

KEEP IN TOUCH

Newsletter No.4

24 April 2020



A note from Martin...

Hello everyone,

I do hope and pray you are staying safe and well, during these very strange times. Do you find that one day is very much like the one before? It's easy to forget what day of the week it is! I am reminded of the 1993 film, Groundhog Day, where the character Phil Connors is trapped in a time loop and has to re-live the same day over and over again. Let's just say, he doesn't find it easy...

At the start of this lockdown, some of us probably had great and worthy plans to use the extra time for projects in the house and garden, or for reading, studying, praying...

Angela Tilby, who writes for the Church Times, certainly had big intentions. She was going to do a lot of extra reading, would recommence her writing, and – on top of everything – would carry out a general de-clutter. And what has she been doing? Mainly, watching the spy thriller Spooks on BBC Iplayer. There are 86 episodes in all, so that will keep her going for a while. She says, "My current viewing and reading habits are somewhat out of step with the spiritual advice I have been giving myself."

In Ephesians, Paul wrote, 'Be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you' (4:32). Yes, it's right that we follow this teaching; but let's also try to be kind and tender-hearted with ourselves as well. It's all too easy to be hard on ourselves and feel guilty. The message of Good Friday and Easter tells us that God is very kind and gentle with us.

Thank you everyone for doing all you can to encourage, support and look out for others. All of us can pick up the phone and call someone – and then there are Whatsapp, Facetime, Skype and Zoom as well. Let's Keep In Touch.

Life in the Rectory continues to be peaceful for Emma, her mother Pauline and for myself. We are very much enjoying watching and hearing the birds in the garden.

With love and best wishes,

Martin

2020 wasn't meant to be like this, was it?

It is now nearly 6 weeks since we suddenly found ourselves locked down and scattered by an unexpected virus. 2020 wasn't meant to be like this, was it? I remember preaching at the turn of the year about sharpened vision and delivering our plans for mission in this parish. Now we find ourselves confined to our houses, prevented from entering our church, and unable to carry out anything we had planned and hoped to work towards. Or are we? Has All Saints been sniffed out, its light extinguished forever- and all in the space of a month? I don't think so!

In fact, the opposite is turning out to be the case - even though we cannot physically gather, we are enjoying wonderful times together using technology old and new. I've even hand-written some letters myself - something unheard of for someone whose iPhone and iPad are ever present. The truth is, we don't necessarily understand the theological significance of everything that is happening at the moment but what we can be sure of is that God is in control.

One of the benefits of being confined at home with a limited allowance of time for daily exercise is that many of us are enjoying sights, sounds and smells that we haven't noticed for many a long year. And as we get out and about we witness the natural world springing up in response to the warm sunshine. If ever we needed a reminder of God's faithfulness.

At the start of this lockdown I took a picture of a bush just beginning to burst into life. Look what's happened in the space of just a few weeks:



Life around us is not "on hold" and neither is the life of the church! On the contrary, we have this time to grow, to deepen the roots of our faith, and - in the words of Isaiah 55 - use the time to "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near".

Last Sunday I had the joy of celebrating on a Zoom Conference Call with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts their annual commemoration of St George. You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter (Page 8), a note and some pictures from Kate, the new Group Scout Leader. It was a time of real happiness as they renewed their vows and also invested their newest member, Fallon Jackson (Congratulations, Fallon!). Seeing this, and also seeing so many of our children taking part in our recorded services, fills me with hope as we rejoice in all the new life that is springing up in our community. Life is definitely not "on hold"!

Jeremy

"Be kind and tender-hearted"

My Risen Lord, My God

A reflection on John 20:25-31

²⁵ the disciples told [Thomas], "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them, "Unless I see.....I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.....

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:25-31

They had seen. They believed.

He needed to see. He wanted to believe.

They spoke. So did he.

Were some silent? Preferring to keep questions hidden?

"Peace...."

The risen Lord came and stood among them.

"Peace be with you"

He came standing among the spoken words, the silent questions.

"Reach out.....do not doubt.....believe."

Where am I in this picture?

Can I see myself as one of the disciples?

Perhaps like one today, but another tomorrow.

Can I hear the risen Lord say,

"Peace...."?

Can I hear him say to me,

"Peace be with you"?

Can I let him come to my spoken words, my silent questions?

