

New Leaves

June 2020



Parish Magazine
of St David with
St Michael and
All Angels,
Exeter

50p

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WELCOME



To all Readers of “New Leaves”, the magazine for the Parish of St David’s with St. Michael and All Angels.

The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate articles which reflect Church, Parish or Community interest

Please send as Word documents to: newleavesnews@gmail.com

Please note that all articles will be printed with the author’s name

Enjoy this month’s read.

We will welcome critical comments on the magazine

Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Richard Barnes supported by
Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

New Leaves

June 2020

From the Vicarage

We have just celebrated the feast of the Ascension of Christ which marks a vital milestone in growth of the Christian faith. After Jesus had risen from the dead his physical presence brought assurance and conviction to his disciples. Whether it was in the garden, by the lakeside, at the supper table at Emmaus or in the room where Thomas was invited to touch his wounds, the physical presence of the risen Jesus was a powerful and moving impetus for faith and hope.

And then, just as the disciples were growing in confidence for the future, Jesus 'was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight'. They were forced back on the promises which Jesus had made that they would 'receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.' They had to wait and the promises were fulfilled when the Holy Spirit came with rushing wind and tongues of flames at Pentecost.

Ascension marks the transition of Jesus from being physically present with certain people, to being spiritually present with all who call on his name. It is a transition which speaks to our recent experience.

Over the past few months we have had to get used to being physically distant from each other and absent from our church buildings. This has been a great and painful loss

to many people in different ways, perhaps most of all to people who haven't been able to see their loved ones who are dying.

And the churches have had to find new ways of sharing in worship and providing pastoral care and connection. Although we have been unable to meet together or share in the sacraments, our online services and phone calls have helped to sustain and encourage our faith and fellowship.

The announcement has now come from the House of Bishops of a plan for the gradual reopening of our church buildings. This begs many questions but I will give the outline of the plan below. One question we should not lose sight is this 'How can this time, and what has developed, strengthen our church life in the future?'

The plan for the reopening of churches is in four phases and the timing will be largely dependent on factors outside the control of the Bishops: the rate of Covid -19 infection, the implementation of test and tracing procedures and, eventually, the availability of a vaccine.

So here is the plan:

Phase 1 Clergy are allowed back in to their local churches for private prayer and livestreaming of services with one member of their household. (as from 7th May 2020)

Phase 2 In addition to the above churches may open for private prayer. Each Incumbent and PCC will need to

decide whether to open their church or not. Anyone will be able to enter an open church provided hygiene and social distancing measures are observed. Also permission may be given for small weddings and funerals to take place in church and national guideline will be provided.
(sometime during June)

Phase 3 In addition to the above, clergy will be allowed to take small Sunday and weekday services in church. National guidance will be issued about numbers in the congregation, in line with social distancing requirements.
(timing unknown)

Phase 4 Larger service will be allowed in church again.
(timing unknown)

So the PCC will need to meet virtually in June to consider these stages for our churches. We will have to follow the guidance prepared nationally, not least in terms of the level of cleaning required after each opening and how this might be achieved.

Two things seem clear. Firstly we will not be holding our usual Sunday main services for some time yet. And secondly we need to be preparing for the time when we can. Your prayers for this tricky process would be much appreciated.

I very much appreciate all the goodwill and care that has been shown in our church communities, some of which is displayed in this magazine. Thank you to everyone who

has been involved in our worship, pastoral care and communications. I will certainly be planning for our online services to continue until the end of August and will keep you updated through our weekly mailing.

Zoom Coffee

We are launching Zoom based 'Sunday coffee' gathering from 31 May at 10.30am for half an hour, or so. The link to give access will be on the weekly mailing. This will be another strand to help us to keep in touch with each other and perhaps to get to know some people better, or for the first time. If you are not sure how to access this please ring me or someone you are in contact with in church and we will try and provide advice.

Zoom Bible Study

We are also hoping to run a Zoom based Bible Study group, probably on Tuesday afternoons and will also publish details soon on the weekly sheet.

Virtual Choirs

I know that people from both of our choirs are starting to explore how people can do some singing together. There seems to be a particular risk of transmission with groups singing together in enclosed spaces for a significant time. So thank you to those who are working on the technology for this and we hope to enjoy some fruits of their labours in due course!

In the meantime, please keep in touch and email or ring me with any ideas or concerns.

May God bless you and keep you in good health and spirits,

Nigel Guthrie



Hope by G F Watts, Tate Britain

Hello

Hello! My name's Ash and I'm so excited to be joining you in July. I'm married to Deborah, who is a trustee at the YMCA and prison chaplain visiting prisoners pre- and post-release both from HM Exeter Prison and others across the South West; we have grown-up daughters living up-country, and our son Alfred goes to St David's Primary. In my previous career I was a historian, specialising in the history of ideas, and in Late Antiquity/the Early Middle Ages.

We have lived in Exeter for almost ten years, actually in this parish for the last three, near the river by St David's Station. When we first came to the city, I worked for St Andrew's Exwick and helped set up their café church there, and I've worked for Alphington, Ide, and Shillingford churches to the southwest of the city for the last five years or so. I'm also deputy chair of Christians Together Across Exeter (CTaX), supporting Christian unity in Exeter, for example organising the city centre Walk of Witness on Good Friday (in normal years).

I've actually been dropping in for worship and other activities at St. David's and S. Michael's on and off since arriving in Exeter, and fell in love with you years ago all because of your warm welcome and beautiful services. Alfred and me used to come to Wednesday Mass at S. Michael's and Thursday Communion at St. David's from time to time before he started school, I have delivered lectures on history and Christian unity at S. Michael's and at the Community Centre, and some of you met me during my short placement with you last June. It is **such** a joy to be coming back for curacy.

Before living in Exeter, we lived in Crediton, which means Nigel baptised Alfred there and I had the joy of serving with Nigel as parish assistant at Holy Cross, Crediton. It was at a Parish Communion service in Holy Cross that I got my vocation to priestly ministry – Nigel broke the bread and God just stunned me with a call. This makes it particularly special for me to be serving my curacy with you all who I have loved for nearly ten years already, and under Nigel who was my first confessor and mentor in Anglican orders. God has blessed me so greatly by anointing me to serve you.

That's probably enough from me... if you're online and haven't already, please do "like" Christians Together Across Exeter on Facebook and subscribe to the mailing list – I administrate their page and compile and send roughly fortnightly news, events, and vacancies/volunteering of what's going on across the churches in our great city.

<http://www.ctax.btck.co.uk/>
www.facebook.com/CTAXChristiansTogether
ctaxexeter@gmail.com



June 2020 as from St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham

Waiting.

Anticipating.

Preparing?

We are not used to waiting.

Psalm 42 compares this longing, this waiting to know God, to the hart, the young deer, desiring refreshing and life-giving water. It is deep in the soul that we hanker for comfort and community.

As a species, we complain about having to wait. We seek immediate gratification of our material desires, a state that has been fostered since the introduction of that old system of 'Hire-Purchase', replaced by the credit card with a seemingly unreachable limit in cash terms. This has now settled into on-line shopping, for essential and non-essential items. For me, a new vocabulary has developed: lock-down, (now used internationally), click and collect, card-only, on your doorstep, in the box and so on. Will we ever go back to the shopping, banking and visiting habits of only a couple of months ago? It all seems so distant. Exeter is almost as it was when we settled here about forty years ago.

In some ways, for Chris and me, it is not so strange. We retired some years ago, with the plans of happy holidays after years of working and family responsibilities. Many of these changed as illness, deaths of parents and other major events intervened. Nevertheless, we planned to spend 2020, the year of great vision, as one in which to see and do new things. We got stranded for a few days in February, in Roscoff, thanks to storm Dennis and from then on things changed. That was almost a start of lock-down. We could not visit any sites, places had closed and travel was impossible. We learnt then that you cannot kick against Nature, which has its own ways of dealing in the world.

