

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

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Next issue: First Sunday July 2020

St Mary's Magazine

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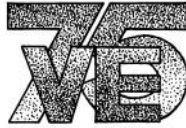
The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND





April 2020



May
2020

Dearest Friends,

I would prefer to write only words of hope during this period of world crisis in this time of the thought consuming covid-19 pandemic. Clearly, not one of us is left untouched by it, and for us there is worry and stress to deal with, for ourselves and for others. I feel, however, that I must honestly address the inconsistency of reactions from individuals, communities, governments, the financially comfortable, the poor and the wealthy. I think it is important that we confront the mercenary responses of those with the inordinate power that accompanies celebrity status and obscene wealth. Many bankers have already said they will need support when this is over, and have yet already only recently given over huge bonuses to their 'top brass', beyond the imaginings of the vast majority of the world's population. Most of us do not understand the notion of bonuses, which now seem to be an automatic portion of some people's income, upon which additional sums are heaped when executives simply do the work they are supposed to do. At the same time, "the workers" have to depend on pay cuts, loss of work and benefits. The sick and the vulnerable are made to feel that they have no value. Furthermore, there is, I feel, great truth in the adage that those who are paid the least, do the most work and are regarded among the least of merit in our singularly economic growth driven world. I was moved, in this respect, at the stories of tenacity and courage of the health workers at the hospital where our dear Eric Koster ministers in the chaplaincy there, repeated many times, the world over.

Football clubs fear the pinch, although many so called 'top' players and managers refuse to take pay cuts in favour of club workers taking the 'hit'. I have great sympathy with what I read of Mr. Corbyn's remark that it is strange that suddenly the UK Government can find huge tranches of money which only months ago did not exist, except on a 'magic money tree'. There are reports in the newspapers about self-isolating stars of stage and screen giving trite health and wellness advice from their ivory towers. In the richest country in the world, the current narrative involves talk of trade-offs: to get the population back to work within weeks will, we all know, cost

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St Mary's Chapel News



In these troubled days, some good news

Due to the severe travel restrictions and lockdown caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, maintaining locum cover during the forthcoming interregnum looked increasingly unlikely.

Our chaplain, the Canon Brian Rodford has therefore, agreed to stay on as chaplain until the end of the year. Bishop Robert has agreed to extend Brian's licence to the end of December.

On behalf of the congregation, (I am after all, still a warden), I would like to extend our thanks to Brian, and his partner Tony.

A 'huge thank you' is also due to Jeanet Luiten for all the work she has done in preparing for the interregnum, ably assisted by her husband Lub.

And of course, not forgetting Simone, Reader, and Secretary who does so much every years quietly in the background. Thank you.

On the hop

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

A: An Easter Basket Case

Hot

What do you call a chocolate bunny that was out in the sun too long?

A runny bunny.

Higher power

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

Packet?

A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother's explanation, he replied: 'Mummy,

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Forthcoming Dates 2020

There are no Forthcoming Dates to announce at present. Due to Covid 19, the rest of 2020 is now on hold.

However, like all disasters, problems and tragedies, this time of pain, loneliness and loss will pass. It will then be up to all of us to work together to heal our congregation, our society and our world.

Castle Fair September

Dear congregation,

Due to the uncertainty about the length of the Corona restrictions, combined with the expected difficulties in staying within the boundaries of the 1,5-metre rules, the Castle Fair Committee is sad to announce that they have to cancel this year's Fair. We are hoping to start anew on SEPTEMBER 11 2021.

We are counting on all of you to use this time of isolation to come up with other ideas to restart the fundraising for our St. Mary's.

Your Castle Fair Committee, Elisa Hannan, Jeanet Luiten, Klaas Prins, Brian Rodford, Hans Siertsema, Joyce Wigboldus.

From the Treasury - A Finances Update.

During the current COVID-19 crisis, we are trying to

provide you with a virtual Sunday service as long as we possibly can. We all hope we can return to "normal" services again in not too distant future. A video recording cannot make up for an actual gathering, but we have to do with it for the time being.

