

june 2020

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grapevine

50p

the magazine of st mary's church rushden
& st peter's newton bromswold

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grapevine june 2020

I guess we've all experienced unexpected joys in the middle of this appalling crisis. Mine, predictably, include the arrival of a fresh supply of ground espresso coffee; discovering a book on the shelves I thought I'd read but haven't, and the 'secret' wood on the front cover of this grapevine, which has become [to quote Wordsworth] my 'very heaven'.

Whether you're Staying Alert, Staying Indoors, working on the frontline, or anywhere in between, we hope you enjoy the distraction of reading grapevine, and if you have a special "Thank you, God" moment please share it with us.

Jude Curtis, Editor

Contents

Who's Who	2
The Curate Comments . . .	4
Editorial: <i>Planning ahead?</i>	6
Local News	8
From Bishop Donald	9
Gardeners' Report	10
Parish News	11
Thank you, God!	12
Prayer Corner/Just a Thought	12
*Readings for June 2020	13
The Centre Spread	14-15
Meet the Congregation	16
Daffyinitions	18
Looking Back to Old Grapevines	20
Crossword 367	21
Belfry Gossip	24
Virus Stories	24
Mission Matters	25
Book Reviews	26
Haven't we been here before?	27

*Items for the
July/August grapevine*

should be sent by

Sunday 14 June

to Jude Curtis

by email:

missjudecurtis@btinternet.com



The Curate on . . .

Remembering Repentance



The Book of Common Prayer includes the prayer opposite for use '*In the time of any common Plague of Sickness*'. It refers to specific incidents from Numbers 16 and 2 Samuel 24 where God sent plague as a punishment for specific sins: and where there *was*, indeed, a clear 'why'.

In the situation we now face we don't know the 'why'.

Significantly, when Jesus was challenged about the reason for the suffering inflicted by a natural disaster in Luke 13, he only replied that we should all turn to God. He did not provide a specific explanation: which suggests that far from trying to analyse why we are experiencing this global pandemic it would be better to take Jesus' approach and draw out the message that will be of real help to us.

And this prayer does this in line with biblical teaching. It emphasises that God is in sovereign control of, and has power over, all things - even plagues. This means, of course, that God has the power to deliver us from this plague and we should certainly pray that, because he loves us so much, He will do so.

The prayer also reminds us that God has sent plagues in the past, even specifically upon His own people, so we should not think that the presence of plague is any evidence that God has disowned us, just as He didn't disown His people Israel when he sent a plague upon them in the Old Testament.

The prayer also helpfully confesses the biblical truth that we are people who haven't lived God's way or rightly reflected His image in our lives - in fact it highlights that we are sinful and deserving of God's judgement. Importantly however we should know that nothing in this prayer indicates that plague should be understood as any direct punishment for sin. Rather it simply acknowledges that as sinful people living in a fallen world we do indeed deserve the judgement of God which is experienced in this life in various ways at various times. Yet the prayer is silent, as Jesus was, on whether the experience of this current plague is a direct result of our sins.

So what can we learn from this for our own spiritual lives?

“O Almighty God, who in thy wrath didst send a plague upon thine own people in the wilderness, for their obstinate rebellion against Moses and Aaron; and also, in the time of king David, didst slay with the plague of pestilence threescore and ten thousand, and yet remembering thy mercy didst save the rest: Have pity upon us miserable sinners, who now are visited with great sickness and mortality; that like as thou didst then accept of an atonement, and didst command the destroying Angel to cease from punishing, so it may now please thee to withdraw from us this plague and grievous sickness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”
The Book of Common Prayer

Firstly, we should meditate on the rich and deep truth it expresses because we too often fall into a self-centred way of thinking and we need to put God back at the centre. But we should also join simply in praying the prayer and acknowledging before God our situation and need of His mercy and pray that He will grant it. We should appeal to Him for mercy because of who He says He is, a God rich in mercy and grace, for it is His very character to be merciful.

When Jesus was asked about specific links between sin and suffering his response was that unless ‘we repent we also will perish’. Essentially Jesus is saying that we shouldn’t link suffering to specific sin but rather the existence of such tragedy in this present age should remind us of the fact that we live in a fallen world and that very fact should continually turn our hearts towards God in repentance and faith, just as Jesus calls us to do, and seek the mercy and love of God in this global crisis.

