

12th May 2020

# KEEP IN TOUCH

# Newsletter No.5



**VE Day Special Edition**



## Choosing to feed the right horse...

Following Boris's address on Sunday evening, we are still directed to stay at home, in order to prevent the virus spreading. He gave the 'shape of a plan, a sketch of a road map for the way ahead' but we still need to reverse the epidemics in care homes and hospitals. Let us be praying for those who will go back to commuting and their daily work, as they will need to be especially vigilant and alert to protect themselves from the virus.

Churches will remain closed, though the Bishop of Southwark has given permission for the clergy to go in occasionally for prayer; but there will be no services or church gatherings. We shall continue to record services in our homes. Thank you to all who have had a go at recording themselves reading the bible or a poem, leading worship, saying prayers, sharing in discussions, giving a talk, and so on. We all really appreciate your efforts, and it's great to see you!

Jeremy's sermon for our VE Commemoration Service encouraged us in our daily struggles, with the amazing hope of Romans 7:25, Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Jeremy used the picture of two horses pulling us in opposite directions. One horse is our Christianity – we want to follow Jesus, be faithful and hopeful. The other horse is our Human Nature – we can be anxious, fearful, lazy and selfish. Which horse is winning? The answer is, the horse I choose to feed, because it is stronger.

Are we choosing 'to feed the right horse'? We do this by setting aside time for God. We read from the Bible and think how to apply it practically in our lives; we wait quietly in prayer to give God our attention; we share our thoughts and feelings with God, and bring our requests to him.

Please do take this seriously. Living as a Christian always has its struggles. We only succeed if we feed our Christianity properly, regularly and with perseverance. Here are three suggestions for you to consider. I do not of course mind what spiritual helps you use; but do use something, to feed your Christianity!

**Read, ponder and re-read Philippians 4:4-10** (see next page). Revisit this passage over a few days, to know the peace of God.

**Use the app, 'Pray as You Go'** <https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/>  
This provides 12-15 minutes of music, Bible and reflection each day. It's always positive.

**Or, consider Taketime Journey Meditations** (online) <https://taketime.org.uk> Listen as someone tells a story of Jesus from the gospels, and invites us to enter into it. It's simple, and helps us to make real our relationship with Jesus.

With love and prayers,  
**Martin**

## Philippians 4:4-10...

### In the NIV...

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

### And in The Passion Translation (TPT)...

<sup>4</sup> Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let joy overflow, *for you are united with the Anointed One!* <sup>5</sup> Let gentleness be seen in every relationship, for our Lord is ever near.

<sup>6</sup> Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell him every detail of your life, <sup>7</sup> then God's wonderful peace that transcends human understanding, *will make the answers known to you* through Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> So keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic and real, honourable and admirable, beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind. And fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God, praising him always. <sup>9</sup> *Follow the example* of all that we have imparted to you and the God of peace will be with you in all things.

<sup>10</sup> My heart overflows with joy when I think of how you showed your love to me *by your financial support of my ministry*. For even though you have so little, you still continue to help me at every opportunity.

# RECOLLECTIONS OF VE DAY....

Several of our people have vivid recollections of VE Day celebrations on 8 May 1945.

Eric and Hylda Forshaw remember bonfires being lit on the streets, using anything that would burn including fences, and even wooden toilet seats! The resultant fire damaged the tarmac, but perhaps that didn't matter so much as there were far fewer cars in those days! Eric also remembers the sound of church bells ringing out for the first time in five years, without signaling an imminent invasion. But for many, the war was far from over - Eric and Hylda still had family members engaged in the war in the Far East. And Aldwyn Jones remembers marching on VE Day in Qatar, en route to Singapore.

Many local people, like Marian Maddock, travelled up to London to join the crowds thronging Trafalgar Square and gathering outside Buckingham Palace to see the King, Churchill, and other members of the Royal Family appearing on the balcony.

Michael Carpenter remembers a street party being set up in Valley Walk, Shirley where he lived...

*"There were two areas for tables, one at the top of the road to the small roundabout and more tables at the bottom part of the road. All the men obtained tables and arranged them in the centre of the road and then the ladies laid the tables with a collection of tablecloths from the neighbours, and laid cutlery and glassware. I don't think there were any balloons, but certainly there were decorations such as buntings and flowers. As an eleven and a half year old boy at the time I was unaware of the food presented, but we must remember that there was strict rationing. Certainly spam and corned beef would have been available, but any other meat would have been difficult. Sandwiches would have been made by the ladies. As far as fish was concerned, there was a local MacFisheries and a United Dairies in the local shops. Drinks included lemonade and water, beer - maybe - wine - probably - but some alcoholic drink for the toasts could have come out of reserves!!! If I am correct, the celebrations went well, and if I can remember, we did have some brief rain after the lunch."*

“Never give up, never despair”

Although most 75th anniversary events had to be cancelled, it didn't stop people marking the occasion. Alan and Susan Roberts, seen here, gave a salute to the dads and grandparents who fought or kept the home fires burning.