"Reach out....do not doubt....believe"

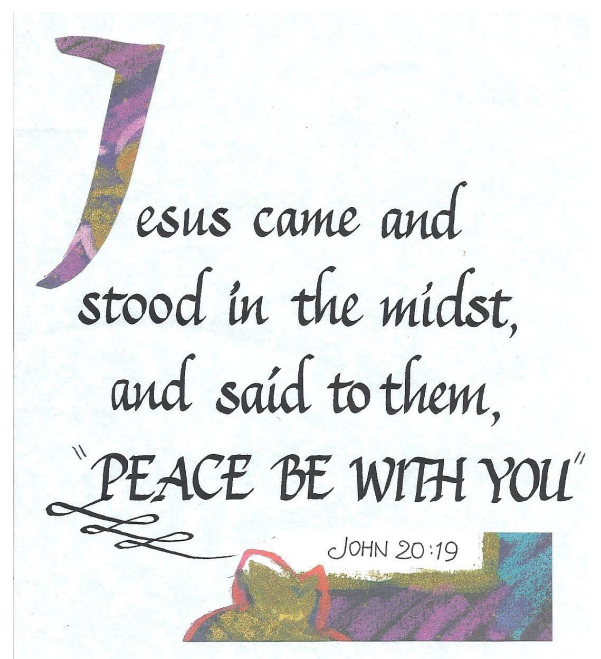
Jesus came and stood among them.

They believed. He believed.

I believe.

My risen Lord and my God.

by Angela Jones



"Be kind and tender-hearted"

A reflective view of the Cross...



Happy Easter Sunday.

Kind regards,
Kevin Wright,
Churchwarden

"Be kind and tender-hearted"

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Rosanne for the splendid EASTER Edition of our NEWSLETTER, such a variety of contributions giving us a real "feel" for our celebration of the FESTIVAL. I particularly liked "HE IS RISEN" – Jeremy's picture and description of the GARDEN TOMB in Jerusalem; a remembrance of my visit there many years ago now.

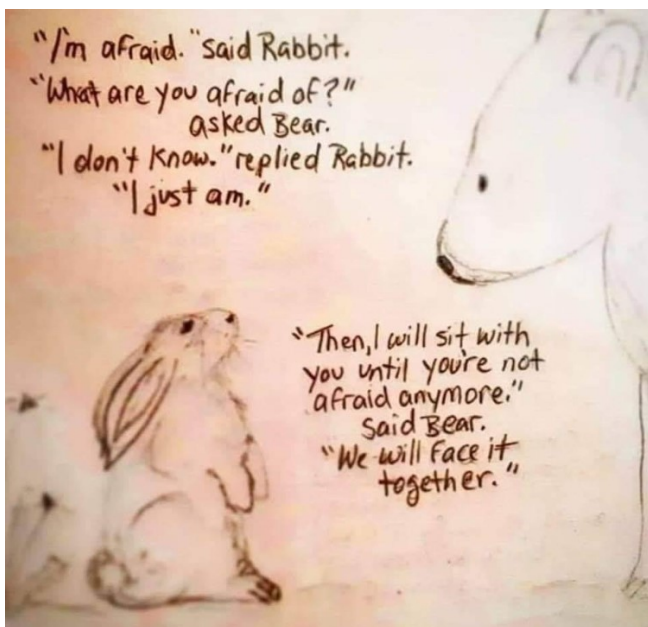
Who knew that "NOT THE MINUTES" of the AGM would provide such an entertaining "read"? A couple of quibbles (no doubt anticipated by the Secretary!)

Pleased as I am to learn about the warm welcome awaiting the Young Ladies if / when they join the Men's Group, there needs to be recognition of the older female members of our congregation – among whom I include myself. SPOILER ALERT: A BIG BIRTHDAY in September!

Second point: maybe the (virtual) WHISKY Tasting could include a drink more suited to the Ladies, say a dry FINO Sherry – just a suggestion (Jeremy will know who I am).

All good wishes,

????



"Be kind and tender-hearted"

OUR PALM CROSSES...

Attached photo of the Palm Crosses we made thanks to the instructions Judith Robinson put in the KIT Newsletter. Made out of Phormium leaves, judge for yourselves our success!

They now grace our fridge... shrivelling up slowly!

Keep well, and peace be with you all.

Marc and Fanny



Made from Pampas Grass...

Rosanne



Made from card...

Judith Robinson



"Be kind and tender-hearted"

16th Purley (7th Sanderstead All Saints) Scout Group

During these unusual times we've been trying to emulate our patron saint St George in his bravery when faced with difficulty, and our leaders have been providing our members with much needed opportunities for activities and friendship, but with a bit of extra imagination. Our Beavers have been following Gemma's weekly FaceTime 'live' sessions full of badge work, fun, and ways to 'help other people' as we all promise, the Cubs have enjoyed weekly 'Zoom' sessions with David and Joe, notably completing their entertainer badges, and the Scouts have been completing 'Task Master' challenges and keeping up their badgework with Trevor, Dave and Andrew.

As a group we enjoyed a 'virtual' camp last weekend, full of activities, and culminating in over 30 of us on a 'Zoom' meeting for our annual renewal of promise with Jeremy joining us and the investiture of our newest Beaver, Fallon. Now we're all looking forward to joining the world record attempt for virtual camping at the end of the month and our VE Day celebrations.

