that I've observed already is a loss of formality — which is the reverse of the physical distancing that we have to exercise, and possibly a reaction to it. My situation, then. I'm writing this in the study in Southampton. The Church Times is being put together from home by all the staff. My wife is self-isolating on health grounds, and so must I if I hope to join her in a few days. My daughter has just sent a photo from the "service" that she held with her husband and four-year-old son. Note that the need for a service sheet survives church closures, including the mention of tea and biscuits to end with.

Next week: Canon Mark Oakley.

If you are interested in following this regularly go to:

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/media/5667634/church-times-lift-up-your-hearts-27-march-2020.pdf>



Can I see the poetry that is called a psalm, a collect, a hymn, a eucharistic prayer? Can I hear the poetry of the worship song, the Bible reading, the sermon? These are important questions, because if we come ready to "hear the news" but are actually being asked to come and live in a poem, there is a problematic category error (mythos being encountered as logos, to be a bit classical about it), and this will lead to a sense of frustration that everything sounds a bit implausible — or very implausible. Religious faith is poetry plus, not science minus.

IF POETRY is the native language of faith, why are poetry and faith inseparable, though? What is it that makes them so understanding of each other, so encouraging of each other?

As a Christian, I believe that God has given us all a gift. It is our being. God asks for a gift in return — our becoming, who we become with our being. Because our gift back to God is lifelong and continually shifting and changing, it means that any language that is to be true to this spiritual adventure of being alive needs equally to resist closure, to protest at black-and-white conclusions and fixed meanings.

To be a language of human growth and formation, it needs to be a language of provocation, with tricks of the light, and complex, nuanced prompts that shift our terrain, that interrupt our snoring. Only this type of language will resemble the life of the soul in relationship and conversation with God, always pushing our boundaries further into fresh wisdom and new being.

The language that helps us to be-come, develop, and mature is rarely factually informative. It is, as Jesus showed in his own teaching, parabolic and pushy as it forbids our comprehension to close down. I doubt that if Jesus had written a clear manifesto, mission statement, or instructive textbook on the Kingdom of God we would still be engaging excitedly with his vision today.

His ceaselessly figurative preaching stops us and our hope becoming grounded. He never tells us what the Kingdom is, only what it is like. "A poem is never finished, only abandoned," Paul Valéry noted.

Poetry is the language that most truly reflects the life of the soul.

This is an edited extract from *The Splash of Words: Believing in poetry* by Mark Oakley ([Canterbury Press](http://www.canterburypress.co.uk), £12.99).

This article is from The Church Times archives and was originally published in May 2018.

Sadly the Eco Church Team have had to postpone their 'Green Fair' which was due to place on Saturday 28th March at The Crown in Capel. A lot of hard work and preparation had gone into planning the event and we very much hope the event can take place sometime in the future.

In the meantime, there are some more eco tips for us all!

Tap water is a much cheaper and more eco friendly alternative to plastic bottled water. Reusable bottles come in a wide variety of designs and make great presents. As well as price, there are a number of things to consider when choosing a reusable bottle:

- Insulated stainless steel shell bottles are hard wearing, very effective at keeping water cold but most need to be washed by hand.
- Reusable plastic bottles are robust, lighter, cheaper, sometimes dishwasher safe but they may affect the water taste.
- Glass versions in silicon sleeves can go in the dishwasher, won't affect the taste but are less able to withstand hard knocks.

Recycle your old printer cartridges or old mobile phones (after factory reset) and help a charity at the same time. Local charity shops or an internet search will let you know if your preferred charity benefits. A helpful site on things to consider when recycling mobile phones is: https://www.reduceuserecycle.co.uk/where_can_i_recycle/mobile_phones.php



Thanks to James Burt of the Eco Team for these tips!



A little gift for all members of our congregations will be left outside
your front doors in Holy Week!
A card through your door will tell you when it's arrived!

If anyone can help with distribution please speak to Rev Liz
Thank you

Wordsearch Clues

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethesame that this fearful cup might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.