Alan & Sue Roberts

And proud Mum, Sheila Wilkie, sent this picture of her carer daughter, Sue, with one of her very special clients, Ken. She took him to Caterham Drive for the two minutes silence, where there were at least 100 people to greet him and burst into a long round of applause. Lots of people spoke to him (observing social distancing rules) and thanked him for his war efforts. He was told he was a real superhero, and lots of photos were taken.

Sue (Sheila Wilkie's daughter) with Ken



Walter Groombridge, VE Day 1945  
Great grandfather of Jeremy Groombridge & Rosanne Morris



Holding Rosanne's mother, Ruth Groombridge, in his arms, and her sister, Margaret, beside him.

"Never give up, never despair"

## **My memories of V.E. Day by Margaret Quiney....**

I was born in 1942, so I was quite young during WWII, but I still have vivid memories of the sound of the siren, and being huddled together in the Morrison Shelter inside the house, or the Anderson Shelter in the garden, and waiting for the 'All Clear'. I do remember the Ration Books and where my Mum had to queue for the small amount of food that each family was allowed, and how we grew vegetables and kept chickens in our garden. Thankfully, all my family survived the bombing, although there was one occasion when our front bay window was blown in, and by a miracle, I was not in my highchair at that moment. My dad was the Chief Air Raid Warden in our village, and I still have his tin hat and uniform badges and medal.

Finally, when Victory in Europe was declared, all the neighbours in our village held a special VE Day Street Party. The photo shows me sitting at one of the party tables assembled in the road which was closed to traffic. Bunting flags hung from house to house. Food was short but each family produced something to share. At the end of this terrible war, when there was much suffering, and some fathers had been away from home for years, this VE Day celebration was a very happy occasion. Some people celebrated by travelling to London to dance and sing outside Buckingham Palace where King George VI lived with his family including Princess Elizabeth, his daughter, who is now our Queen. Everyone sang the National Anthem, which as we had a King as monarch, we sang "God save the King".

**Margaret**



"Never give up, never despair"

## Triumph and Sorrow on VE Day

“ Let us turn our thoughts to this day of ... triumph and ... sorrow.”

Winston Churchill



“ Let us remember those who will not come back...let us remember the men in all the services, and the women in all the services, who have laid down their lives. We have come to end of our tribulation and they are not with us at the moment of our rejoicing.”

King George VI



## VE Day 2020

*"We are a free people because of everything they did. We will be eternally grateful."*

Boris Johnson

*'Never give up, never despair'*

The Queen

## Act of Rededication

They fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction.

Will you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?

**With the help of God, we will.**

They fought for justice, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies.

Will you work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope?

**With the help of God, we will.**

They struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom.

Will you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities you have with gratitude and humility?

**With the help of God, we will.**

May almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them.

**Amen.**

## A prayer for VE Day 2020...

Click here for the musical version...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0MJA-1lhjc&feature=youtu.be>

**Lord God our Father,  
We pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind,  
in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit;  
give us wisdom;  
give us courage;  
give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always.  
Amen**



## A note from Croydon Refugee Day Centre



At the start of the Crisis I made plans, changed plans, changed them again.....and as things were changing so quickly eventually just gave up making plans and decided we'd just have to play it by ear.

The first few weeks saw us making up food parcels and toiletry packs for Asylum Seekers who were still being dispersed. But as these people were unable to come to us we took them in to the various local hostels for our colleagues at Migrant Help to pass on to people as they were leaving. Likewise we took in baby changing bags for the pregnant women due to give birth; and new underwear and socks to be distributed as necessary. Toys books, and games were gratefully received by the families with children.

We then started responding to various requests for clothing for individuals sent to us by Migrant Help.

As the lockdown continued and more and more people were self-isolating, the lack of Wi-Fi, TV's and radios in the hostel rooms led to extreme feelings of despondency not least because of people's inability to stay informed. So we've got an appeal out for digital radios to pass on to those without. Indeed today, one of our volunteers used her 'exercise time' to cycle round and collect a couple of radios and deliver them to two people who felt very alone. If your church was able to pick up on this appeal, I would be very grateful.