So let’s all look for the humility that should belong to our dealings with God: seeking His mercy and grace because he is such a God, but let all our prayers be leading us to repentance, for this is the mission of Jesus.

Amidst all that we are doing in supporting one another practically, and honouring God by following the government’s advice, let us remember to repent, for this is the call of Christ both now and always.

Rev Phil Nightingale

Editorial Planning ahead?



The women on the distaff side of my family share a common character trait and I'm no exception. We possess an insecure grasp of thinking ahead.

Planning is fugitive rather than a proper mind set. We like grand ideas: an overall vision. Without too many preliminaries we throw ourselves wholeheartedly into the unknown, whether it's a life journey, a new craft project or something a tad bigger, like designing a 1,000 Bed Teaching Hospital.

With frightening predictability we find ourselves way out on a limb long before the project comes to fruition. To make it worse, realisation that things have gone pear-shaped never comes before it is too late to turn back. On principle we never turn back.

A good example: when my clients asked if I was happy to go back to Baghdad in September 1980 I said 'Yes' like a shot. I think I was already in the air before I checked up on all the news I'd missed sailing blithely round the Hebrides for a month without a radio and no footfall on land. By the time I discovered that the Iraq/Iran War had started when I wasn't looking it was too late. They'd cancelled my insurance anyway: and getting off the aircraft somewhere over Turkey looked tricky. From that point on I updated my CV to focus on Crisis Management rather than any description that included 'planning'.

I have concrete evidence that this is not just me but dates back to [at least] my Great Grandmother, Ellen Salter. I have her sampler on my wall, created at the age of eleven, something like 140 years ago. The 'date made' is part of the standard info on a Sampler along with her full name, the alphabet in upper and lower cases and some frilly stuff in the margins. What I don't know is *when* she *did* complete it because before the actual date of completion could be, well, completed, she runs out of space. I know the feeling well. Either that or Victorian samplers were also in vogue in AD 188. I prefer the theory of the family trait.

Her daughter, Hilda, exhibited the same behaviour in a more novel way. She had a life-long habit of not *slicing* a loaf of bread using a conventional

bread board, but carving it. Firmly clasp the loaf in her left arm and wielding a massive breadknife she ‘carved’ the loaf towards her ample bosom with an enthusiasm that, after two or three slices, resulted in something more akin to a doorstep than a loaf of bread. By the time it was half eaten it was little more than a wedge.

Neither her husband nor her daughters ever managed to talk her out of this dangerous practice. For obviously reasons one daughter, my Mum, greeted the appearance of the ‘sliced loaf’ with huge relief.

And age hasn’t really helped me either. Fairly recently I embarked on an ambitious tapestry cushion cover inspired by the phrase “Be still and know that I am God”. The ‘Be’ became a larger than life ‘Bee’ complete with gold wings, stripes and attitude - the rest was in the same font we use for the pages of the Interment Record Book in the Memorial Chapel.

The bee was a project that I kept returning to until it was both 3D and disturbingly life-like. In between I potted through the lettering: not, of course, being me, sketching it all out on the canvas first, but plunging in with the first few words, then discovering ... OK, you’ve guessed. Just like Ellen Salter’s Sampler I had totally miscalculated the spacing, size of lettering etc etc. In the finished article it now reads [Bee] **Still and know ...** [then in the space above] **... that I am God.** It now belongs to my six month old Great-Niece. I guess there is an outside chance that I might be around long enough to find out what she thinks of our shared DNA and its effect on planning ahead.

So how can I fit this dodgy, nay foolhardy, way of life into the present situation?

Carry on as usual. Hold any plans I have lightly. Embrace the changes and surprises. Be mindful. Savour what I can do rather than regret what I can’t.



At the same time be patient. Be grateful for all God’s mercies and especially his unexpected gifts. Expect nothing to ever be the same again except that.

Jude Curtis, Editor

Local & National News

A Little Warning

With increased and, in some cases, relatively recent acquisition of IT skills, it's wise to be more than a little careful on line.