In the wake of lock-down, we have seen how quickly wild-life can appropriate the streets and buildings. Short films of Welsh mountain

goats, penguins in hotels and dainty gazelles in Paris have created interest and surprise. Bird-song is enjoyed, the air is purer and all aspects of the daily round are more pleasurable.

With Ascension and Pentecost, that tense period of waiting, now behind us, we need to look forward, to be prepared for a new way of doing things, just as the Apostles had to adapt after Jesus had left them. How do you wait fruitfully if you don't really know what you are waiting for? How can you put a structure into the days where there seems to be no order? The streaming of Sunday worship has been a real advantage in putting shape into some seemingly shapeless time. As with Wednesday Regina Caeli and Matins, there has been good reason to get out of bed early, a habit to be valued on other mornings as well.

It may be a bit Pollyanna-ish to remind ourselves that we have had the blessing of lots of sunshine and warmth in which to exercise, build up the stock of Vitamin D in our bodies and learn new things. For many people, this has been a terrible time. Unable to visit family, attend funerals and pay respects to the dead: these are serious issues and will have repercussions in the future. The effect of the absence of formal schooling is something we cannot measure; it will be blamed for any disturbances in growing generations. Mental and physical health will suffer in many ways, as yet undiscovered.

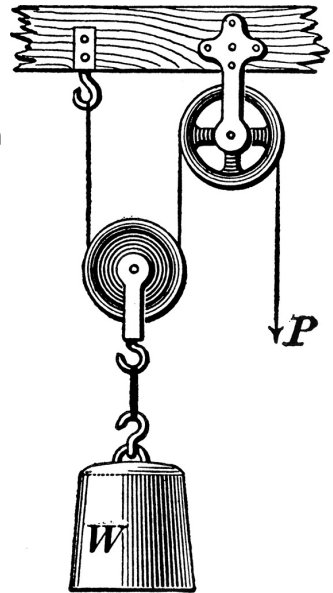
Locally, we have had a Whats-app group in our street, some carefully socially-distanced gatherings and some unusual celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries. We have made contact with our neighbours in ways we probably would not have done previously. Facebook has reminded me that we are not alone: friends in South Africa are enduring lock-down and isolation, in some ways more strictly than we have here. We are also aware that we are privileged here: we do not live with a couple of squalling toddlers fifteen stories above the nearest green space; there has been much to amuse us as well, in the corona-themed memes, cartoons and videos shared; we can walk without getting in anyone's way; friends and family are sensible enough to keep to the

guidelines of contact...

I have been returning to George Herbert, and a particularly favourite poem, 'The Pulley', describing how God bestows gifts on the human race, but like a wise parent, keeps the best gift of rest from us. If we had that, we would not need God, is the reasoning in the poem. Restlessness will lead us to God, with a desire for that, over all the other gifts we may enjoy, we, like the hart, will find the haven we desire in God. The waiting disciples would find their joy in the gift of the Holy Spirit and could rush out, spilling enthusiasm to everyone.

When this is all over...

We have guidance about opening the churches, meeting together and so on. In the meantime, the anticipation keeps us together. Pray for the people and the Church.



Stephanie Aplin.

25.05.2020



Please find below the chosen readings for June. Please take this opportunity to read them on the Sundays. With Blessings

Chosen Readings for June 2020 @St David's

Sunday 7th June Trinity Sunday

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:12-17;27-end
2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-end
Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Thursday 11th June Corpus Christi, the day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion

1st Reading: Genesis 14:18-20
2nd Reading: 1Corinthians 11:23-26
Gospel Reading: John 6:51-58

Sunday 14th June 1st Sunday after Trinity

1st Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a
2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-8
Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:35-10:8

Sunday 21st June 2nd Sunday after Trinity

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13
2nd Reading: Romans 6:1b-11
Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday 28th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity

1st Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9
2nd Reading: Romans 6:12-end

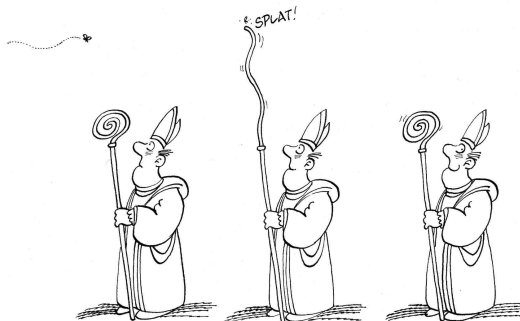
Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:40-end

Sunday 5th July 4th Sunday after Trinity

1st Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

2nd Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end



The Venerable Raymond Ravenscroft

We heard the sad news that Raymond died suddenly on Monday 18th May and we will remember him, and his family, in our prayers.

Raymond arrived in our parish when he and his wife, Ann, were among the first residents to move into Montpelier Court, next to St David's Church. Raymond was ordained in the mid 1950s and served the first part of his ministry before coming to Truro Diocese. He served in several parishes as Vicar and Rural Dean. Raymond finally became Archdeacon of Cornwall in 1988 and served in that role until 1996. He arrived here when John Henton was Vicar and gave considerable and regular help in the parish. Even in the last few years, with weakening eyesight, he would always come to Thursday morning Holy Communion at St David's and serve at the altar. He moved back to Cornwall last summer to live near his family and kept active and attended the Zoom service for his local parish last Sunday.

Raymond was an extraordinarily gracious and wise person who made many friends in St David's and at Montpelier Court. Hilary Elliott, from St David's and Montpelier has written this tribute:

'Raymond made me very welcome when I moved to Montpelier Court in 2017. Knowing my background we had 'churchy' conversations. He was a true gentle man, always very courteous. He greeted us ladies as "M' dear" and at first I thought it was just me! He enjoyed going to the College for lunch accompanied by a lady or two. He was responsible for drawing up a list of residents' birthdays at Montpelier so that everyone would receive a card on the day. He left us last August and is greatly missed.'

Hilary Elliott.'

Nigel Guthrie

23.05.2020





Raymond on his last Sunday at St. David's



June Dates (virtual/online events) - St Michael's Church

As you know, all Public Worship and events are currently suspended in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and Church building must remain closed. However, Clergy & licensed Readers are now allowed singly to pray and record or stream Services from inside their Churches, if they wish.

Fr Nigel and a dedicated team are producing Liturgy & Worship on our Facebook channels & YouTube.

Although Not In Church, I list the Services we would have held in June as a framework for personal & corporate observance & prayer, including Corpus Christi on Thursday 11th.

NEW – We hope the sung Plainsong Propers will be on “Friends of St Michael's” Facebook a/c each Service (but no Masses yet).

On Wednesdays at 9am Fr Nigel hopes to stream the Angelus & BCP Matins on our Facebook channel, directly from St Michael's Church. The link is:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2227703237/>

On other days, Morning Prayer will be on “St David's Church Exeter” Facebook a/c, i.e.

<https://www.facebook.com/stdavidschurchexeter/>

To include other preachers there will usually be a short recorded Sunday service on YouTube, and the link to these will be included, when available, on the weekly mailing, website and on our Facebook pages.

For Pentecost/Whitsunday 31st May, there will be a Communion Service celebrated from the Vicarage, live-streamed on Facebook.

Oliver will send weekly Pewsheets by email and I will put a copy on the relevant website 'Events' – to be added to his list, please send an email to VirtualSaintMichaels@gmail.com - note the spelling , or cut & paste it.

We thank you for your support, and your prayers for all affected or

anxious at this time in our communities, the health, care & retail services and the wider world.

Please check the Website www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk especially 'Events', Twitter @StMikes_Exeter , Facebook "Friends of St Michael's" or emailed Pewsheets for latest information.

REMINDER: Still No Services or Events in any Church till further notice.

Sun 31 May, Pentecost/Whitsunday. Mass. Hymns 137 : Gradual seq : 138 :431. Missa "Ave Maris Stella", *Victoria*. Listen Sweet Dove, *Ives*.