We've also started seeing some clients from the community by appointment [and at a distance!] who need help in some form or another. One chap this week was told his application for support had been approved by the Home Office, and he's due to be picked up and taken to some form of accommodation from the Church within the next 14 days. We gave him some money to keep his phone topped up to ensure he can stay in touch with the H.O. Another chap who had been released from Detention needed an emergency supply of food and cooking utensils as his support was delayed. And a pregnant client with mental health issues who was in an abusive relationship was put in temporary accommodation by the council for safety reasons. After liaising with her Community Psychiatric Nurse we were able to provide her with some bed linen and cooking equipment, and gave her some Tesco vouchers to buy some maternity clothing.

More Supermarket Gift vouchers to help those in need would be really welcome.

We've joined more than a hundred other organisations in writing to the Chancellor and the Home Secretary asking for more support to be given to Refugees and Asylum Seekers during the pandemic.....and we're waiting to see what happens.

I've no idea what exactly we'll do next week.....all I can say is we'll continue to try to meet whatever needs we can.

Best wishes to everyone at All Saints.

**Peter**

Peter D. Hall  
Part-time Co-Ordinator  
Mobile: 077969 75886

Croydon Refugee Day Centre  
Registered Charity No. 1064465

If anybody would like to make a donation directly into our CRDC bank account, we could buy the vouchers and other supplies that are needed...

Our bank account details are as follows:  
A/c name: Refugee Day Centre  
Sort Code: 56-00-46  
A/C Number: 58814442

Again, many thanks for your support.  
Peter



## News update from Sugandh New Delhi

Project Director, Mrs David, is a nurse, and is well placed to know how to describe the effects of this virus clearly to the communities who love and respect her, and they will certainly listen to her words of advice. People are very worried about the spread of coronavirus especially in slum communities, which present a fertile place for any virus to spread like wild fire. Everyone lives in small homes packed close

together and it is very hard to maintain basic hygiene standards. From what Mrs David says, there is at least a sense of order on the surface. It could be of course that with no-one being tested at any scale and certainly not in the slums, it is not possible to really know what is going on.

The team have been making and distributing handmade face masks. The masks are crucially required as many families do not have any or even the money to buy them. The team have been making them at home.

The Sugandh team are also currently trying to provide the people in the communities they serve with basic provisions. Their first priority is to reach those who do not have any food at all and also do not have their Delhi Aadhar (Ration) Card. This is an ID card to obtain the basic ration, free basic necessities like rice and flour.

Through the local Government, the poor are being provided with meals twice a day, served daily in a government school where they can also receive rations on some days in the week. But the main issue is that people do not want to walk to the government school, as it is situated a long way away from their homes. Additionally many people in the communities where Sugandh works, do not have a Delhi Ration Card which is compulsory to show in order to receive the food. Sugandh employs an Area Outreach Worker who is able to distribute some food to those in real need.

For prayers:

1. That those who really need support will be able to get it from the Sugandh team.
2. Please pray that there are no outbreaks of Covid 19 in the slums. The homes are basically simple huts, packed very close together, so the chances of the virus spreading there are very high.
3. Pray that there will be protection for Mrs David and her team and that everyone will be kept fit and well.
4. Pray also for Mrs David's family to be kept safe.

Thank you so much for all your prayers! Blessings,

**Mrs Thangtei David**

“Never give up, never despair”



**Mrs David sewing face masks**



**Completed handmade face masks**



**Sugandh team member preparing cloth**



**Sugandh counsellor providing food**



**Sugandh counsellor providing food**

## A note regarding Church Finances...

Our income for April was considerably lower than the first quarter. Not only are we down on halls lettings, but also Plate and envelope giving, donations to Coffee Pot and Toddlers whilst in lock down.

Our outgoings are also down by comparison with the first quarter, but not to the same degree.

### **Some of us are not spending so much money as before...**

Because of lockdown, we have not been to a pub or coffee shop or restaurant, or a football match or a concert or a show or a garden centre; we've not gone on trips to the seaside (or to see friends or family) or away on holiday. One consequence of this is that some of us have saved quite a bit of money, and what will we do with it? As Christians, we believe that everything we have is God's so it's good to pray before we make our decisions.

I do realise of course that this is not true for everybody, and some are finding life tough financially. Please do let me know if we can help in any way.

Because of COVID 19, many missions and charities are losing important income—so are churches, including ours here in Sanderstead. Do have a look at what our treasurer, Michael Turner, has to say about our finances. Nobody should feel any pressure but, if we are able to give something extra, that will help us a lot and we shall be very grateful.

Thank you,  
*Martin*

We would be very happy to receive Gift Aid envelopes and any cash donations people might feel able to make. Post in the Church Halls' letter box, or if you wish us to collect it, let me know. Grateful to receive additional donations (see Martin's appeal above). BACS transfer is the safest way. Please email: [allsaints.treasurer@sanderstead-parish.org.uk](mailto:allsaints.treasurer@sanderstead-parish.org.uk) for account details.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

**Michael Turner**  
All Saints' Treasurer

“Never give up, never despair”

## A note from the Turners...

Ann and I have enjoyed some walks and garden this week, and look forward to more of the same next week.