Neighbourhood Watch have issued the following serious and useful advice:

- **Always remember if something seems too good to be true it usually is.**
- Never respond to any emails, text messages, letters or social media that look suspicious, or that have bad spelling or grammar.
- **Remember:** A genuine bank will never contact you out of the blue asking for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account. If you receive a message like this, ignore it!
- If someone you have never met before asks you for money, that should be a red flag. Do not give them any money!
- Always question uninvited approaches, in case it's a scam. This applies whether the contact is on the doorstep, over the phone, by post or online. Instead, contact the company directly yourself using a known email or phone number.
- If you are even a tiny bit suspicious, check with someone else before responding to the communication – a trusted relative, friend or neighbour.

- Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected text or email.
- Make sure you use strong passwords on all your online accounts, and change them often.
- Always have anti-virus software and a firewall installed on your computer, and update all software as soon as new versions become available.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel at all wary or suspicious, you're probably right!

Christine MacKenzie

Learning from Florence

This is an hour-long drama on Florence Nightingale, shown on BBC4 on 9 May and viewable only until about 5 June at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/booconqz>. It is a clear reminder - not only that our hospitals owe so much to the passion and gifts of Florence Nightingale - but also that she strongly saw herself as having been directed by God. Even though Florence wasn't wholly orthodox in her beliefs, it's perhaps a useful reminder that lay people can have vocations too? Perhaps also useful for showing non-Christians how 'secular' work can be driven by a strong Christian world view, and that even the best evidence-based policy makers can also be people with a strong Christian faith?

Andrew Presland

Changing world, changing Church

“Things won’t be the same afterwards.”

“We will have to get used to a new normal.”

With those, and many similar expressions, we all realise that COVID-19 has changed everything. One statistic that struck me just yesterday (I write on the last day of April) was that more Americans have died so far of this dreadful disease than in the two decades of the Vietnam War. By the time you read this, that figure will be much higher. Similarly, we are seeing far too many people taken from us, not least in care homes. And we know that, whatever relaxation is applied to the lockdown, severe restrictions must remain for some time to come. Things won’t get back to pre-COVID “normal” for the foreseeable future.

That applies to the Church as much as to the world. During these strange last few weeks, we have had to learn to do things differently. Many of our clergy have been wonderfully creative in enabling worshippers to carry on with corporate worship in different ways. Many have been particularly good in enabling the ‘poorest’ (those without computers, smartphones or internet) to access worship. Well done to them. We just don’t know how long

this will last – when we can get back to anything like the old “normal” in our church buildings.



I hope – and I have some evidence for this – that this situation is forcing important questions to be asked (and even answered). What is essential for corporate worship? How can we ‘do church’ in our homes? How can we be the Church without the building? How can we best support the ‘poorest’ or the ‘weakest’ among us? It would be good if those questions lead to permanent changes, as well as temporary ones.

That final question, about the ‘poorest’ and the ‘weakest’, relates very much to the world, as well as the Church. The financial cost of this coronavirus will be immense. We should be campaigning, and doing all we can, to ensure that the burden falls heaviest on those most able to afford it. That is the Christian way.

With best wishes

+ Donald

+Donald

Diocese of Peterborough – Magazine Resource – June 2020

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www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

The Gardeners' Progress



Well, not a great deal to report.

Tony's Bit

Since Government Lockdown has taken place the team has been put on 'furlough', and it was decided to follow recommendations and stay at home.

However, as we all know, grass doesn't stop growing, especially in the Spring, and especially in the Memorial Garden, so the team [well me and Bob and seconded by Steve] thought it would be a good idea to continue maintaining this area.

The first week was fairly eventful. In trying to replace a bin liner outside the Church Hall, I managed to set off the burglar alarm. Luckily I had the new gardening recruit with me [Gill] so we could discuss what to do next and the obvious choice was to ring Jose which we did: but before she arrived, Helen came to the rescue !!!

Gill's Bit

As a new recruit I had to be advised what needed doing and looking around the Church yard I was utterly daunted at the amount of work that 'the team' actually do, and I applaud you all !