We're sorry that we won't be able to run a Gruffy Fair this year, fifty years after the original 'Sanderstead Festival' in 1970, but we've rebooked for the 19th June 2021. It will be the 50th year of the fair, a Golden Gruffy! We plan to make it really special with lots of fun from yesteryear and hope we'll see you all there!]

Kate Balzer, Group Scout Leader and Andy Ogg, Chairman



A note from Julie Marsh....

As many of the 08:30 crowd know, I like to be outside and what better a place for 'social distancing' than our own lower churchyard.

I decided to get practical to do a litter pick and was amazed at how much I collected over three sessions. The tally was quite impressive 28 drink cans, 19 plastic bottles, 5 wine bottles, a red knitted hat, a child's anorak hood, a single glove, loads of plastic wrappers, a used nappy, a pregnancy testing kit and 3 x 3 foot curtain poles! The spirit was certainly there in the form of 10 half bottles - all empty!

The whole experience was really satisfying, blue skies, squirrels playing, a mouse scampering, a pair of wrens dancing in the hedgerow, a nut-hatch, parakeets calling, magpies chattering, robins singing and a woodpecker drilling. Nature is a wonderful thing and a great tonic in these times.

Stay safe, stay well.

Julie



"Meadow Saxifrage - Flowers April - May

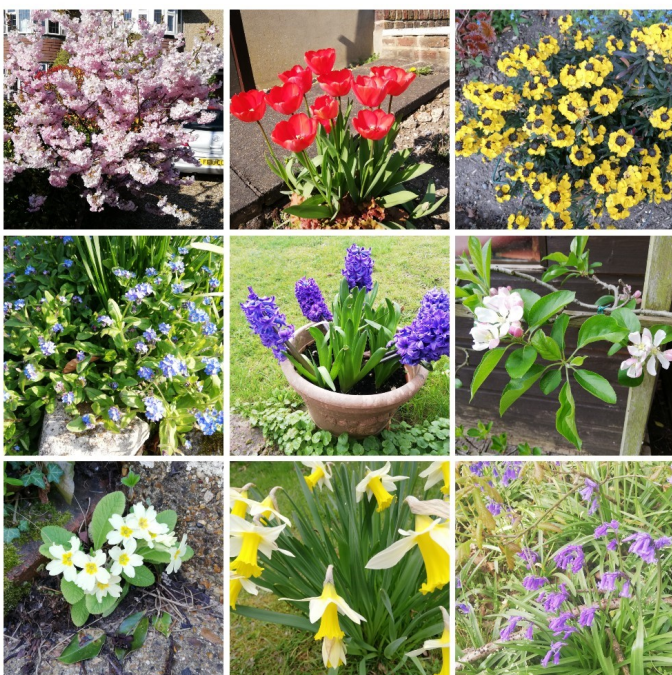


To those of you who wonder why some areas around the church appear to be 'messy' (i.e. left to grow naturally) here is the reason! Please pass on the message to others who may not know the reason.

This species is becoming increasingly rare and is confined to sandy soils particularly in churchyards. The site for it in All Saints' churchyard, where it is now widespread as a result of conservation measures, is the best of only a handful of sites for it in Surrey and the South East of Britain. I think you will agree that this beautiful little plant deserves our love and care.

Some pictures I have taken on our walks...

Judith Robinson

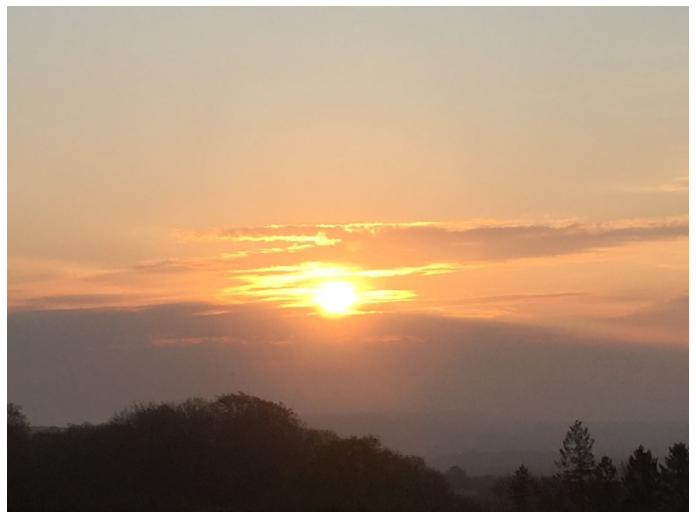


Ann Turner

Easter Sunday Sunrise...

Westerham, Kent

Rosanne



"Be kind and tender-hearted"

GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE

God is still on the throne,
And He will remember His own;
Tho' trials may press us and burdens distress us,
He never will leave us alone;
God is still on the throne,
He never forsaketh His own;
His promise is true, He will not forget you,
God is still on the throne.