Now a more practical item in providing you with the "virtual service". Making a video and loading it onto the website does not draw any funds from our church account. However, like every year, our Diocese has entered a considerable claim, the Chapel rent continues, Insurances have to be balanced, and we have to pay the stipend of our Chaplain. As you may see, costs for running the congregation do continue. Collections make up about one-quarter of our congregation's income. This particular income has now stopped completely.

May I suggest you replace your usual offering in the collection with a donation via bank transfer. I did notice a few of us have already started doing this. Usually, we book collections in the Vestry record after each service. At present, we can no longer do this. Therefore, if you want to contribute like you usually would do in church, please make a bank transfer using the designator "Service donation" on our bank account NL62ABNA0593634012 in the name of Anglican Church Twente.

Magazine Payments

St. Mary's Magazine plays a valuable role in helping to keep the congregation informed on what is going on in their church and the chapel community. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the magazine, issued ten times a year, an annual donation of €15 will help to cover printing costs. If you cannot pick up your copy in the chapel and want to have it posted to you, we need to ask for an additional donation of €20 to cover postage.

Last year only two thirds of the magazine costs came from donations, the balance came from chapel funds. It would help the survival of the magazine if all costs were covered by voluntary donations. Thank you.

Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercessions, or who is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact one of the Churchwardens or the Chaplain, before the Service. Alternatively, if you want to have someone included in the intercessions you could contact the Intercessor via the Prayer Request Tool on the Chapel Website. The Chaplain, the Wardens and the Intercessor will simultaneously receive your message via this tool. The link below will take you directly to the Prayer Request.

<http://anglicanchurchtwente.com/home/service%20%26%20readings/prayers%20requests.html>

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when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a photo of me on the packet?'

In these times of terror and worry this one is so relevant

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

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Lesson

Nervous Head Boy reading a Lesson in School Assembly: "Here beginneth the first Actor of the Chaps."

From church notice-sheets:

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our children's minister, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Baptisms: after Easter, the North and South ends of the church will be utilised. Children will be baptised at both ends.

Coming up: Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.

Next Sunday Mrs Brown will sing a solo at the morning service before the vicar preaches on the subject of 'Terrible experiences and how to survive them'.

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The Rectory St James the Least of All - On the perils of a Scout camp

My dear Nephew Darren

It seems that the basics of parish ministry are no longer taught in theological colleges.



Don't you know anything about consulting your diary in public? When you are asked if you are free on a certain date, accepted practice is to open it so that the enquirer cannot quite see. You then shake your head sadly, saying you are committed to blessing a new tea urn, or on some other vital ecclesiastical activity that day. Then you regretfully give your apologies. You do not open the thing in full view of your enquirer, so he can see the blank pages! Really, it serves you right that you are now committed to going on Scout camp.

The last time I agreed to pay the Scouts a visit was when I found that there was a splendid restaurant only a mile away from their camp. I arrived and parked my car by the side of the river where they were all canoeing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining I had to find a garage for petrol.

Several hours later, after an excellent lunch, I drove to where they were now rock climbing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining that I had a standing committee to return to that evening. It was a splendid day.

You, however, will experience the charms of two days under canvas. Whatever site for your tent you choose, it will be the one that floods first. The early hours will undoubtedly find you wading about in water in the pitch dark, retrieving your sleeping bag and clothes - which you will then have to wear for the rest of the day. Watch out for the food, as well: all camp food contains grass and usually sheep droppings. This will

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make you ill, though for some reason Scouts thrive on it.

Whatever the weather and whatever activities you do each day, you will end up wet, chilled and bruised. At least your evenings will be warm, for you are bound to spend them at Casualty, with youngsters suffering from sprained ankles or dislocated shoulders.

My only advice is to use those hours in Casualty to practise the art of opening your diary in a way that only YOU can see it.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



A Difficult Day

"Today was a Difficult Day," said Pooh.

There was a pause.

"Do you want to talk about it?" asked Piglet.

"No," said Pooh after a bit.
"No, I don't think I do."

"That's okay," said Piglet,
and he came and sat
beside his friend.