Fr Nigel will lead a Communion Service from the Vicarage for Pentecost at 9.30am on "StDavid's Church Exeter" Facebook a/c.

Sun 7 Jun, Trinity & Music Sunday, Mass. Hymns 146 : 343: 336.
Rheinberger in F. Cantate Domino, *Monteverdi*.

There would also have been Choral Evensong & Benediction.

Thu 11 Jun, (7.30pm) Corpus Christi. Fr Nigel is considering whether any simple observed or recorded Procession might be possible within Church & Government Rules.

Music would have been Hymns 296 : 295 : Procession booklet : 271.
Casciolini in A minor. Ave verum corpus, *Elgar*.

Sun 14 Jun, Trinity I. Hymns 205 : 484 (tune 167) : 476. Missa Lauda Sion, *Palestrina*. Exultate justi, *Viadana*.

Sun 21 Jun, Trinity II. Hymns 471: 465 : 387. Little Organ Mass, *Haydn*.
Blessed are Those, *Tallis*.

Sun 28 Jun, Trinity III. Hymns 239: 373 ; 368. Mass in F, *Charles Wood*.
Hymn to the Trinity, *Tchaikovsky*.

Mon 29 Jun – Years' Mind of Rev Dr John Hughes, former Curate of this Parish.

If and when we are allowed to resume Services or Private Prayer in Church, we will update information online. And in that hope we will continue as

Virtual Saint Michael's.



Richard Barnes – 24/05/20.

Lockdown

I don't suppose I was alone in feeling apprehensive at the thought of solitary confinement for several months . How would I get the shopping? No cleaner? And no hairdresser? I haven't washed my own hair for over sixty years and arthritis in my shoulders restricts the movement of my arms. Unlike my usual optimism I felt very down. I began to lose my balance , became confused , hallucinating, and no appetite. Then I had a fall and was taken to hospital. I remember little of the first days; I was treated for an infection until it was discovered that my levels of sodium were dangerously low and I began treatment and returned to my usual cheerful self. I was in a ward in lockdown so no-one was allowed to go outside without stringent rules. It was so different from last time I was hospitalised. There seemed to be no routine. Nurses left one task to do another – they worked hard but could have done with some order. One day, I decided to have jam on my breakfast toast. After a twenty minutes struggle to open the packet, I began to spread it on my toast, a nurse appeared and began to extract blood from my arm. The combination of strawberry jam and bright red blood put me off my food. Another problem was an elderly lady in the next bed. She called out, shouted and counted out loud day and night. At first, I quite admired her stamina but we all five of us patients became annoyed because of sleep deprivation and one night I thought that I would get the others to assist me in putting a pillow over her head. (I know, I know very unchristian but I was desperate.) Of course, I knew it was not possible, like me the others were bed-bound or unbalanced on our feet. Anyway, one was a police officer. After a couple of weeks I was sent home to lockdown.

Lockdown two

Back in my flat, alone, I had to work out how to survive. We were banned from visitors to our flats. My many good neighbours offered to shop for me and have regular deliveries of food and other necessities. A granddaughter sent me dry shampoo spray so that my hair is clean. My sons sent me books and my eldest son ordered cards as I was running out of birthday cards. The phone keeps me in touch with my friends and family. I am on the ground floor and people come into the garden and we chat through my

open door. Sometimes I have a sudden yearning to see my family and friends but I imagine what it will be like to actually see them. It will pass and I pray that we will remember the kindness that has been shared and be better for it.

The “Ups” of Lockdown

I must stress that these are the very personal views of a 94 year old woman, in isolation, trying to find the “ups” of lockdown. I am a very lazy person, so it is great to have permission to stay in my flat and not have to make the effort to go out and do things like catching a bus, walking to a post box, shop etc.

I can stay in bed for longer, read as long as I like or sit in the garden doing nothing. I have no one to look after, no children to educate or amuse. I know that this is normal for me but it has made me thankful that I have no one dependent on me. I love seeing my family but it is a relief not to have to pack to visit or travel.

I needn't tidy my flat in case I have visitors (although I enjoy socialising). I needn't worry about my appearance as I don't Skype or Zoom.

I admire all the things people are doing while isolating but haven't the slightest urge to follow suit.

I also admire the people who are working so hard in the NHS, shops, refuse collection, the postmen, the newspaper deliverers etc. I can't do much to help but pray.

I know it is very difficult for people who have lost their livelihoods and wish I could wave a magic wand. But, like all things, this will pass. Let us pray it will be soon.



Eileen Jarman

20th May 2020



Where was the social distancing?



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

Lockdown Experiences

As I sit in my flat on self lockdown orders from my children, I look at the sky with clouds rolling by and I can make out shapes like faces. I'm still making jumpers, cardigans and blankets for the cancer charity Force. Then I'll have a cup of tea and look at my jigsaw, or perhaps listen to Classic FM which I really enjoy.

So many friends living close to me as well as Church friends are helping me through this lockdown, giving me little gifts, doing my shopping, and remembering me in their prayers.

When I can I like to sit in the garden - this is my time of prayer, especially for all those who are caring for the elderly and those who have lost loved ones.

I think so much of my two granddaughters, who are nurses in a Care Home in Stafford

God bless you all at St David's and at St Michael and All Angels. Take care and keep safe



Barbara Gough

04.05.2020



This poem was written by Ngāti Hine/Ngāpuhi and translated by Nadine Anne Hura

*Rest now, e Papatūānuku
Breathe easy and settle
Right here where you are
We'll not move upon you
For awhile
We'll stop, we'll cease
We'll slow down and stay
home
Draw each other close and be
kind
Kinder than we've ever been.
I wish we could say we were doing it for you
as much as ourselves
But hei aha
We're doing it anyway
It's right. It's time.
Time to return
Time to remember
Time to listen and forgive
Time to withhold judgment
Time to cry
Time to think
About others
Remove our shoes
Press hands to soil
Sift grains between fingers
Gentle palms
Time to plant
Time to wait
Time to notice
To whom we belong
For now it's just you*



*And the wind
And the forests and the oceans and the sky full of rain
Finally, it's raining!
Ka turuturu te wai kamo o Rangi ki runga i a koe
Embrace it
This sacrifice of solitude we have carved out for
you
He iti noaiho - a small offering
People always said it wasn't possible
To ground flights and stay home and stop our habits of consumption
But it was
It always was.
We were just afraid of how much it was going to hurt
- and it IS hurting and it will hurt and continue to hurt
But not as much as you have been hurt.
So be still now
Wrap your hills around our absence
Loosen the concrete belt cinched tight at your waist
Rest.
Breathe.
Recover.
Heal -
And we will do the same*



Many people have asked who the author is of “Rest now, e Papatuanuku. So I wanted to clarify that I, Nadine Anne Hura, wrote this poem on the train home after the announcement of total lockdown was made here in Aotearoa, New Zealand. I felt like I could hear Papatūānuku exhaling in relief as we all began our journeys home. In truth, one month of lockdown is not enough. Even six months would not be enough! We need a total and sustained change of habit, globally and within our own communities. I hope so much we take our time to reflect on the fact that if we can do it to save ourselves for a month, we ought to be able to make similar habit changes for Mother Earth for the long term. The most telling thing for me was how empty our veggie plant aisles were after lockdown was announced - in a crisis, we will turn back to our mother to provide (and of course she will!).

Lots of people have asked for translations...

Papatūānuku - Mother Earth (the addition of the “e” in front signals the words are addressed or spoken directly to her.)

Ka turuturu te wai kamo o Rangi ki runga i a koe - means something like, “tears from the eyes of Ranginui drip down on you” (Ranginui is our sky father, it is common to refer to rain as the tears of Rangi for his beloved, from whom he was separated at the beginning of time in order that there could be light in the world). Not long after the announcement we were moving to level 3, it poured with rain in Porirua after many months of hot and dry weather. I could feel my garden rejoicing.