Jesus
Ate
Last
Passover
Meal

Disciples
Warned
Betrayed
Bread
Blessed

Wine
Thanks
Drink
Covenant
Law

Old
New
Body
Blood
Gethsemane

Cup
Removed
Will
Easter
Approach
God

B	S	E	S	O	G	W	Y	E	G	S	H
N	O	E	H	E	E	E	L	P	T	U	E
P	D	R	D	N	T	H	A	N	K	S	M
B	R	E	A	I	H	S	A	O	L	E	B
O	H	T	V	W	S	N	A	A	A	J	W
D	C	S	T	O	E	C	E	L	D	C	A
Y	A	A	V	V	M	V	I	E	U	K	R
B	O	E	O	A	A	E	S	P	N	U	N
I	R	C	R	V	N	S	R	I	L	B	E
A	P	G	D	B	E	T	R	A	Y	E	D
D	P	W	I	L	L	D	W	T	O	O	S
M	A	B	B	L	O	O	D	E	G	S	A

			1	4			
7							
		9		3	1	2	
8				9	1		3
	2	5				7	1
4			2	7			8
	3	6	8			9	
							2
			5	6			

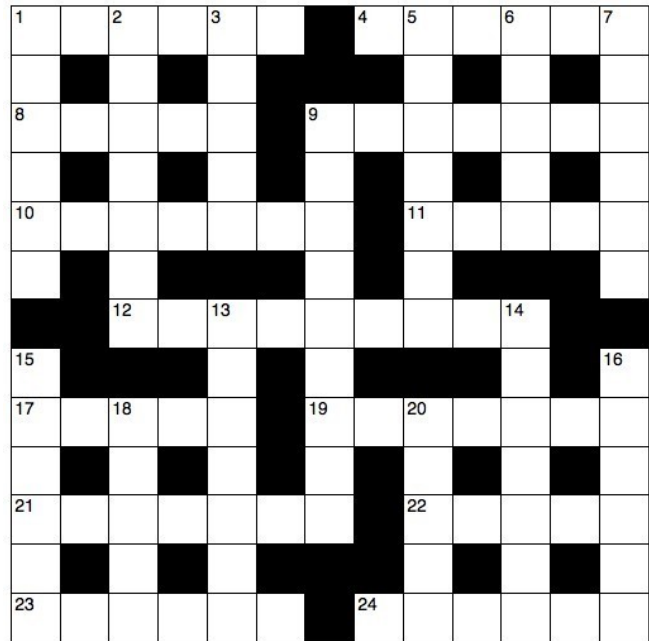
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Medium Level Sudoku

Puzzle solutions are on page 34

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)



Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

What the Archbishops say ...

Since 17th March, when the Archbishops of Canterbury and York had to put the public worship of the Church of England on hold, they have called on Christians to become “a radically different kind of church, rooted in prayer and serving others.”

They have also urged congregations to be in the forefront of providing practical care and support for the most poor, and the most vulnerable, during the crisis.

“We may not be able to pray *with* people, but we can certainly pray *for* people.

“And please do carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it. Ensure also that the night shelters, wherever possible, are kept open.

“Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that can counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.”

They add: “This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves?

“We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.”

©Coronavirus weekly updates from Parish Pump
27th March 2020



...er... the good news is the youth-group have made a great start by pressure-washing the west window...

Puzzle Solutions

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

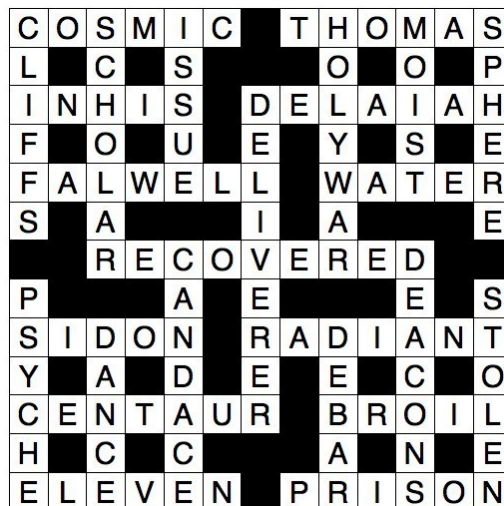
ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

Wordsearch solution



Crossword solution



Medium Soduku solution

3	5	2	1	6	4	8	7	9
7	8	1	9	5	2	4	3	6
6	4	9	7	8	3	1	2	5
8	6	7	4	9	1	2	5	3
9	2	5	6	3	8	7	1	4
4	1	3	2	7	5	6	9	8
5	3	6	8	2	7	9	4	1
1	7	8	3	4	9	5	6	2
2	9	4	5	1	6	3	8	7



*Helen went to church three weeks running,
so she was co-opted to the P.C.C.*



More photos next month!



Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk **By 25th of each month please.** If you would like to receive *InSpire* by email, you can subscribe to InSpire via the church website:-