"What are you doing?"

asked Pooh.

"Nothing, really," said Piglet. "Only, I know what Difficult Days are like. I quite often don't feel like talking about it on my Difficult Days either.

"But goodness," continued Piglet, "Difficult Days are so much easier when you know you've got someone there for you. And I'll always be here for you, Pooh."

And as Pooh sat there, working through in his head his Difficult Day, while the solid, reliable Piglet sat next to him quietly, swinging his little legs...he thought that his best friend had never been more right."

©A.A. Milne

Sending thoughts to those having a Difficult Day today and hope you have your own Piglet to sit beside you

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Players picked for St Andrew's darts team will be pinned to the board on Thursday.

On Governments and tax

The easiest way to figure the cost of living is to take your income and add 20 percent.

A politician is a person who urges you to vote for him, and then sends you a bill for doing it.

I believe we should all pay our tax bill with a smile. I tried -- but they wanted cash.

That stranger...

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and turns your world upside-down.

We call those people the police.

Lesson

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

A suggestion

It was a pretty remark I read, the other day, of a Christian man who said, "I used to have many disappointments until I changed one letter of the word, and chopped it in two, so that instead of 'disappointments' I read it, 'his appointments'". That was a wonderful change for 'disappointments' break your heart, but 'his appointments' you accept right cheerfully.
Charles Spurgeon

With the Holy Week and Easter still in mind...

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

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precious lives of equally sentient human beings, theirs wholly different from the trade offs made by billionaires and bankers. Most of us cannot self-isolate in luxury super yachts anchored safely in sheltered waters, while tweeting, "hope everyone is staying safe". It seems unbelievable that a multimillionaire could feel his reproach undeserved for setting up a crowd funding to pay his laid-off restaurant employees. While people are struggling to breathe and others cannot say goodbye to their loved ones, there is a swathe of humanity who feign concern and act to the contrary. There is a myriad accounts, too, of vulnerable souls being scammed of their meagre resources, and what a foul taste this leaves. There is, indeed, a huge hole in kindness in our world, so where might we find our hope?

Thank God for the other side of the coin where we also realise that care and kindness are living in the community every day, and often at great personal cost. Here is our hope where self sacrifice for a greater good is alive and well. This flame of hope is, perhaps, to be found, among other things, as an expression of gratitude, which we prepare to celebrate in our Easter worship. This Easter worship is, indeed, an expression of our gratitude to God in Jesus Christ, who shows us both the power and extent of his love. 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son'.

In this connection, you may be interested to know that the Hebrew word for gratitude, *hoda'ah*, is used as the same word for confession. To be grateful is to confess dependence, to acknowledge that "the other" has the power and goodwill to benefit us, to admit that our life is better as a result of that benefit. It must be an imperative, as I see it, to foster a disposition of being grateful for each good thing that we receive which is ours through our self-giving God and the sacrificial self-giving of others.

Gratitude is also an expression of love: when we know gratitude for another we begin to harmonize with that person and the bond within the relationship becomes stronger. This bond might be described in terms of

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faith: in a faithful God, and the best in human conscience. Thus, it can be said that faith is fostered by gratitude and, I suggest, faith fosters gratitude. A thankful mind is open to goodness and expects good things and this expectation is sure and complete so as to become faith. Strong gratitude increases strong faith and it is by complete faith we are able to engage in authentic prayer, following which we might discern satisfaction, expecting best outcomes, and recognizing when we have something good, even in what appears the worst of circumstances. How, it often seems, we tend to see more clearly our problems and forget to note our blessings! My father, when aged 95 years, several months before his death, took great care in telling me how much he was missing his wife, who had died 5 years previously after a 62 year marriage. He asked me, "Who would want to live forever, anyway?" As our conversation proceeded, he repeated his feeling and observation that life would be good with his dear wife, and they would both be content if they could have a different kind of body: one that didn't ache and didn't get cold. His gratitude for the life they had shared was sufficient to bring him present and profound contentment, and longing for his future.