So far, I have thoroughly enjoyed spending a Wednesday morning within the Church grounds, even if on one cold day I needed to wear rubber gloves on my feet to keep them warm, but I have been able to sneak away some of the lush compost for our little garden [sorry, Bob]. In fact I have enjoyed it so much that until my volunteer post takes off, I would like to continue helping out, as there will be a lot of hard work to do when we are eventually allowed out again.

Tony and I also managed to re-cycle an old umbrella that was discarded in a bin in the grounds, and made 10 metres of bunting* ready for the street festivities [2 metres apart] on VE day, Friday 8 May, so 'thank you' to that person for their donation.

Tony and Gill Coles

**The bunting in glorious colour is on The Back Page. Ed*

Parish News

Our Church Fetes

As already covered in May grapevine **St Mary's Church Fete planned for June will not go ahead** and now **both Newton's Fete and Barn Dance have been cancelled.**

Lent Collection

This year's Lent Collection will still be sent to **Tearfund**. Contact our Treasurer, Robert Bates to discuss paying "remotely" [01933 358005 or email: robertbates1947@btinternet.com.]

Unfortunately, if you have collected cash it will still have to wait until after the lockdown to count it up and send it off.

Gifts & Offerings

If you have any questions about your regular giving, you are welcome to contact our Treasurer, Robert Bates to discuss options with him [contact details above].

There are options for paying remotely [by direct debit, standing order, through the Parish Giving Scheme]. If you pay by envelope, you are welcome to hold on to these until the time we can meet again [Whoopee!].

Thank you ...

to everyone at St Mary's for all their best wishes, cards and the book

given to me on my **Seventieth birthday**. They were all much appreciated and helped to make the day special in difficult circumstances. I *did* have a birthday party, thanks to the family, although it was virtual. With love to all,

Marion Bates

Warmest Birthday Congratulations To **Vivienne Striblehill** on her **Eightieth** birthday on 9 May and to **David Clarke** on his **Ninetieth** birthday on 15 May.

Thank you !!!!

This is normally the time of year when we write and thank all our regular contributors for their generosity is maintaining our worship, programmes, activities, staff and buildings. We are not able to hand you letters this year, but DO want to say how grateful we are for your continued giving, even during this time of change and crisis.

Steve Prior



Light in dark places - Thank you, God!



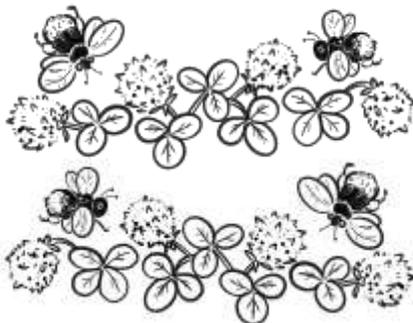
“What a joy it was to see in Grapevine May edition, Baby Ben enjoying his First Birthday and looking so well. At this time of uncertainty we should also be positive and pray until we can party and do everything that is normal.”

Mary Hadley

“Thank you, God, for the wonderful gift of sight. I was out this afternoon when I came across a flock of sheep with their lambs lying sheltering in the shade below a group of hawthorns, all thickly laden with blossom - a miraculously wonderful thing,”

Richard.

“This morning I saw a hare on my travels: always a treat - particularly now.” PW



A Prayer for Trinity

**Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
Set up your kingdom
in our midst.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God:
Have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**Holy Spirit,
breath of the living God:
Renew me and all the world.**

*A Prayer for Trinity Sunday 7 June
from N T Wright: an explanation of
which can be found at
ntwrightpage.com/2016/04/05/the-prayer-of-the-trinity/*

“Just a thought ... ”

**If we do not find happiness in
the present moment, in what
shall we find it?**

Goldsmith

Daily Bible Readings for June 2020

Reading the Bible allows God to speak to us through his Word. During this time when we are not meeting together in person, we can retain a sense being the church by all reading these Bible verses each day, even if we also use another Bible reading plan. I hope you will find this a useful way of reminding you that you are part of Christ's body as we read of Jesus's demonstrating and teaching of the Kingdom of God. Steve Prior

Pentecost Sunday	31 May	John 7.37-39
Monday	1 June	Mark 12.1-12
Tuesday	2 June	Mark 12.13-17
Wednesday	3 June	Mark 12.18-27
Thursday	4 June	Mark 12.28-34
Friday	5 June	Mark 12.35-37
Saturday	6 June	Mark 12.38-end