Mrs F.W. Suffield

My mum used to sing this chorus when I was (very) small.

God is still on the throne.
It's all true, in this crisis.

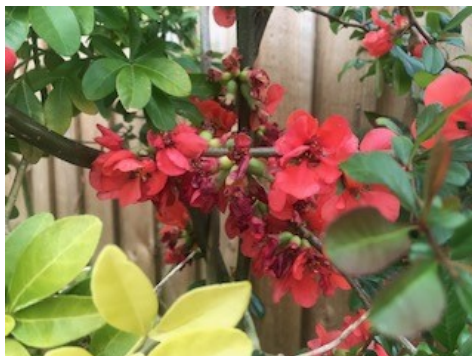
Martin

God's creation in my back garden...

I'm enjoying all this wonderful sunshine and observing God's creation in my back garden as flowers come and go.

Take care,

Elaine Leck



LIGHTING A CANDLE

To find the words for a prayer may be difficult,
We may not know what to say,
Our hearts may be too full for words,
We may be numb with worry.

Light a candle.

Let Jesus Christ who is the light of the world
speak for you.

Let the Holy Spirit bring the thoughts of your
heart to God.



Jesus said, *"I have come as a light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."* (John 8:12)

Lighting a candle is a prayer

When we have gone, it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered, for the sad, the sick, the suffering, for the peace of the world, and the prayers of thankfulness too.

Lighting a candle is a parable

Burning itself out, it gives light to others. Christ gave himself for others, he calls us to give ourselves.

Lighting a candle is a symbol

...of love and hope, of light and warmth. Our world needs them all.

Author Unknown

[Shared by Sally Nicholas]

Into His hand went mine

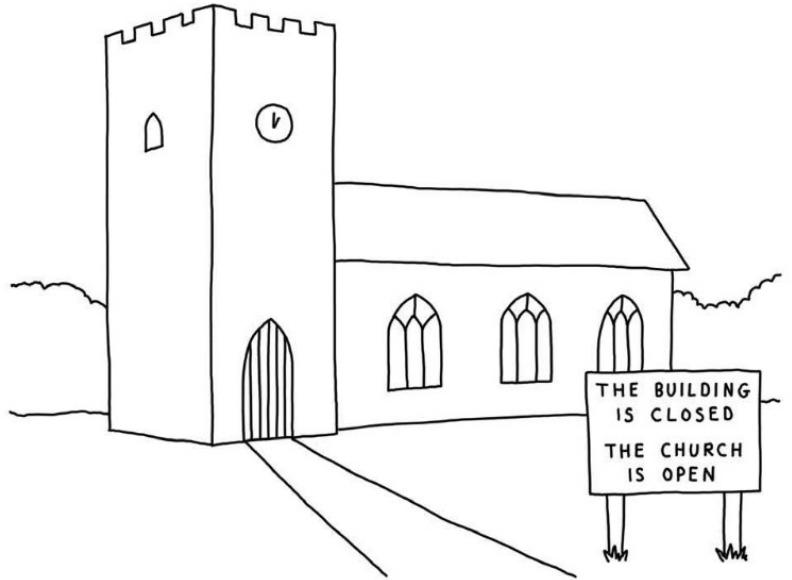
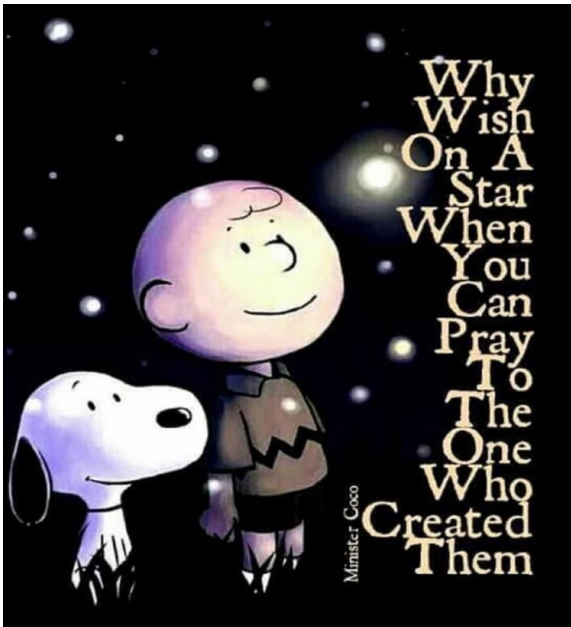
There is a poem, 'The Flowers from the Crown' from which one verse has been a comfort to our family over the years...

**Into His hand went mine,
Into my heart came He,
And I walk in the Light Divine,
The path that I feared to see.**

By George MacDonald

Sally Nicholas

“Be kind and tender-hearted”



“Most of life is rather ordinary, but we are supernaturally equipped with the power of God to live ordinary, everyday life in an extraordinary way.”