So, here, in the midst of coronavirus worry, where so many fundamental questions of life are thrown into sharp focus, we do well to consider further our Easter confidence. I am convinced above anything else in all creation that we are promised in the Easter narrative an experiential future beyond this transitory existence. The Easter liturgy is centred on the sacred mystery of baptism in which we share our certainty of 'being' beyond the constructs of time and space. In this, I think it important that we do not become obsessed by specific ideas about resurrection of body or resurrection of soul. To refocus the paradigm is sufficient to allow ourselves to perceive the reality that embraces probability rather than improbability. Socialist philosopher, Corliss Lamont, argued the case for human mortality and the finality of death, believing this to be the way for human beings to develop greater positive possibilities for themselves

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Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless.

Charles M. Crowe

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

Martin Luther

Spring bursts today, for Christ is risen and all the earth's at play.

Christina G.

Rossetti

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

Charles M. Crowe

Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life.

S.D. Gordon

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

Clarence W. Hall

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Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

Pope John Paul II

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

Anon

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

Miscellaneous observations on life

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

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and others during life. In making a very small paradigmatic shift - by removing specific reference both to body or soul - instead of tending towards the late twentieth century sceptical view expressed in the phrase "the illusion of immortality", we might be more confident in realizing the propriety of the phrase, "the illusion of mortality". ("The Illusion Of Immortality" is the title of Corliss Lamont's 1965 book - *New York, Frederick Unger*). Resurrection of body with soul suggests firstly that there is no inherent inferiority of the body, which we know in 'this' life, that is, after all, the handiwork (Self-Expression) of God, the Creative Original. Secondly, that there is nothing strange in accepting the realization of a spiritual body (I Corinthians 15:44 & 2 Corinthians 5:1-6), that is, a body of another order than flesh and blood, yet essentially at one with the whole self, apprehended in 'being' and expressed in and through mind or soul. Expression of mind and body means existence of such that can be recognized or known as life of activity within our present dimension, or within the dimension of our continued being. Continued soul existence must mean existence, or being human, in the fullness of life actually expressed in spiritual 'form'.

Let me remind you why this concept and truth is important. To recognize the probability of life beyond death underlines what lies at the basis of my reading of St Paul and the reasons why we are often confronted by contradictions, born of attempting to make "The Faith" a matter of strict creedal propositions. The Self-Expression in creation of God, reflects, and must reflect, his essential love, persuading all things toward the best possible outcome. Best possible outcomes cannot be 'best' if they are dashed in the end by death: best possible must transcend death in order to be best possible. (His love is offered in his giving us free will which, as we apprehend in the current crisis results in the possibility, of its very nature, of good choices and bad choices: the only possibility within the parameters of true freedom.)

In other words, as I perceive it, the spiritual body is perfectly suited to its environment. Just as mind exists with the body of flesh and blood, here and now, as it is part of the Self-Expression of God in creation, so with

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the mind. The mind, as separate from the brain is also subject to the persuasive creative action of God, and having been equally willed through the process of evolutionary progress, in which I believe (without denigrating the views of others). As we continue to evolve, not least in intellect and ability, we have become through this process able to discern true being in what was once thought of as within the realms only of superstition. I believe that science once taught us to be sceptical of our own innate intuition. Now science and religion are rediscovering the primal elements of our being: discerning of things intuitively known. Science and Religion are again bidding us look in old places for new answers and in new places for old answers. We can begin to recognize the true nature of what we see but cannot fully understand. The universe, the Self-Expression of God, is itself a great living organism continually and inherently moving, through his Divine Persuasion, towards more life and fuller expression. It is formed for the perpetual advancement of life and the increase of life, the nature of which exists within a dimension of being, which, at its inception, relies on the physical and mechanical in order to find expression and satisfaction. We can now, also, begin to reasonably conceive of the universe with an equally imperative element or dimension of pure soul-mind or, which might be understood, as immaterial vital capacity. My use of these words, "immaterial vital capacity" is a phrase I have coined simply to convey in the context of non-material existence the words "power" and "energy" as used in the physical sense.

May the certain Easter Hope in Jesus and the promise of life eternal, sustain you during these difficult times and inspire you throughout your lives.