Hei aha - This can be translated in many ways, but I meant it like the English “oh well, whatever”

He iti noaiho - “something small”. Because our sacrifice feels enormous but in reality I think it is not sufficient to truly see Papatūānuku recover.

However, in Māori, we often talk about the significance of small actions or gestures. We say “ahakoa he iti, he pounamu.” Although it is small, it is a treasure.

Thank you so much for the support

#halt2020 #creativity and change

Nadine Anne Hura



Coronavirus

*Coronavirus, you've taken so much,
You've hidden our loved ones away from our touch.
You've cancelled our plans and our trips away,
We are stuck in our homes, where for now we must stay.*

*School has been cancelled, our lessons online.
It was exciting at first, but now lost its shine.
We miss our friends and the daily routine,
Chats in the playground and jokes in the canteen.*

*But we will do it forever, if that's what it takes,
Because corona has threatened the highest of stakes.
We will stay inside and follow the rules.
We will draw rainbows, bake cakes and do some home school.*

*We really don't care that life is on hold,
As when this is all over, our family we'll hold.
When lockdown is lifted and we're allowed out,
We'll appreciate our freedom - without a doubt.*

*We'll be proud of the time, the world went to sleep,
To keep loved ones safe, until then hugs will keep.*

Poppy Grace Stebbings

Aged 12 from Wigan



And the people stayed home

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed

Kitty O'Meara



Lockdown by Brother Richard:

*Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.*



*But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary*

*All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that*

*Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.*

*Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing*



Richard Hendrick

Published March 23rd 2020



Build Back Better

On my cycle ride to the allotment recently I spotted a stencilled slogan on one of the speed bumps which read “Build Back Better”. I didn’t think it referred to the state of the road surface although the number of potholes and cracks is steadily increasing. I’d vaguely heard the term so, intrigued, I followed it up.

The phrase was first used in the UN Policy document- Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 3 June 2015. "The principle of “Build Back Better” concept is generally understood to use disaster as a trigger to create more resilient nations and societies than before through the implementation of well-balanced disaster risk reduction measures, including physical restoration of infrastructure, revitalisation of livelihood and economy/industry, and the restoration of local culture and environment."

In this time of global pandemic of COVID19 we see how relevant and essential it is to rebuild our societies as quickly and as best as possible, especially when faced by the overarching problem of climate change. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said “We need to turn the recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future. We must act decisively to protect our planet from both the coronavirus and the existential threat of climate disruption.” “With this restart, a window of hope and opportunity opens... an opportunity for nations to green their recovery packages and shape the 21st century economy in ways that are clean, green, healthy, safe and more resilient” –Christiana Figueres, UN Climate Chief.

So what has the COVID19 crisis taught us? We have seen a marked reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and reduced particulates with a massive improvement in air quality. People have found other ways to work with much less travel. Despite the notable wrangling and blame calling by some leaders, nations have largely cooperated to combat the pandemic and the WHO has coordinated the response and advice. Massive problems remain and will affect us for a long time to come, especially the economic impacts and job security. But we need to build back properly, not the quick and easy and usually dirty solutions to problems (although they may be necessary for a short period but should be replaced by more sustainable actions as soon as possible).

In the UK, many Councils and businesses are already planning for a better way of doing things. These are generally cross political party and collaborative initiatives. Locally, Exeter City Council have addressed this. Cllr Phil Bialyk, the Leader of Exeter City Council outlined some on the thinking recently: “We obviously want to get back to where we were economically – being a driver for jobs and clean growth. But we want to improve our economy going forward, and we don’t want to replicate all of the bad stuff. Reducing carbon emissions is very important to us. We now have a roadmap to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and we are consulting on that. There are a number of different work streams taking place and we will be spending the coming weeks talking to our partners in Exeter. That partnership approach is very important, because the Council can’t do everything on its own. I see our role is basically to facilitate and work with businesses and those key agencies in and around Exeter. This city grows to around 130,000 people during the working day, and there are over 35,000 journeys coming into Exeter. I’m not so sure we want people to continue travelling in that way. But it’s a big challenge, particularly now when people are being told that if they are returning to work they should avoid public transport – that poses us a dilemma on the climate question. We need to work together to make sure that we can build back Exeter better.”

What can we do as a church and as individuals? Before the pandemic, we had started the St David’s green team and several ideas were being pursued. Many of these we will try and implement once we have emerged from the stricter lockdown.

In this month’s issue of New Leaves David Cannon discusses life without a car and how to get the best from public transport. Several people are looking at their car use and considering smaller and less-polluting options from fully electric to hybrid vehicles. Other options are joining a car club and using a cycle more. If you have less energy to propel yourself electric bikes are an option. Please write to New Leaves with your own ideas or points of view.

A very big problem with Coronavirus is that it has and will exacerbating inequality. It’s true the virus doesn’t discriminate between people in terms of infection: Prince Charles got it, so did Boris Johnson. However the ramifications are not felt equally. The virus affects poor people living in crowded conditions and having still to travel to work more than wealthier

people. This is even more true of ‘the accompanying economic shock’, says Torsten Bell of the Resolution Foundation. The fallout from the pandemic threatens to expose — and widen — inequality in brutal fashion. Rethinking Poverty (a successor to the Beatrice Webb Legacy) is a hub for discussions on eradicating poverty and creating a good society. It has several thought provoking articles with ideas and ways to combat this unequal sharing of the consequences.

Given the large numbers, I am sure we all will probably know someone to have died directly or indirectly as a result of Coronavirus. Sir John Houghton , a previous Director General of the Met Office and my overall boss, was a victim in April. He was a brilliant Welsh scientist, a Fellow of the Royal Society and chaired, from 1988 to 2002, the scientific advisory group of the International Panel on Climate Change , jointly established by the UN and WMO in 1988. In 1990, he, along with Sir Crispin Tickell, persuaded Margaret Thatcher, a Prime Minister with a scientific training, of the importance of investigating man-made climate change. This led to the establishment of the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research at the Met Office (now here in Exeter) , which has become one of the leading centres of climate studies. He was an excellent teacher and communicator and wrote clearly for the general audience in his 1994 book *Global Warming, The Complete Briefing*. In 2007, the IPCC shared the Nobel peace prize with the former US vice-president Al Gore, with Houghton among those accepting the award in Oslo on behalf of the hundreds of scientists involved. He was also a very modest man and committed Christian. It would be fitting to his memory and work, and to all the others who have died, if we really could “Build back better”.



**Clive Wilson, 26 May
2020**



The Month on Social Media

With no Bus rides, what has made me think this month?

The Virtual May Day Celebration at Magdalen College Oxford was well produced, with multi-tracked singing of their Hymnus Eucharisticus and Morley's madrigal 'Now is the month of Maying'. Not much scope for 'fa-la-lahing' when each lad with his bonny lass is social distanced on the grass.

450 years ago, the top Tudor multi-tracker was Thomas Tallis. His 40-part Motet 'Spem in alium' (nothing to do with onions) was given a stunning performance on YouTube by Stille Antico.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfnEbwCLq0E>

Having neither sung nor heard it before, it was a glorious revelation, and, in translation, so relevant to our time:-

I have never put my hope
in any other but in You, God of Israel,
who will be angry and yet become again gracious,
and who in suffering forgives all the sins of humanity.
Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth,
look upon our lowliness/humility.

On a smaller scale, if you love Anglican Chant like I do, try some of the 40-odd mini-Psalms produced by **<https://twitter.com/benvonbergclark>**

Bishops have had hard times with criticism on twitter, but Nick McKinnell led an excellent VE-Day online Service from Plymouth Hoe, and Bishop Robert's latest Ad Clerum gives signs of hope that Churches may be able to re-open for private prayer and eventually limited Services.