Trinity Sunday	7 June	Matthew 28.16-20
Monday	8 June	Matthew 5.1-12
Tuesday	9 June	Matthew 5.13-16
Wednesday	10 June	Matthew 5.17-20
Thursday	11 June	Matthew 5.21-26
Friday	12 June	Matthew 5.27-32
Saturday	13 June	Matthew 5.33-37

Sunday	14 June	Matthew 9.35—10.8
Monday	15 June	Matthew 5.38-42
Tuesday	16 June	Matthew 5.43-end
Wednesday	17 June	Matthew 6.1-6,16-18
Thursday	18 June	Matthew 6.7-15
Friday	19 June	Matthew 6.19-23
Saturday	20 June	Matthew 6.24-end

*Jesus went ...
proclaiming the good
news of the kingdom
and healing every
disease and sickness.
Matthew 9.35*



Father's Day	21 June	Matthew 10.24-39
Monday	22 June	Matthew 7.1-5
Tuesday	23 June	Matthew 7.6, 12-14
Wednesday	24 June	Matthew 7.15-20
Thursday	25 June	Matthew 7.21-end
Friday	26 June	Matthew 8.1-4
Saturday	27 June	Matthew 8.5-17

Sunday	28 June	Matthew 10.40-end
Monday	29 June	Matthew 8.17-22
Tuesday	30 June	Matthew 8.23-27

— The Centre

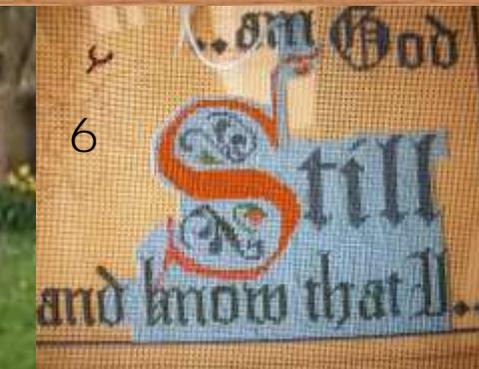


Clockwise from centre: **Painting** the impressive work produced at **Crafts and Coffee** back in March; **Steve** at work; Alliums in **St Mary's** garden; **Roses** just coming; **Editorial**; **Ne** just in bloom; **Steve on his day off** - so busy as to what he is planting for the August edition please



e Spread .—.

g on Glass -
at St Mary's
ch: the girls
s garden;
ewton still in
uggestions
the July/
e!



Meet the Congregation – Mary Hadley

In Bedford at the end of WWII, Jim and Winnie Burton, were delighted to welcome Mary into their family. She joined a brother who was nine years older.

Winnie looked after the family as well as her housebound Mother: Jim was a painter, decorator and signwriter.

Mary has a photo of herself taken in the bitter winter of 1947 with snow piled around her twice her height! She also has memories of her 'imaginary Aunt', who lived at the bottom of the garden and of taking her dolls' pram to show her! Another treat was to go and visit her cousin who had a real Wendy House in her garden!

She went to Silver Jubilee Infants School, Kingsbrook Junior and the Silver Jubilee Girls School. Her favourite subjects were Music, Drama and Domestic Science and before leaving school at fifteen she became a prefect.

Her first job was writing out tickets on Saturday mornings for the butcher boys to deliver orders on their bikes. 'The Boss' bought a high class grocers and butchers in Kimbolton Road, Bedford and Mary worked there after school, on Saturdays and continued working there for several years, until she moved to a similar business nearer home - and there she continued until she got married.

Growing up Mary was a member of London Road Methodist Church, where she was a Sunday School Teacher and Assistant Youth Club Leader. This involved taking groups on Methodist Guild Holidays and circuit events including rallies in London. Through this many lasting friendships were made!

Around this time Mary joined the Court School of Dancing where she met her husband-to-be, Michael. They became good friends and he eventually proposed at Heathrow Airport after driving a friend to catch a plane. They married fifty two years ago. Her home, work place and church were all in the same area and customers lined the street on the way to church, which made it extra special! The wedding was followed by a honeymoon in the Cotswolds.