God bless you and all whom you love and touch.

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

Swallowing of pride seldom leads to indigestion. Anon

Rush is destructive of rest, and pace of peace. Thomas Adams

The hurrier I go, the behinder I get! Anon

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

Some people's religion reminds me of a rocking-horse, which has motion without progress. Rowland Hill

And finally, some one-liners

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

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

Fun Facts

1. You cannot see your ears without a mirror
 2. You cannot count your hair
 3. You breathe through your nose with your tongue out
 4. You have just tried No. 3
 6. When you tried No. 3 you realised it is possible, only you look like a dog.
 7. You are smiling right now because you were fooled.
 8. You skipped No. 5
 9. You just checked to see if there is a No.5
- Have a Nice Day

Worth remembering.

A man felt he was overloaded in the 'trouble shooting department' of his office, until he found this memo on his desk. "Be thankful for the problems, for if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job."

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Covid 19 and your Church

Streaming services from home

The recent guidance preventing clergy from entering their own churches, even to just livestream an act of worship, has prompted a series of imaginative alternatives.

"Not being able to use our church buildings is, of course, a huge loss to us all," one says, but on the other hand, "streaming worship from home shows that we are alongside those who are having to self-isolate and those who are forgoing so many other things in their lives that they used to rely on.

"It also shows that we are facing up to the same restrictions as them and doing all that we can to take a lead in encouraging people to **stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.**

"Moreover, to pray from and in the home may help us to show that the Church is, as we all know, us, the people of God, not our buildings."

Reflected Faith: the Gathered Church

Doesn't the simple pleasure of going to church and exchanging the peace at Sunday worship seem long ago now? These days, we are not even allowed into our churches!

But we can take comfort when we think back to the Apostles who were commissioned to build God's Church. After the first Pentecost, what did they do? They didn't rush out and build church buildings. No! Rather the people gathered together, in their own homes.

Clearly, we can't physically 'gather' just now, but we have the technology to 'gather' together, both in real time and at a later time. And it is important to do so. There is something powerful when we pray together rather than alone. Try phoning a friend with the same written prayer and saying it together. How does that feel? Any different from saying it on your own?

So, THE Church, which is alive and well in you and me, will find new ways to be together. After all, the early Christians had the added complication of being persecuted, often to death, for their faith. And yet they persisted.

Perhaps we could each sit at our dining table at a set time, with one or two items before us, such as a small glass of wine, a lit candle, stones, and a cross. Indeed, anything that reminds us of our Risen Saviour. We could then 'share' this time in praying the same prayers and knowing that we are part of an eternal fellowship that is only temporarily divided.

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This month: What will you use to reflect and encourage your faith? What items naturally around your home would bring others to your mind, help you to concentrate and allow your spirit to fly with the Holy Spirit? Who will you be connecting with to pray?

From 'live' in the pulpit to virtual and streaming

Not being able to go to church is causing an awful lot of people to 'go' to church.

It started in late March, when the Archbishop kicked off with the first ever national virtual service, recorded in the crypt chapel of Lambeth Palace. It was seen or heard by an estimated five million people. That figure included one million streaming on Facebook, and about two million tuned in to the 39 BBC local radio station broadcasts and BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship combined. The Facebook post had a further reach of two million and nearly 30 per cent of those watching online were under the age of 34.

That compares with average of 871,000 people attending services and acts of worship each week in 2018, the latest figures that are available.

And the Archbishop was not alone - for on the same morning hundreds of churches and cathedrals that also had their first try at livestreaming services. Some attracted several thousand viewers on the stream and playback. As a spokesperson for the Church of England said: "The Archbishops said that church would have to be reimagined. Across the country, local congregations did just that."

The second virtual national worship service (29th March) was led by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu and recorded on an iPad in the drawing room of Bishopthorpe Palace. After opening with a traditional Ugandan call to prayer, which he delivered on drums, the Archbishop turned to Ezekiel, encouraging everyone to trust God in our current situation.

In a reference to the passage in Ezekiel - which recounts the prophet's vision of a valley of dry bones, the Archbishop told the virtual congregation: "At this present time of COVID-19 we are, as it were, set in death in exile.