It's a joy to follow the thoughtful Rural Ministry & Prayer walks of Revd Christopher aka **<https://twitter.com/CurateDurrant>**

The Virtual Rogation by Fr Nigel & Richard Parker on our Facebook account was much appreciated, as are the Plainsong Propers that Tasha has started to sing.

Clergy have started broadcasting prayers, still solo, from our Churches. It was a double joy on Wed 20th May to have Fr Nigel say Regina Coeli & Matins in front of the statue of Our Lady in St Michael's and then play Bach's Chorale Prelude 'Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier' (Dearest Jesu, we are

here) on the pipe Organ.

But it's not just closed Churches. CofE Statements have been like that Fawltz Towers episode, "Don't mention the Sacraments" - and perhaps people won't notice we've had to suspend them all too.

But people have noticed, and not just the elderly as suggested by one cleric interviewed in the Church Times. Not everyone wants pumped-up music & preaching, though it obviously works for some.

Many thoughtful, intelligent young Christians are doing Compline, and quietly lamenting & longing for the Incarnational Theology of the Mass & Benediction. But they go unnoticed by the hierarchy.

Of course, for a whole variety of reasons, many people have found 'doing Church at Home' liberating. A priest & poet, Ruth Wells, put this post up on twitter (along with 'ducks for cover'). Perhaps because people were trying to calm the storm by this stage, it got plenty of approval:-

God snuck home.

No longer bound by the expectations of a 'consecrated' building

She's concentrated her efforts on breaking out.

Now in the comfort of a well worn dining table she shares some bread, with some friends.

And she laughs. And she weeps. In the sacred space of home.

Cleverly put, I thought. But perhaps too cosy & domesticated. As well as 'households for one', it's not many where all will feel able to pray together; not all in the house may be believers, nor all used to the same flavour of Church – each may need to stream a different Service.

As C.S.Lewis said of Aslan in the Chronicles of Narnia, 'He's not a tame Lion.' Or as 1970s Folk Group Parchment put it, 'You can tie him to a Cross or an easy chair; 3 days later and he won't be there'. Should you want to relive or discover the whole iconic 'Light up the Fire' Album this Pentecost, a link is:-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kru_kctvm38

Just as God never has been bound by our buildings, I suspect He'd soon tire

of the dining room. Church is for the awkward too, those who don't easily fit in. So I think:-

God snuck out the back-door, walking down the road.

Pub still closed, so head for the Allotments.

Share a broken biscuit & mug of tea with other gardeners

And ascend like a beanstalk into the clouds.

Ascension Day offered two good and contrasting Services online. Exeter Diocese had Nick Shutt, Archdeacon of Plymouth, leading from the heights of St Michael's Brentor, with music from Lee Abbey which included a new hymn he had written. I have to say it is rather good. Both the imagery used, ending with a perichoresis, dancing Trinity Doxology, and the tune with a modulation where the words turned upward, were well above your average worship song. More here:-

<https://exeter.anglican.org/new-covid-19-ascension-hymn-for-devon/>

However they were rather upstaged by James Mustard, Cathedral Precentor celebrating the Eucharist atop the North Tower of Exeter Cathedral, possibly for the first time in its 900 year history.

Somehow this broad, diverse Church of England needs to reflect on the blessings and disappointments emerging during Lockdown, and create, not a narrow uniformity, but more inclusive and hopeful communities of Churches with fuzzy edges.

Or as Rev Alison put it in her Easter 7 Address. Christ prays that they/we may all be one, but Unity does not mean becoming mindless clones of one another. Rather, it means being our true, full selves, whilst embracing and respecting differences...and working together.



<https://youtu.be/br7zJXmC-Rw>

Richard Barnes – 24/05/20.

P.S. Peregrine Status. Unprecedented times? At 36 days after the 3rd egg was laid, it's looking unlikely that we will get a chick this year, for the first time since breeding started in 1997. With an old female and inexperienced young male, the eggs may be infertile. This may trigger a battle for the site, as happened a dozen years ago when the current female ousted the previous one.

Life without a car

In the February edition of “New Leaves”, Hilary Todd considered electric cars, and wrote: “Are we in fact trying to answer the wrong question? Are we simply swapping one form of personal vehicle for another so that we can continue to live as we do? Or should we as a society be addressing how we live and organise ourselves, including the design of our towns and cities?” I do not advocate that everyone abandons car ownership, but do hope to demonstrate that it is a reasonable personal choice. I do believe that Britain is over reliant on car ownership, and that it is also an issue for the churches. Do we organise ourselves in ways that assume access to a car and a willingness to use it?

Pure chance results in me being a non-driver and never having owned a car. I did follow the usual pattern in my generation, and obtained a provisional license as soon as I turned 17. But not long afterwards, I backed the family car into a drainpipe, and my father decided that driving lessons should stop! As a student in Birmingham, with access to good bus services, I felt no urge to drive. Then after graduating, the first offer of a job came from British Rail, and I joined as a trainee computer programmer. Cheap rail travel took away the incentive to learn to drive, and any urge to do so gradually atrophied. My staff travel facilities improved with each promotion, and I took an All Stations Rail Pass into retirement.

My upbringing prepared me for the lifestyle I subsequently pursued. Our family came late to car ownership, and my parents chose homes close to my father’s place of work and the centres of the towns we lived in - Tiverton where I was born, and Bideford my home from the age of 7. School was always a few minutes walk away from home. Bideford (and Tiverton) lost their stations in the Beeching cuts, but North Devon had a good bus network, as it still does, and Barnstaple remains part of the rail network.

Most of my working life was spent in Crewe, Cheshire. I chose to live in easy walking distance of my office, and also the railway station and the town centre. Cheap rail travel was an obvious benefit, but I made more frequent use of buses than trains. It is also easily forgotten that taxis are part of the public transport system too. I remember an office colleague remarking that it was more important to own a telephone than a car.



Planning of course is essential for all but the shortest journeys by public transport. Timetables feature prominently in my shelf space, but they are much less important with the advent of the Nationalrail and Traveline web sites. The latter is particularly impressive. Its accuracy was brought home to me a few years back. The

Crewe rambling club I belonged to spent a week in Ilfracombe and I wanted to join them from Exeter. The result of my enquiry seemed very poor when I was advised to connect with the Ilfracombe bus at Barnstaple Station, not in the forecourt but on the main road outside, as was done some years previously. But (too late!) I discovered a bus by-passing the station did indeed provide the quickest journey to Ilfracombe at the time I had specified.



I resist the claim that public transport has declined over the years. Since moving back to Devon, I have used a little booklet my mother owned, "Rambles around Exeter: 45 walks within 15 miles of the city", published by Wheatons in about 1947. All the walks assume use of public transport. Almost all are easily feasible today, in some cases substituting bus for train, but with all the services being reasonably frequent. Of course none of the services convey one at a moment's notice from home to some desired locality. This is the unrealistic comparison made by some potential users in rejecting public transport. Present day Saint Augustines want to be Green "but not yet".

The cost of public transport is often subject to similarly unreasonable comparisons. Very few people paying for their own air travel, book at the full fare rate. Yet it is usually the full rate which is quoted when rail fares are criticised. In practice, the internet, or a booking agent, can find cheap rail fares just as they find cheap air fares.

I accept that a car is more necessary for a family than someone living alone

like me. I do though have plenty of experience of organising travel with and for growing children. My expatriate nephew and niece went to English boarding schools, and stayed with me at the beginning and end of term and during shorter school holidays. It is after children have left home, that the need for a car might be questioned. Also just as older people are at risk in homes no longer suitable for them, they may resist giving up car ownership. I encouraged my parents in their decision to give up their car when they were no longer using it very much, having the clear memory of an older acquaintance who died from a heart attack while attempting to push his stalled vehicle.