Returning home to Rushden, they moved into their house in St Peter's Avenue, where their sons, John and Philip, were born, and they are now blessed with four grandchildren.

Mary was a stay-at-home Mum until she joined the staff at *Wills'*, where she stayed for twenty years till she retired.

When they married Mary and Michael needed to make a decision on where to worship and they chose St Mary's where Mary joined the Wives' Group and they attended Family Service until a few years ago when they moved to the 11.15.

Mary belongs to Don and Sue's home group and is on The Children's Society Committee.

Over the years they have made so many friends and they feel a part of a big family!

Roving Reporter.

Those questions

People with most influence?
Members of the church where I grew up

Hobbies?
Baking, dancing, walking, flower arranging and the garden!

Guests to dinner?
The family

What would you serve?
Roast beef dinner followed by Strawberry Pavlova and Apple Pie

Special Places?
The mountains of Switzerland and Austria

Special Treat?
A weekend away

Proudest Moments?
When our sons were married

Favourite Bible Verse?
"Your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalms 119.105

Daffynitions

- Afford A car some people drive
 Announce One-sixteenth of a pound
 Appear Something you fish off
 Avoidable What a bullfighter tries to do
 Bacteria The rear of a café
 Cube root Diced carrots
 Denial Where Cleopatra lived
 Dentist Someone who looks down in the mouth
 Parole A cell-out



Where was the social distancing?



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Looking Back at St Mary's Magazines

50 years ago

June 1970

Around and About

"Thank you" to the anonymous donor of the most useful pulpit shelf, useful for Family Services and for other services too. It's amazing what get carried up to the pulpit!

Did you know... that this year's Garden Party is the Centenary of the Rectory? It was built by Canon Barker - 1870.

Do you join in the fellowship of Praise and Prayer each day? An item a day links us all as the Family of God in prayer and praise. Ask for a leaflet at the back of church. [or turn to p13 of the current edition! Ed.]

YPF

"Belonging" was the theme of our [recent] Guest Evening ... We discussed a booklet by David Shepherd with this title. [see p26]

25 years ago

June 1995

Fortunately for the ongoing life of this church some of the most careful and prayerful readers of this magazine are the long term subscribers, even though they may be more housebound these days.

Diana Downing

Toning Up Exercises

Training and exercise help us to use our air more effectively, and the same applies to our use and experience of the Holy Spirit. Prayer and study of the Bible both help us to share and use the breath of God.

At Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us remember that it was a gift that was given to be used.

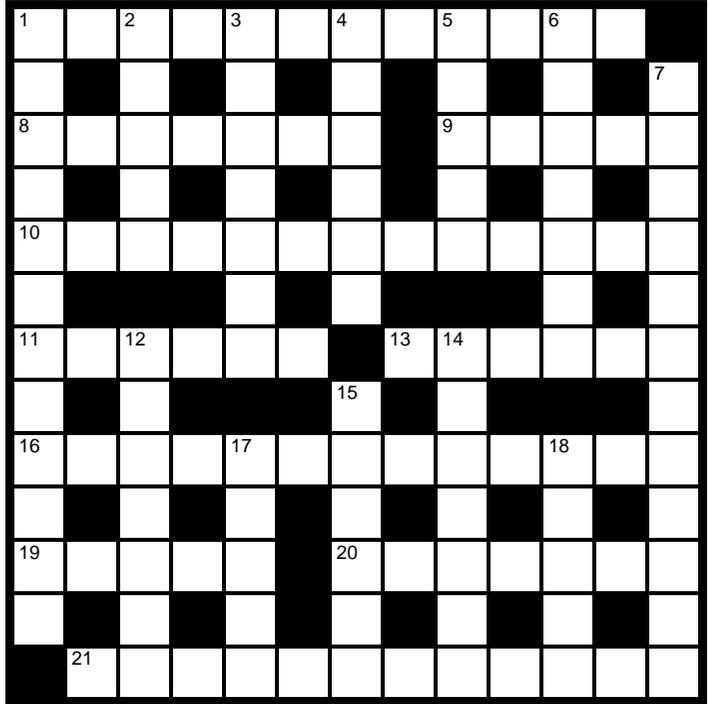
David Bradshaw



Crossword No 367

ACROSS

- 1 '--- --- ---', Lord God almighty', (hymn) (4,4,4)
 8 Archangel (7)
 9 Snapshot (5)
 10 Hymn based on the Magnificat (4,3,2,4)
 11 Catch in a net (6)
 13 Of Moses (6)
 16 Bishop's title (5,8)
 19 Chief city of ancient Phoenicia (5)
 20 Any of the four Gospels (7)
 21 Matched (12)