"I believe the Sovereign Lord who knows it all by the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead to life eternal, the life creating power of God will bring us out of exile - out of the valley of death. Sovereign Lord we look to you to deliver us."

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Asleep

A young man fell asleep in the Sunday morning service, and soon began to snore. The preacher stopped and impatiently motioned to the young boy beside the man to wake him up. The boy said: "Wake him up yourself, you put him to sleep."

Meow

"What is your kitty's name, James?" asked the visitor. "Ben Hur," said James. "That's a funny name for a cat. Why did you name it that?" "Well, we just called him Ben - until he had kittens."

Solomon

"Father," asked the little boy. "Did Solomon have 700 wives?" "I believe so," said the father. "Well, Father, was he the man who said, 'Give me liberty or give me death?'"

Rings

They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now - you call up and it rings and rings but nobody answers.

Why Jesus walked on water

A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

"Goodness," he objected to the travel agent.

"In England it would not have been more than £20."

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into

account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder He walked."

A Gospel to give away at Easter and afterwards

When 800 non-Christians were interviewed about reading a Bible, those aged 18-50 wanted a quality, magazine version of a gospel. So, HOPE Together and Biblica have joined forces to publish Mark's Gospel in a stunning image-filled format that makes a great Easter gift.

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolfe, assistant director of HOPE Together, took the lead in the publishing project. Quoting the Talking Jesus research, she said, "27% of practising Christians said that reading the Bible was key in their coming to faith. We want to give more people that chance, so we hope that Christians will give away this Gospel to help people discover Jesus for themselves.

"More of the younger generations are interested in the life of Jesus than you imagine, so give them a Gospel designed for them," she adds.

Families often come to church together at Easter, with grandparents bringing their adult children and teenage grandchildren. The 108-page version of Mark's Gospel is great to give as a gift and easy to read. Those with questions are invited to visit Christianity.org.uk to find out more.

Trevor Wilson, UK Partnerships Manager at Biblica said, "One of the most exciting things we do at Biblica is develop new and creative formats of Bible text to help people read and engage with it whether they are picking it up first time or the one hundredth time. God's Word is as alive and active today as it was when it was first written down. Individuals and communities are being impacted across our country as they read God's Word today. We believe it should be presented in ways that make it accessible and relevant for everyone."

Copies are available in packs of five for £5 plus p&p from the HOPE Together shop (hopetogether.org.uk/shop).

©Parish Pump

Visit the C of E online page

There is now a range of digital resources for to you connect with God at this difficult time. These include:

Time to Pray app (<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>) which is free and has an accompanying daily audio offering on SoundCloud and iTunes.

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Mental health reflections (<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health>)

Tips to tackle isolation (<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/dealing-loneliness-and-isolation-five-top-tips>)

Finally, there are the Church's smart speaker apps, which provide a range of Christian resources. <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/our-smart-speaker-apps> In March alone, the number of people using the Alexa app rose by more than 70 per cent.

More details at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Lockdown! All churches closed



Our church warden is not letting people into the church just now

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Signs displayed outside a Texan restaurant

Just told my kids I'm older than Google - they think I'm joking

In 20 years time our country will be run by kids home schooled by day drinkers

This too shall pass
It might pass like a kidney stone - but it will pass

The older I get
The earlier it gets late

The Good Old Days

The best things about the good old days was that I wasn't good and I wasn't old!

Parental excuses

These are actual 'excuse notes' from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

~ My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.

~ Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.

~ Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.

Further Parental excuses

~ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

~ Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.

~ Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.

~ John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.

~ Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.

Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.

~ Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.

A letter from Wales

Well, it is over two months since our fantastic going away party in the Hut in Weldam. A time to say goodbye to all the lovely people we had come to know during our twenty plus years in the Netherlands.

Since then, the world has changed so dramatically and quickly. Life will never be the same again. From a positive viewpoint, there is now a growing desire in most countries that the lessons and experiences learnt during the Covid-19 pandemic will lead to a better world. I live in the hope of this happening.