I don't want to give the impression that reliance on public transport is simply a matter of accepting the disadvantages. The advantages of not owning a car are just as important to me! The financial benefits are considerable of course, saving both initial purchase costs and the grotesque running costs. Anything mechanical will go wrong eventually and that threat looms especially large with a car. I also value the freedom of not being tied to a car for my walks in Devon and beyond. No time wasted in looking for a parking space. No need for a walk to begin and end in the same place.

I could write an entirely separate article on ways to reduce our reliance on cars, and I think the issues are more subtle than simply "improving public transport". But those of us who want public transport to thrive, must take the initiative in using it, and be prepared to adapt our habits to get the best out of it.



**David
Cannon**

St David's
cannon380@btinternet.com



The Devonshire Dialect

The Devonshire dialect is one of the most friendly and interesting of all the regional dialects that gives this country such a rich diversity of interesting language and words.

Jean was brought up on Exmoor and I lived on Dartmoor for the first ten years of my life. We came to be familiar with certain phrases and words, some of which are still used today and others are part of a bygone era. Here is an example of how conversations in the rural community might have gone 60 years ago. Below that is a version in modern parlance.

Uz was chattin t'other day to Varmer Mortimore as e was pulling dashels out in Leaze Meadow jus bove the Linhay .

He zays to us that "tis likly us'll ave sum mizzle afore noon and twoz all set to plough the arrishes after dinner an try to get teddies in. Better tell missus to pick in the washing ".

I then passed yonder tallet, under which mangolds in cave are ready for root house along with they there naips .

Mrs. Lenton then cumbye with that foine maid of ers, who zum folks reckon is a bit maize. She zays she gets proper betwaddled when ers out traipsin in to village to buy Chudleys and Chibbles. Mind you er zaid to me " if er eats too many t'will give er a dose of the back door trots ".

Billy, who was out playing with limper scrimps, was stung proper bad by an apple drain last week, which left him proper poorly for couple days.

" At th' weekend us went wort picking up aytor. Muther made some splits which us had with wort jam and gurt dollops of clotted craime on top."

" Anyway me luvver, I best be off as I see old mother Pennington is lied up by the wall. Twas last Saturday evening I las saw er, all fettled up. Suddenly, just as twas getting dimpsy she felt proper wangary and then er was a gonner. "

" Made her husband, Jed, real crabbity for day or two just if he'ed come home t' be told his tea was all zam zoid.

Reckon Parson will be round dreckly to discuss th' arrangements by



Janner's Day. "

The other day I was talking to Mr. Mortimore, a local farmer, as he was out removing thistles from one of his fields; the one just above the open fronted shed out in the field.

He told me that he thought that there would be a light moorland drizzle before midday and that he was concerned as he had planned to plough the stubbles and plant his potatoes. He asked me to suggest to his wife that she brought in the washing, which was out on the line.

Walking back to the farmyard I passed the timbered loft over the root house where the fodder beet was stored, under straw, along with the harvested turnips.

Mrs. Lenton then walked by with that lovely daughter of hers, who some people think is a bit simple. She told me that she gets rather confused when she is walking slowly in to the village to buy some buns and spring onions. She went on to say that if she eats too many then she may get diarrhoea.

Billy was out playing with hollowed out Hogweed stalks, which make superb improvised water pistols, was stung by a wasp last week which left him feeling rather under the weather for two days.

At the weekend we went up to Haytor, on Dartmoor, picking Whortleberries. My mother then made some plain buns which we enjoyed with Devonshire cream and homemade Whortleberry jam on top.

Anyway my good friend, I had better make a move as I understand that Mrs. Pennington has sadly passed on and the funeral has yet to take place. It happened last Saturday evening just as she had got dressed up to go out. As it was nearing dusk she felt unwell and suddenly died.

Her poor husband, Jed, was very understandably rather cantankerous, just as if he had returned from a day's work to find his supper still in the oven and all dried up.

I suppose that the vicar will be visiting him soon to discuss the arrangements for the funeral to take place before market day.



Robin Thomas

22.05.2020

Moving More in Nature's Gym

Being able to get out for a walk over the past few weeks has been a huge positive for so many of us. Have you discovered a new route or two from your front door? Watching spring arrive and hearing the bird song has been a delight. Having more time to notice nature coming alive, all around us has been a huge a positive in my life! You may have seen me out and about, yes, I'm the one walking with poles, I'm a Nordic walker. I get a lot of interested looks while I'm out and comments that make me smile... "you have a long wait for some snow and you forgot your skis" my favourite was very recently, "you must be fit". Nordic walking is a fairly new activity/sport, it originates from cross country skiers adapting their poles to continue to train in the summer months.

Nordic walking activates your upper body muscles and enhances your normal walking experience. Good technique, pushing off the poles and walking through your foot on every step, improves your gait and strengthens lower and upper body muscles. Tension in your neck and shoulders is released. You can burn more calories during a walk. I love this form of physical activity in nature's gym. We are very lucky to have so many green and open spaces on our doorstep, where we Nordic Walk in groups (not during lockdown), enjoying the friendships made, so good for our physical and mental wellbeing. In the coming months I hope you can find time to continue to watch, listen and connect with nature. To find out more information about Nordic Walking, courses, walks, and social events, please visit my website exenordicwalking.co.uk or email me sue@exenordicwalking.co.uk. Keep an eye out for a free taster session and come a try Nordic walking, I look forward to meeting you.



Sue Holden
(INWA
Instructor)



Fifty Years in the Choir Stalls...

was the working title of some musical & spiritual memoirs I started to write about 4 years ago, way back in 2016.

So this June I should be celebrating 54 Years in the Choir Stalls, but owing to Coronavirus and the sad but understandable closure of all Churches to Public Worship, I won't.

It would also, I think, be about 50 years since I was confirmed into the Church of England by Basil Guy, Bishop of Gloucester. There must have been at least 16 candidates, all from our suburban Parish of Holy Trinity Longlevens, a red-brick, inter-war new Church, not dissimilar to St Mark's on Pinhoe Road. I sang in the all-age (8-80) robed choir of about 3 dozen, servicing Matins & Evensong, plus numerous Weddings in Season to supplement one's pocket money.

The Parish Communion evolved through the 60s & 70s towards the much-derided Alternative Service Book. But, compared with Common Worship, at least it was a single Prayer Book with All the Services & Readings. Although pointed for Anglican Chant, the ASB Psalter was a bit naff, and Coverdale remained supreme for Choral Matins & Evensong, from 1535 to the present day.

So these past 8 weeks of Spiritual Distancing, with the prospect of at least 8 weeks more, must be the longest time in the past 50 years without receiving the Body & Blood of my Saviour Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. And also the longest time not singing with a Church or Chapel Choir, as over those 54 years I've moved around and joined more than a dozen choirs in turn.

On top of the weekly duty & joy of singing in the choir, I've had the privilege of singing with a few gathered 'visiting choirs' at over 30 of our great Cathedrals, including RC Westminster & Arundel, and several more Abbeys & Minsters.

Making music together apart is possible, but largely a technical exercise putting each voice together, rather than listening and blending as you sing. But since singing together looks months away, multi-track may be the only way forward for a while.

And what about receiving Communion? Maybe there's some thinking going on, but I've not seen much. Putting Bread & Wine in front of your smartphone seems to be a no-no. Devices & desires not to be confused. For a while the Service of the Word by Fr Nigel and his excellent team was enough, but recently I've been adding an occasional Mass streamed by a

young priest on Twitter.

In fictional Pychster, home to the Church of St Pythagoras & All Angles, Bishop Ric has been thinking outside the pyx. He has pre-consecrated Hosts in one online Eucharist, got “Deliveroo Deacons” to distribute them to the faithful (if they wish), and then they can receive the Sacrament when the Whitsunday Mass is streamed. Communion by Extension extended further – creative theology or fantasy?



Richard Barnes – 24/05/20.

Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens, Gloucester.