DOWN

- 1 'Lift --- --- ---', (hymn) (4,3,5)
 2 Tag (5)
 3 Odious (7)
 4 Female demon in Jewish folklore (6)
 5 'O --- band of pilgrims' (5)
 6 Lone oar (anag.), lady's name (7)
 7 Pampered (12)
 12 Armageddon battle site (7)
 14 Aromatic herb (7)
 15 Hebrew female (6)
 17 Male voice (5)
 18 Urged on (5)

Solution to Crossword No 366





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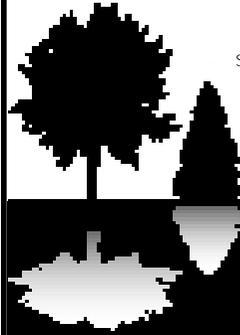
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Belfry Gossip

Unfortunately, the situation regarding ringing remains the same while churches are closed but there is a possibility that a single bell may be able to be used, when churches open again for limited use.

The ringers are still maintaining contact with the help of phones and computers and trying to keep fit for when ringing can start again.

As mentioned last time a multiringer ringing program has now been produced and the anniversary of VE day was celebrated by our ringers ringing 60 Rounds from their own homes using this program. It is a pity that only the ringers could hear this, but our performance will appear in the Ringing World in due course.

Stay safe until we can all meet again.

Tintinnabulum

Virus stories

Sainsbury's and The Big Issue

The Big Issue magazine - sold by homeless and vulnerable people to help lift themselves out of poverty - recently took the tough decision to stop selling its magazines on the streets, for the foreseeable future. To support the magazine and its vendors, The Big Issue, is now on sale in many Sainsbury's stores and online. 50% of the proceeds will go to vendors and 50% will go towards helping The Big Issue continue its work with vendors now, and in future.

Reading more?

Two-fifths of UK adults are reading more since lockdown started, with many people changing their reading habits but not necessarily buying more books, according to research from Nielsen Book.

Online interviews with 1,000 people showed the UK as a whole has nearly doubled the amount of time it spends reading books from around 3.5 hours per week on average, to six. Of consumers surveyed from 29 April to 1 May, 41% reported reading more books since the lockdown began. A third said they read more printed books, 18% consumed more e-books, and 9% listened to more audiobooks. A third of respondents said they had increased their time spent reading books to children.

From *The Bookseller*, quoted on BBC News Daily release 15/5/20.

Mission Matters



“The temple is closed, but the church is not.” These words of a **Tearfund** leader are true. Even though our church buildings are shut, we have been praying for one another and for the world, sharing fellowship through phone calls and emails, and have been encouraged by our online church services. All these things have been a blessing to me, and given a deep sense of still being part of the Body of Christ in these strange weeks of self-isolation. Our mission partners, with whom we are privileged to be connected, are also experiencing new and challenging situations and value our prayers.

Tearfund’s global team are working in more than fifty countries among some of the poorest, most vulnerable people, who are likely to be those hardest hit by coronavirus.

In Madagascar **Derek and Jane Waller** are teaching people about the virus, explaining the need for social distancing and good hygiene. They are also developing prayer resources for use at home while churches remain closed.

Brian and Val Hodgkin’s society, **Wycliffe Bible Translators**, and the **Langham Partnership** have members in many countries, and are also facing the new challenge of the pandemic.

The **Church Pastoral Aid Society’s** activities, including the Venture and Falcon holidays and School Venture are cancelled. We are asked to pray that the Lord will show CPAS how they may be of help to local churches at present.

The **Church Army** is continuing to support vulnerable people through its projects and to work through its centre of mission, although it has had to adapt its ways of doing so. It has a financial shortfall, as people are giving less due to Covid-19. Our mission partner, **James Hawksworth** is always grateful for our prayers for him and for his ministry in Kings Lynn.