Joyce



A Prayer for Healing

Our God,

Your Word says You answer and deliver people when they call on Your name.

So we ask that You would heal and protect those who are sick or who are carrying the COVID-19 virus without knowing it.

Provide a cure for the Coronavirus, heal our economy, and bring a quick end to this darkness.

Whether healing comes today, next week, or next month, we believe You will heal our world. And we will continue to praise You, even as we wait for answers.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

YouVersion



"Be kind and tender-hearted"

CARRYING A CANDLE

Carrying a candle
from one little place of shelter
to another
is an act of love.

To move through the huge
and hungry darkness, step by step,
against the invisible wind
that blows for ever around the world,
carrying a candle,
is an act of foolhardy hope.



Surely it will be blown out:
the wind is contemptuous,
the darkness cannot comprehend it.
How much light can this tiny flame shed
on all the great issue of the day?
It is as helpless as a new-born child.

Look how the human hand,
that cradles it, has become translucent:
fragile and beautiful; foolish and loving.
Step by step.

The wind is stronger than this hand,
and the darkness infinite
around this tiny here-and-now flame,
that wavers, but keeps burning:
carried with such care
through an uncaring world
from one little place of shelter to another.
An act of love.

The light shines in the darkness
And the darkness can never put it out.

Jan Sutch Pickard

From my Celtic Daily Prayer on 20th April. It accompanies the Bible reading John 1:4-5,14.

love & prayers,
Lynne Davison

“Be kind and tender-hearted”



NOW The Food Hub has re-started with a **home delivery service** of pre-packed food parcels to clients and families in need, initially in the South Croydon, Coulsdon, Purley and Waddon postcode areas. This happens on Wednesday mornings only. We are open, on Wednesday mornings, between 10.00am-12.00noon to receive food donations at the front of Purley United Reformed Church.

At Purley Food Hub we provide food and other items to people in crisis. Please consider donating one or more of this month's priority items:

- Cartons of Long Life Whole Milk (*NOT skimmed milk thank you!*)
- Boxes/Packs of Tea Bags
- Bags of Sugar
- Tinned Ready Meals
- Tinned Pulses - Kidney Beans, Lentils, Chickpeas, etc
- Tinned Vegetables, including Sweetcorn
- Tins of Dessert Rice Pudding
- Tin Openers
- Small Washing Up Liquid
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Shower Gel

Please keep the Food Hub in your thoughts and prayers:

- For the safety of the volunteer drivers who will deliver the food parcels to people at home
- For the clients and families receiving the food
- For the clients and families in need who we are not able to help at this time - that they will receive help from others
- For Croydon Nightwatch, Croydon Food Bank, The Vine Food Bank, Croydon Voluntary Action, Croydon Council and the many others seeking to help people in need.

With our thanks and best wishes for your and your family's health and safe wellbeing at this time,

Steve Hunt - Admin Team

E: steve.purleyfoodhub@gmail.com

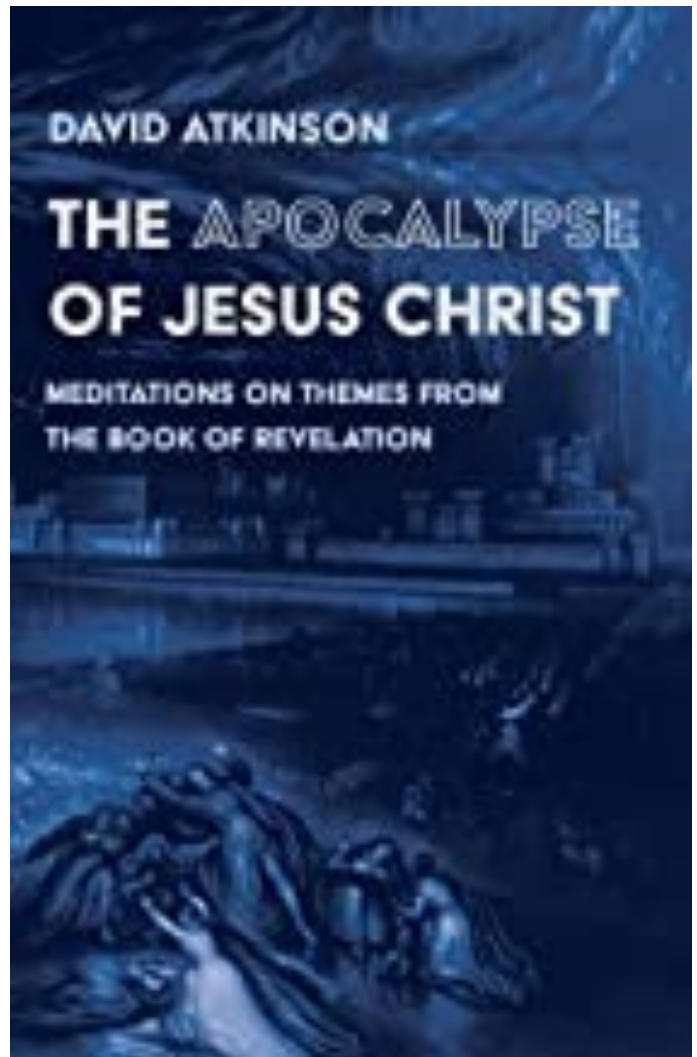
W: www.purleyfoodhub.net

A book by Bishop David Atkinson..