Christian Aid Prayer Chain **caid.org.uk/prayerchain**

This Pentecost, give thanks for the coming together of Christian Aid partners and supporters across the world to pray for climate justice in this significant year of talks and decisions. In spite of the pandemic, international talks will still happen somehow, so prayer to guide these is essential. CAFOD and Tearfund are also aiming to mobilise many communities, churches and individuals to pray that the hearts and minds of decision makers will be softened to hear the cries for justice from those most affected, yet least responsible, for this crisis.



A New Deal for Climate Justice

Pray for a fair share of finance and technology to be transferred to poor and climate-vulnerable countries

For an end to fossil fuel expansion and for clean, renewable energy to be invested in instead

For renewable energy to be developed without people being exploited or the environment destroyed

For a recognition of the underlying spiritual hunger that is driving the consumerism causing climate breakdown

For a future of decarbonisation that leaves no one behind

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory

May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling

May God bless us with courage at this critical hour

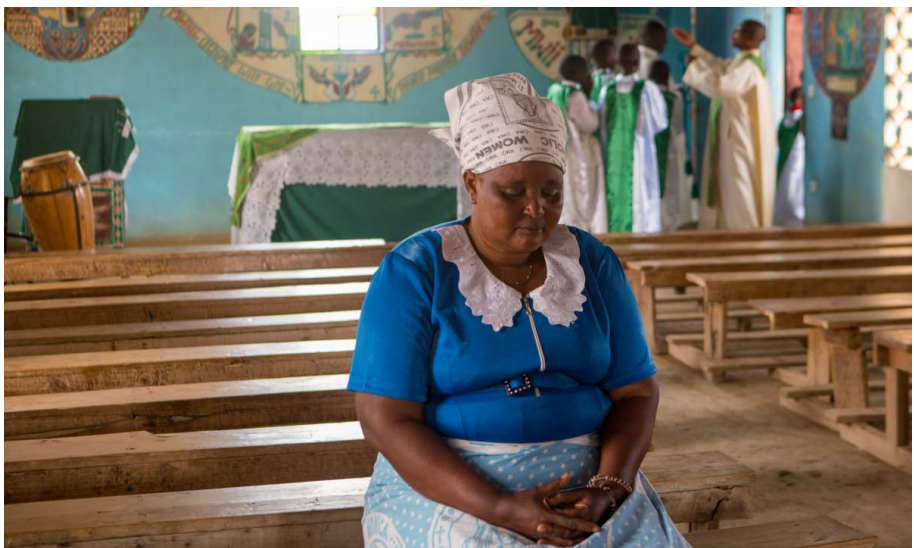
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
rest upon us and all creation, this day and for the future to
come

Amen

(from Act Alliance)

THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING THE PRAYER CHAIN

– **Margaret Roberts**



Smilelines

What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Catholic?
Because they all have mass.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?
He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
No — just an apple.

Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible?
He thought he saw a job.

Does God love everyone?
Yes, but He prefers 'fruits of the spirit' to 'religious nuts'.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?
He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
Absolutely ruthless.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.
Mosquitoes come close, though.

What's so funny about forbidden fruits?
They create many jams.

SAVE THE DATE

Autumn Parish Day Retreat

Sheldon Centre

Wed 14th October 2020

Speaker - Penny Warren

Subject - Celtic Spirituality

Cost - £25

(PS - This is a little more expensive than The Millhouse, where we have been for the past few years. But we thought it would be good to have a change - hence the advanced notice).

Howard and Helen Friend



Supporting People with Dementia

Bluebird Care Exeter has teamed up with Dementia champion Gina Awad to create an informative video about supporting people with Dementia during the pandemic

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the significant impact it has had on people living with dementia and those caring for them, as part of the Bluebird Care Exeter wanted to provide ideas and support to make life during the current crisis a little easier.

William Flint, Director of Bluebird Care said:

“As part of our response to the COVID-19 crisis, we wanted to find a way to actively address the struggles that many people living with dementia, and those who provide care to them - both professional carers and family carers - are currently dealing with. We are extremely excited to have been able to collaborate with local Dementia Champion, Gina Awad on this exciting project.”

Bluebird Care Exeter, Exmouth, East Devon, and West Devon Director, William Flint chose to collaborate with local Dementia Champion, Gina Awad to create an informative, interesting and insightful video packed full of useful and actionable advice for helping people living with dementia, and those that provide care to them, to cope during the current pandemic.

Gina Awad from Exeter Dementia Action Alliance said:

“It was an honour to collaborate with Will Flint at Bluebird Care to create this video and provide some useful information for families living with dementia. It’s a tough time for us all but a few tips can make a big difference.”

Gina, who formed the Exeter Dementia Action Alliance in 2014, is passionate about the needs of people living with dementia and their families.

The video aims to help people across Devon and the wider UK who are

living with dementia or who are caring for someone with dementia, to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic in a more informed way.

Please find below a press release about a video we have produced to help people caring for people with Dementia during the lockdown. Gina Awad is a celebrated expert in her field and provides lots of great advice.

We would love it if you can share the story online, or with anyone you think it might be of use to, we have had great feedback on how useful it has been to people caring for those with Dementia.

The link to the video is here: <https://youtu.be/kwiXBxVrLos>, in the description there is a list of useful organisations that people can contact should they need further assistance.

Stephanie Darkes

Bluebird Care, Exeter.

19.05.2020



Help protect your local cancer charity

To protect FORCE beyond the Coronavirus pandemic, chief executive Meriel Fishwick has called on communities that the charity serves for their support.

This is her message to everyone who cares about FORCE: “We are thankful for the Government’s announcement of support for charities, particularly those like FORCE who are still providing services during the Coronavirus pandemic.

“However, we will have to put a really strong case to try to get a share of these funds and that’s where you can help.

“Quite simply we are asking people to write a paragraph on why Devon and its communities need FORCE Cancer Charity.

“We must send the decision-makers a clear message about just how important FORCE is to so many people.

“Help us fight for our survival by joining this campaign.

“Please encourage everyone you can to get involved and give us the people-power we need to fight for FORCE.

“You can email us at connect@forcecancercharity.co.uk or contact us via [Facebook](#) or other social media channels.

“Send your messages, spread the word and help save FORCE.

“THANK YOU.”

The charity’s income streams have almost entirely dried up but the Government has promised £370 million for small and medium sized organisations at the heart of local communities which are making a big difference during the COVID-19 outbreak.

With its support centres in Exeter, Okehampton, Tiverton and Honiton temporarily closed, FORCE has redesigned its services to offer ongoing help and advice cancer patients and their families.

Patients are continuing to receive chemotherapy in Okehampton and Honiton – FORCE pays for the nurses who deliver treatment.

Information, including benefits advice, and counselling appointments are happening via phone and video calls.

If you or someone you know is affected by cancer and needs support, please call:

01392 406151 for cancer support and information, including benefits advice

01392 406168/406169 for psychological and emotional support



Press release: 14th April 2020
For immediate use

Devon countryside charity's 2020 competitions provide a creative outlet for stay-at-home schoolchildren

The Devon branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England hopes its 2020 art and writing competitions, open for entries from 18 May, will provide a creative outlet for primary schoolchildren across the county, many of whom are spending more time than usual indoors this spring because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

CPRE Devon's two children's competitions are a fun way to encourage youngsters to engage with the great outdoors, even if they themselves are stuck indoors! Children in Key Stages 1 and 2 are urged to use their imagination to create a piece of artwork or a short piece of writing evoking Devon's coast or countryside, or a favourite spot that's important to them. It could be a local park, a green space nearby, somewhere they have visited for a day out or even their own garden. The closing date for entries is 30 June 2020.

Last year the charity received fantastic entries from right across the county from girls and boys in KS1 and KS2, who had

captured their favourite outdoor space on paper. Pencils, pens, paints and sticking paste were all put to use to create artworks which showed the beauty and variety of Devon's natural environment.