Sooner or later this pandemic will end, but we know that the Body of Christ, the church, is victorious through our Lord, and will live for ever with him.

Paul’s inspired words encourage us: “Therefore, my dear brother and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”

[1 Corinthians 15:58]

Sue Eagles for the Mission Committee [Sue Eagles, Jose Smith, Martin Compton, Sue Prior, Edna Wadsworth]

Book Reviews



Paul Gallico, *Flowers for Mrs Harris*
[London: Michael Joseph, 1958 and later]

Originally published as ***Mrs 'Arris Goes to Paris*** this is the story of a cheerful, hardworking, Cockney charlady who, having come across such a thing in the house of a rich woman for whom she cleans, dreams of buying a Dior dress. It follows her years of scrimping and saving and her eventual arrival in Paris. The book can be read on many levels : light humour, achieving a goal, an impossible dream and many others. Mrs Harris is a lovely character and the story is beguiling as well as funny. It was a great success and several books followed, with Mrs Harris travelling all over the world, but this is the best of them. It was also made into a film, starring Angela Lansbury. Audio version available.

The Ultimate Guide to Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings – 4th Edition, 2019. Here's one for all the clever men in the Parish who want to find a man cave where they can get away from the family from time to time! American in origin, this useful book gives all the information you need to build your own shed, barn or other outbuilding, small or large. Construction plans, materials, methodology – the complete 'How To' for everything from a small, basic

shed to livestock barns to a two storey triple garage with a bell tower. It covers everything from how to lay a slab to building a wooden frame, plumbing, wiring and everything in between. It provides plans plus a list of all materials needed. An ideal book for any handy person needing a useful project in these times of stress.

Anna Kingsmill-Vellacott

Andrew Bradstock, David Sheppard: *Batting for the Poor* [London: SPCK, 2019]

This biography of David Sheppard will certainly be of interest to cricket enthusiasts but there was far more to David's life than his outstanding sporting achievements. This book should be of interest to anyone who enjoys an account of a life given to the service of God. As a priest in the Church of England during the latter half of the twentieth century his ministry had a significant and lasting impact on many of the social and political issues of that period, both in the Church and in the wider world. His life story can still inspire and challenge us in the Church today.

He first came to prominence in the '50s and whilst at Cambridge he played cricket for England, continuing his sporting career for some years after his ordination in

1955. There is a story that having dropped a catch in a Test Match he was advised by his team-mate, Fred Truman, that he should try putting his hands together!

A significant part of his Church ministry took place in London: first as a curate in Islington [then a very run-down part of the city]. He developed a passion for working with the poor; a calling he fulfilled with immense vigour as Warden of the Mayflower Family Centre in Canning Town. Out of this experience he published **Built as a City** a book that highlighted the church's calling to work with and for the urban poor. Its publication disturbed the complacency of many people of power and influence.

For the remainder of his ministry he

served as a Bishop, first of Woolwich and then from 1975 to 1997 as Bishop of Liverpool [heavily championed by the local MP Harold Wilson] where he forged a very fruitful, high-profile partnership with the corresponding Roman Catholic Archbishop, Derek Warlock, working together to revive the fortunes of a run-down and divided city. In 1983 he published another influential, and for some people, controversial book **Bias to the Poor** which laid foundations for the work of the Church's Urban Fund, which is still very active in 2020.

This book tells an inspiring story of a Christian leader who used his considerable talents to share the Good News far and wide by word and deed.
Tony Smith

Haven't we been here before...?

Satan: I will cause anxiety, fear and panic
I will shut down businesses, schools, places of worship
and sports events
I will cause economic turmoil.

Jesus: I will bring together neighbours, restore the family unit
I will bring dinner back to the kitchen table
I will help people slow down their lives and appreciate
what really matters
I will teach my children to rely on me and not the world
I will teach my children to trust me
and not their money and material resources

Although originally attributed to "C S Lewis, 1942" this is a Facebook post made on 12 March 2020 by a US woman named Heidi May (archive.vn/lwdmA), as first reported by Reuters on March 30, 2020.

Nothing wrong with the sentiment it expresses however.

.—. The Back Page .—.



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