The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ: Meditations on themes from the Book of Revelation

A year ago, some of you came to the Lent Talks that I gave at the URC church on the Book of Revelation. I wrote the talks up into a little book, which has now been published by Wipf and Stock in America. It is called '*The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ: meditations on themes from the Book of Revelation*'.

In the book, I am seeking to provide a way into the Book of Revelation by selecting five key descriptions of Jesus Christ, as they are 'revealed' to the prophet, John. I try to expound their meaning, and their significance to the first readers of this circular letter, caught up in their struggles of living faithfully for Christ in the godless Roman Empire. Then I try to tease out their significance also for today's Christians faced with the allurements of other gods and other 'empires' in our day. You can buy it online at Amazon and other on-line distributors.



If anyone would like a copy for **half the published price** (i.e. for £7 instead of £14), **I have 10 copies available - it would have to be first come first served!**

As I am dutifully 'locked-down' at the moment, Jeremy Groombridge has kindly said that he could get a copy to you if you want to telephone him 020 8668 7795, or email him grmbj@aol.com and ask him for one. Jeremy will do his best to deliver them personally (doorstep delivery in order to ensure social distancing).

David Atkinson

"Be kind and tender-hearted"

Courgette Plants looking for good homes...

In case anyone might be searching for....

I have 14 Courgette Plants looking for good homes.....

Marc Smith



Read the titles (left to right)!



They are all actual titles! Best wishes and keep well,

Marc and Fanny

For the beauty of the earth

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends
above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

4 For yourself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely given,
agent of God's grand design:
peace on earth and joy in
heaven.

Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

I have just been out for a walk
and the hymn "For the Beauty of
the earth, for the beauty of the
skies" struck me as very
poignant.

[Shared by Sue Lawrence]

We will remember them...

Armed Forces
We will remember them.

Bus Drivers,
We will remember them,

Carers,
We will remember them.

Delivery Drivers & Milkmen,
We will remember them.

Funeral Directors,
We will remember them.

The Government,
We will remember them.

All Key Workers,
We will remember them.

NHS workers Doctors, Nurses,
We will remember them.

Pharmacists,
We will remember them.

Police, Ambulance staff, Firemen
We will remember them.

Refuse Collectors,
We will remember them.

Royal Mail Staff,
We will remember them.

Supermarket workers,
We will remember them.

Shop keepers,
We will remember them.

Teachers,
We will remember them.

Train Drivers,
We will remember them.

Truck Drivers,
We will remember them.

All Volunteers,
We will remember them.

We will remember all of them in our
daily prayers. Amen.

Sue Lawrence

These are the hands

Michael Rosen

for the 60th anniversary of the NHS

These are the hands
That touch us first
Feel your head
Find the pulse
And make your bed.

These are the hands
That tap your back
Test the skin
Hold your arm
Wheel the bin
Change the bulb
Fix the drip
Pour the jug
Replace your hip.

These are the hands
That fill the bath
Mop the floor
Flick the switch
Soothe the sore
Burn the swabs
Give us a jab
Throw out sharps
Design the lab.

And these are the hands
That stop the leaks
Empty the pan
Wipe the pipes
Carry the can
Clamp the veins
Make the cast
Log the dose
And touch us last.

This was read out on Radio 4 early one morning in April 2020. I keep going back to re-read it – it strikes a chord with me and others might also like it.

Best wishes all round ...
Liz (St Ed's in the day!)

[Shared by Liz Lomax]

From John & Barbara...

We include greetings from John and Barbara Apostolides in Australia.

John says,

I thoroughly enjoyed the previous newsletter... It brought back so many lovely memories of our very happy and blessed eleven years, nine of which were so very close to All Saints, at Doble Court in Addington Road. Our daughter is a doctor in London. Her practice is in London but she lives in Croydon...

Best wishes and love from Barbara and me.

John Apostolides

From Sheila...

I do so enjoy the newsletter. It's so varied and a joy to read. I like the fact too that it's almost a book and lasts a long time to wile away the time.

Sheila Wilkie

From Gerie...

Thank you (for the newsletter). A real treat. Just like a bag of sweets.

Keep well and busy,

Gerie Knights

Something to Look Forward to...



During the recent days of some fine Spring weather, I have really appreciated this time of year after enduring the long dull months of winter.

Whilst thinking about my garden, in which I have spent some time recently, I was charmed by this quote from *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett that I came across. Many of you will be familiar with her book written in 1911.