The competitions are simple to enter. A top prize will be awarded to individual children in each key stage, as well as to their school. All entrants will receive a CPRE Devon 'Barney the Bull' gift. The top entrants from each school will win a Devon Countryside Ambassador Badge and a framed certificate. Winning schools will receive a plaque and £200 to spend on outdoor learning as well as CPRE membership for a year.

A leaflet with full details of both competitions is available for teachers. CPRE Devon has also produced a fun postcard for the writing competition with space for children to say why they think it's important to protect Devon's countryside. It couldn't be simpler!

If your child would like to enter, contact 01392 966737 or info@cpredevon.org.uk or check out the website cpredevon.org.uk

Please note, this year the charity will be accepting entries by email to avoid people having to make unnecessary trips to a post office to send their artwork or writing.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of CPRE Devon by If... Media Ltd.

Media contact:

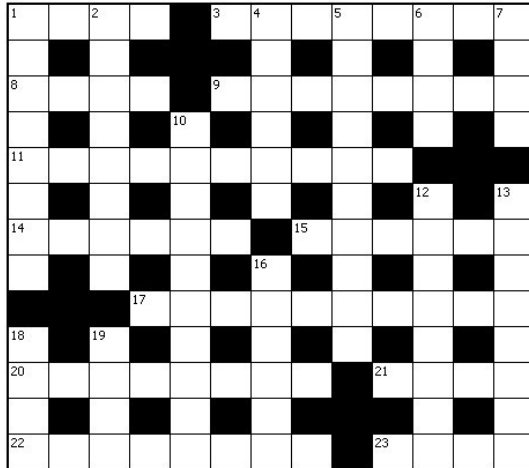
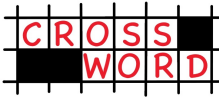
Sharon Goble sharon@if-media.co.uk
01392 661062 / 07831 695913

Attachments:

Two of last year's winning entries in KS1 and KS2.



PUZ?LES



Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet'(2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

June Sudoku - Medium

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

Word search

z	l	v	t	p	b	r	w	a	t	c	h	s
b	r	o	t	h	e	r	s	k	d	r	y	f
f	c	x	h	i	l	s	l	a	v	e	s	f
n	e	h	d	l	i	o	n	s	c	n	k	o
i	c	l	a	i	e	b	w	n	q	c	e	o
g	o	e	r	s	v	d	a	v	i	d	r	d
s	w	s	m	t	e	h	d	t	r	h	r	b
t	a	s	y	i	c	d	s	h	t	a	f	b
o	r	u	n	i	s	r	a	e	l	h	m	
n	d	p	l	e	a	g	i	h	c	a	e	g
e	s	i	n	s	u	l	t	i	n	g	d	s
z	a	a	r	m	o	u	r	n	e	y	u	u
s	l	u	n	g	c	k	c	a	c	i	j	h

- soldier

insulting

army

cowards

lions

food

Goliath

Saul
- heard

stone

armour

brothers

stick

David

chance

battles
- watch

Israel

chased

believe

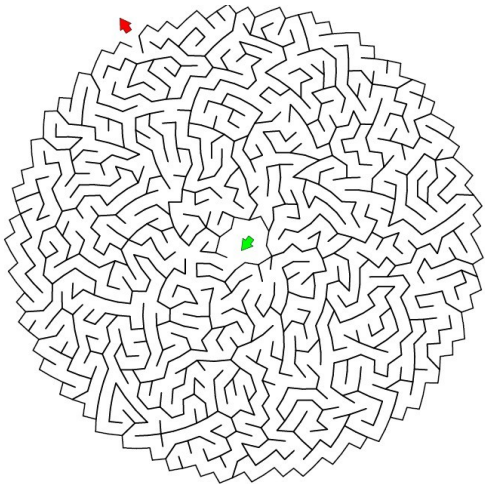
slung

Philistines

slaves

head

Maze



Days of Note - June

1st June Justin Martyr, first ever Christian philosopher

Justin Martyr (c. 100 – 165), is regarded as the first ever Christian philosopher. He was born at Nablus, Samaria, to parents of Greek origin, and was well educated in rhetoric, poetry and history before he turned to philosophy. He studied at Ephesus and Alexandria and tried the schools of the Stoics, the Pythagoreans, and the Platonists. Then in c 130 Justin became a Christian, and never looked back. His long search for truth was satisfied by the Bible, and above all by Christ, the Word of God.

This apologist and martyr is known as the most important early 'apologist'. He went on to offer a reasoned defence for Christianity, explaining that it was the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies. Justin's aim was evangelism: he thought that pagans would turn to Christianity if they were made aware of Christian doctrine and practice.

Justin's martyrdom took place in the reign of Marcus Aurelius, along with six other believers. At his trial, whose authentic record survives, he clearly confessed his Christian beliefs, refused to sacrifice to the gods, and accepted suffering and death. As he had previously said to the emperor: "You can kill us, but not hurt us."

7th June Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: 'I am going to send you what **my Father** has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power

(the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

9th June Columba of Iona, missionary to the UK

In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521 -97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

Christ With Us
My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore.



Iona Abbey

**11th June Barnabas , Paul's first
missionary companion**

Would you have liked to go to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament.

He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the Early Church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement'.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to 'set aside' Barnabas and Paul, and to send them out on the church's first ever 'missionary journey'. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and then travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So, if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

In England there are 13 ancient church dedications and not a few modern ones. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.

20th June Summer Solstice – longest day of the year

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol + stice* come from two Latin words meaning ‘sun’ and ‘to stand still’. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

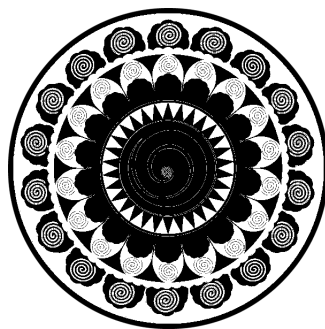
While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here are some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.

***A Canticle for Brother Sun* - St Francis of Assisi**

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

***God in All* - A prayer of St Patrick**

He inspires all,
 He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
 He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
 He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
 He is the God of heaven and earth,
 of sea and rivers,
 of sun, moon and stars,
 of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
 and in heaven,
 and under heaven.

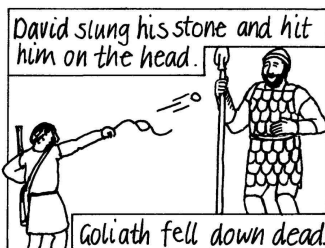
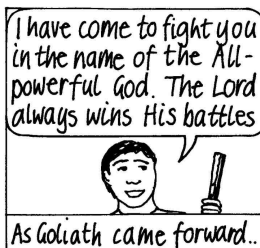
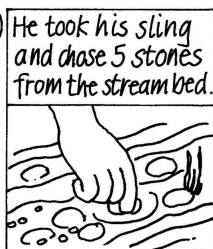
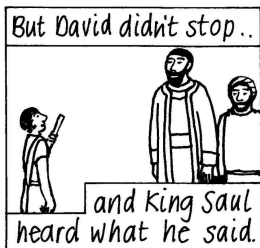
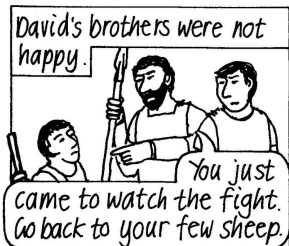
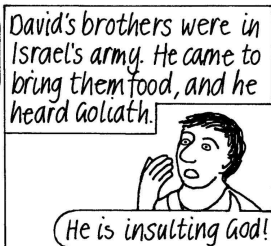


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them.



Puzzle solutions

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

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

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the July issue of New Leaves is Sunday 21st June

If you have images of any events of interest to the Parish community please send them to us. Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to the new editorial team at:

newleavesnews@gmail.com

Please send digital files via email and please make the subject header fit the content of the email - thanks!

Thank you to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine

- his hard work is much appreciated.