The pandemic made our move even more traumatic. We planned on moving into our bungalow on the 5 March. Hence, we booked into a holiday cottage close by for a week. Paperwork problems delayed the move. We found another cottage in a beautiful place called Llandeglan. Beautiful not only because of the scenery, but also the warm, friendly people in the village who made us so welcome. The black cloud of pandemic descended, trapping our belongings in the Netherlands and holiday cottages were closing in Wales. A young couple living in the coach house of a stately home agreed to take us in as we frantically bought online the basics we needed until our furniture could be released. Money spent, arrangements made, and we learnt our goods were now on the way from the Netherlands.

We managed to take possession of our bungalow on the 17 March, which is not only St Patricks Day but also our wedding anniversary. Finally, on the 9 April, we moved in. We began to settle down to retirement amid a warm, friendly community, living on the banks of the River Dee. Abigail loves going for her walks in the morning along the riverside path.

Traumatic our move may have been, but we have been astounded how, as the terrifying pandemic spread, how such incredible 'Godliness' spread with it. I use that term rather than Christian spirit, for people of all faiths have come together. I am in awe of the Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and Christian health workers who risk their lives every day to care for the sick. Many have paid the ultimate price, but still, the rest stay at their posts. Priests, postal workers, truck drivers, police officers and firefighters are just some of the other dedicated vital workers.

Agreed there was some 'me me me' at the beginning with panic buying and hoarding. Why did toilet paper get sold out so quickly? After all, toilet paper has only been around for 150 years, and humans managed without it for over ten thousand years.!

One thing we find missing from our lives now is our weekly visits to church. We look forward to the day Sunday services once again mark our weeks and not visits to Tesco.

©Blair Charles

NOTICES



Meet the newest addition to our church family.

RAEY Cornelis de Leon. Son of proud and grateful parents Annemarie and Nicolas de Leon.

RAEY was born of March 13.



The Word that offers Peace

*I will come to you in the silence
I will lift you from all your fear
You will hear My voice
I claim you as My choice
Be still, and know I am near*

*I am hope for all who are hopeless
I am eyes for all who long to see
In the shadows of the night
I will be your light
Come and rest with Me*

*Do not be afraid, I am with you
I have called you each by name
Come and follow Me
I will bring you home
I love you and you are mine*

*I am strength for all the despairing
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame
All the blind will see, the lame will run free
And all will know My name*

*I am the Word that leads all to freedom
I am the peace the world cannot give
I will call your name, embracing all your pain
Stand up, now, walk and live*

*A fragment of the music and text taken from
"You are Mine"
by David Haas*

Contributed by Theda ten Barge

Mission Statement

Founded in 1979, the Anglican Church Twente belongs to the Church of England's Diocese in Europe. The Church of England forms a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion of more than 80 million people

The Anglican Church Twente, based at St Mary's Chapel, Weldam provides a Christian ministry in the East Netherlands. Most of the congregation live in the towns and villages of the East Netherlands and across the border in Germany. Some come from further afield.

The Anglican Church Twente holds a service every Sunday at 10:30 am in English. The church offers Holy Communion to all baptized Christians, Sunday School to nurture and educate children in the Christian faith, and a warm welcome to people of all nationalities.

The main aims of the Anglican Church Twente are to:

- † Offer Christian worship by the rites of the Church of England in the English language.
- † Provide pastoral care to all who are in need of such help.
- † Promote a lively fellowship among those who attend the services.
- † Support outreach in Christian ministry wherever there is a need.

Stewardship

We are a self-supporting church and raise all income from our giving and stewardship. As God has blessed us, we thank Him by giving accordingly.

A Prayer for St Mary's

*Almighty and everlasting God
Creator and ruler of all things in heaven and earth,
Hear our prayer for the St Mary's family.
Strengthen our faith,
Fashion our lives according to the example of your Son,
And grant that we may show the power of your love,
To all among whom we live.
Inspire us in our worship and witness,
Grant us all things necessary for our common life,
And bring us all to be of one heart and mind
Within your Holy Church
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit
One God, now and forever,
Amen.*