"Is the spring coming?" he said "What is it like?"- "It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine ..."

What a delightful piece of imaginative writing that is, and it captures so well this season of the year, and the times we are living through.

At Easter of course we are reminded of another garden, and an empty tomb and Mary being surprised by a 'gardener'; a story that leaps from the deepest sorrow to the greatest elation when she is called by her name, "Mary".

And it is the 10 year old Mary in *The Secret Garden* story who, having suffered the loss of her parents in a cholera epidemic, who slowly comes back to life whilst working in her secret garden with her young friends, and in so doing brings back life to the crippled young son of the owner.

I think you can see the link between the garden stories.

It's an old fashioned and sentimental children's story I know, but worthy none the less; a story of redemption and the possibility of new beginnings that is also part of the Easter message for us.

Like Mary in the picture, we have the 'key' of Easter in our hands as we open the door and look towards a new and brighter light.

"The Secret Garden" film has been re-made recently and was due for release early this April but has been put back until August due to the pandemic. It stars Colin Firth and Julie Walters and for garden lovers who may be interested, filming was shot in Iford Manor Gardens near Bath and the National Trust site of Bodnant Gardens near Conwy North Wales and also at Woodhall Estate Hertfordshire, Trebah Gardens Cornwall, Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens Dorset, Puzzlewood Forest of Dean and Helmsley Walled Garden in North Yorkshire.

Hopefully it will be worthwhile viewing, and something to look forward to ...

David Chillman

"Be kind and tender-hearted"

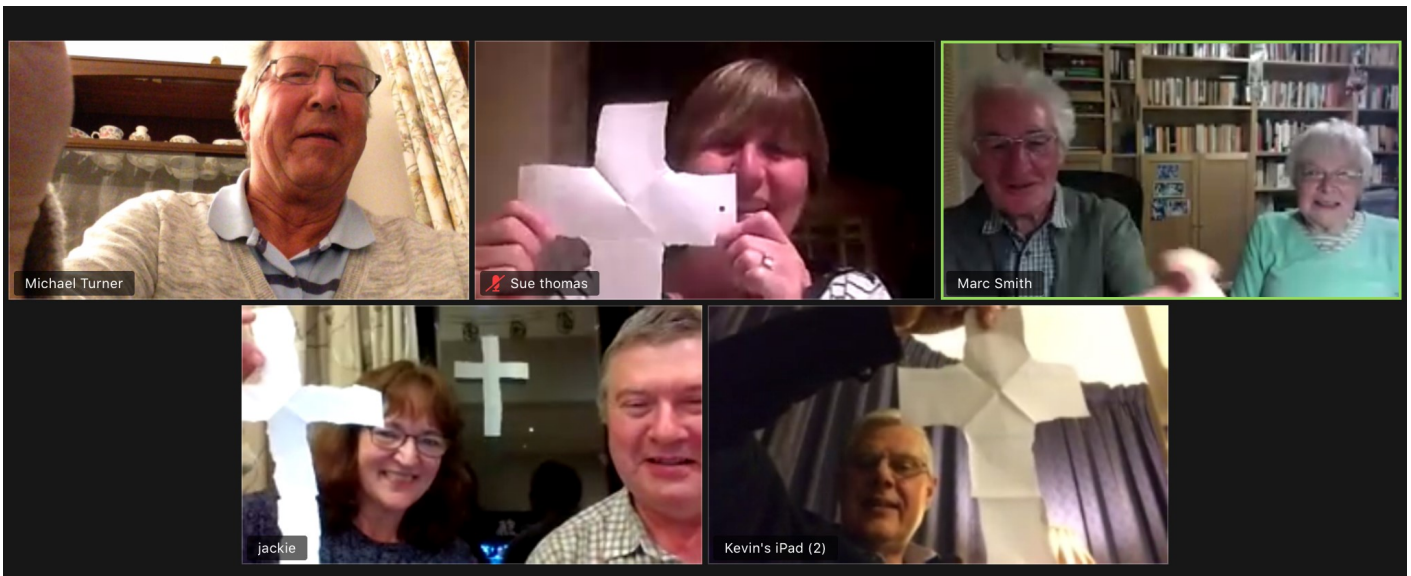
The Rectory Park Home Group

Do hope you are enjoying being out in the sunshine - best medicine.

Here is a screen shot of the Rectory Park Home Group. We finished our session on 'Christ and the Chocolaterie' with some origami thanks to Jackie.

Keep safe everyone,

Michael Turner



And some jokes ...

A priest, an imam and a rabbit walked into a bar, and the rabbit said, 'I might be a typo'.

Why are there no aspirins in the jungle?

The para-cet-em-ol

In our area a thief has been stealing T-shirts in size order.

Police say he's still at large.

[Shared by Martin]



Day 4 of social distancing: Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

[Sheila Wilkie]

[Michael Turner]

Me: Grandma, we running out of toilet paper

Grandma:



Tony Robinson

"Be kind and tender-hearted"

~~SUN~~DAY
~~MON~~DAY
~~TUE~~SDAY
~~WEDNES~~DAY
~~THUR~~SDAY
~~FRI~~DAY
~~SATUR~~DAY

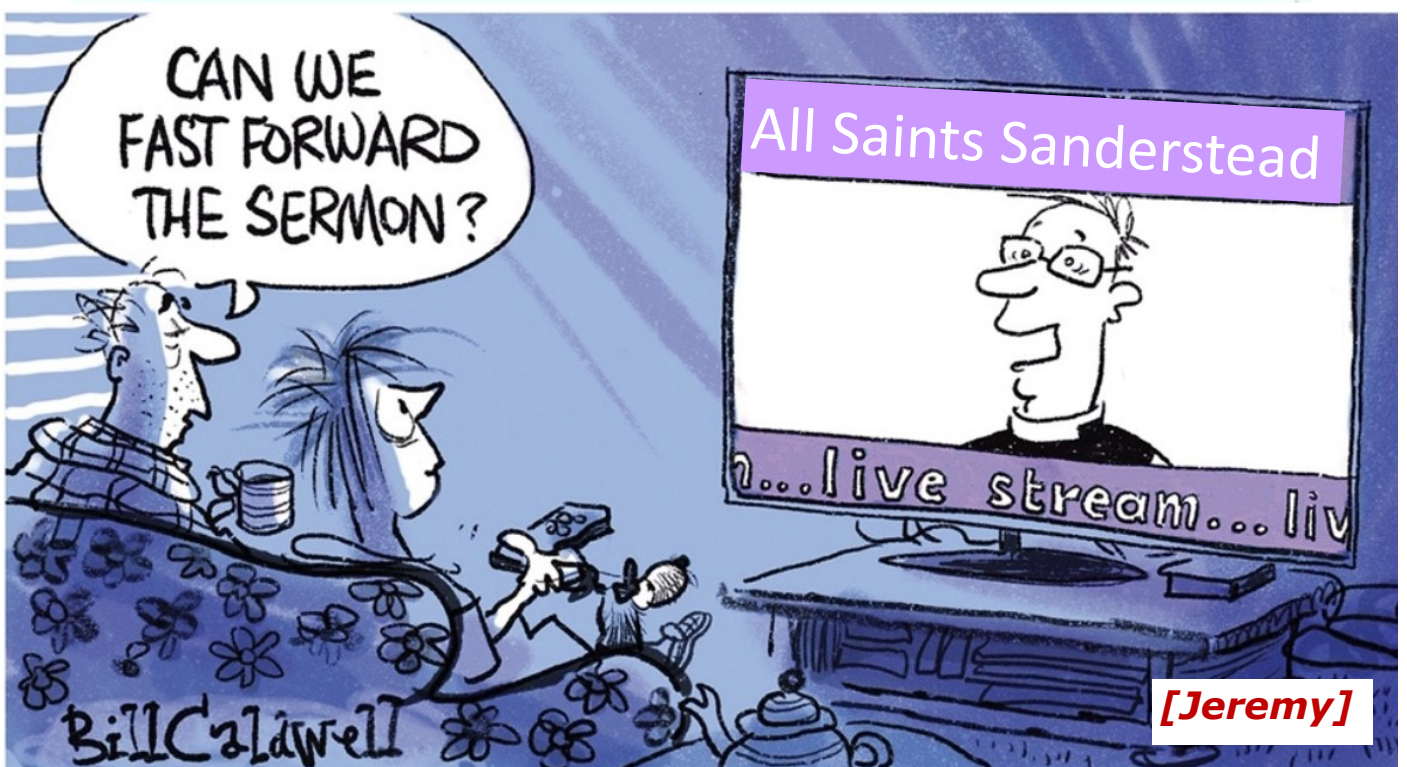
Did you wash your paws?



[Sheila Wilkie]



[Mary Courtney]



[Jeremy]

“Be kind and tender-hearted”

Please go to our website for all services, including Bible Studies, Easter services and meditations, prayers, updates:

www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

Although the church building is closed for Sunday Worship, the Church of Jesus Christ is very much alive.

Website:

www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk

Phone:

020 8657 1366

Email:

rector@sanderstead-parish.org.uk



*Martin Greenfield, Rector
Sanderstead Parish*

Just a reminder...

All of us can be a target for SCAMS. Be vigilant and never give out bank details to a stranger.

From me to you...

As and when you can, continue to send your articles, news, thoughts, to: admin@sanderstead-parish.org.uk

Keep In Touch newsletters will be published periodically, when we have enough material.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

With love,

Rosanne Morris
Rector's Admin Assistant
Tel: 020 8657 0665