We were with everyone in spirit this morning (Sun 3rd May).

Lots of love,

**Michael Turner**



Our walk this morning on Purley Downs Golf Club. Very peaceful. No planes overhead.



## The little family living at the Pond...

I took my car out for the first time since the Lockdown on 29 April and drove up Sanderstead Hill to head towards Warlingham. The car in front of me stopped as it was about to head down Limpsfield Road but it had stopped about 10 yards in front of the crossing. Three ladies crossed the road in front of the car and then stopped to say something to the lady driver. I couldn't believe my eyes as I could then see Mother Duck and her tribe of about a dozen very young chicks who had just crossed the road. They had obviously taken off by themselves across the road and the very kind ladies had shepherded them back to the pond.

It was a wet and miserable day, but it was such a joy to see them that it brightened it up. I decided I would return on foot the following day with a camera to see if I could see them again.

I was not disappointed, although the beautiful Heron who I have seen on a few occasions was not there to photograph, the ducks were, and they were rushing around enjoying life in Sanderstead.



There were a few people out walking who were also thoroughly enjoying the little family living at the Pond.

### Sylvia Smith



## Thoughts from Judith Shone...

### **The story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer...**

As we turned on the radio this morning, I was enthralled listening to the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It brought back happy memories of hearing it the first time at university. I was lucky to gain a place at Whiteland's College in Putney London. I lived in, as home was the North of England. As I listened to it, memories flooded back of sounding the chapel bells to call us to worship, sharing meals at the long dining tables in the hall, lessons in various other parts of the college. Friendships gained and jelled...

As the story of Bonhoeffer, I thought of those days and remembered many happy times. The college building has changed but it still retains its Anglican foundation which I value, being brought up by a family that worshipped regularly.

We all have made a mark on our various lives. Thank the Lord that we can tell our tales and have happy memories, and hope that individually we have transferred these to our own children.

Keep us strong in our faith,  
**Judith**

### **Thoughts as we meditate and share each other's problems, joys and the big wide world...**

We are grateful for living in a relatively unspoilt area, surrounded by trees showing off their spring beauty, birds visiting our quiet gardens, friends and peace and quiet. One can say a quick hello to a passer-by, watch the chicks on the Gruffy Pond being kept in order by the spring-time heron, the joy of the sound of children's voices, a quick hello over the fence and the constant reminder of our faith in the spire of the church.

Peace is precious. We should aim to always remember these spring days when we had time to reflect; they won't always be here. As we lay our heads to sleep, we remember those who have preceded us, those who are beginning their lives and the pleasure of knowing however difficult we find the times away from close friends, we thank each other for the time they have spent with us, and pray that we will soon to be together again.

Peace,  
**Judith**

“Never give up, never despair”

## Make your own mask

With news suggesting that we may have to wear face masks when lockdown eases in certain circumstances, I have been making face masks (now that I am running out of things to do!). They are made from fabric, and lined so that you can tuck a filter inside (it suggests a coffee filter).

If anyone would like me to make them a mask please let me know. I have lots of fabric (plain, striped, spotted, stars!) but I may run out of elastic so if you have any, that would be appreciated. They come in 3 sizes; men, women/teenagers and children aged 7-12.

**Judith Robinson**

Tel: 02086574679 or [judithofsanderstead@gmail.com](mailto:judithofsanderstead@gmail.com)



## The church and the super moon...



For those folks who don't go out in the evenings these days.

*Martin Winter*

*May 2020*



## I think the lock-down is getting to me...

Do you remember this character from R L Stevenson's "Treasure Island"?



If you can't, his name was Ben Gunn, and he was an ex-crew member of Captain Flint's who had been marooned for three years on Treasure Island by his mates after his failure to find the treasure without the map. He first appears in the novel when Jim Hawkins encounters him.

What on earth made you think of Ben Gunn I hear you ask? Well, one look at Ben's hairstyle should give you a clue - I spotted him in the mirror the other morning. Well I guess I'm not the only one in need of a haircut at the moment.

Returning to Ben's story - during his time alone on the island, he apparently developed an obsessional craving for cheese and as Sue and I seem to be getting through substantial amounts of Cathedral City and Pilgrim's Choice recently, I believe being marooned at home is beginning to have the same effect on us.

So if you are beginning to feel somewhat cheesed-off at the moment, then there might well be a very good reason for it

In conclusion, I would like to dedicate this article to G K Chesterton who once lamented that "*Poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese.*" I hope that I have done him a service, if rather belatedly.

**David Chillman**

"Never give up, never despair"



*"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."*

**Shared by Sheila Wilkie**

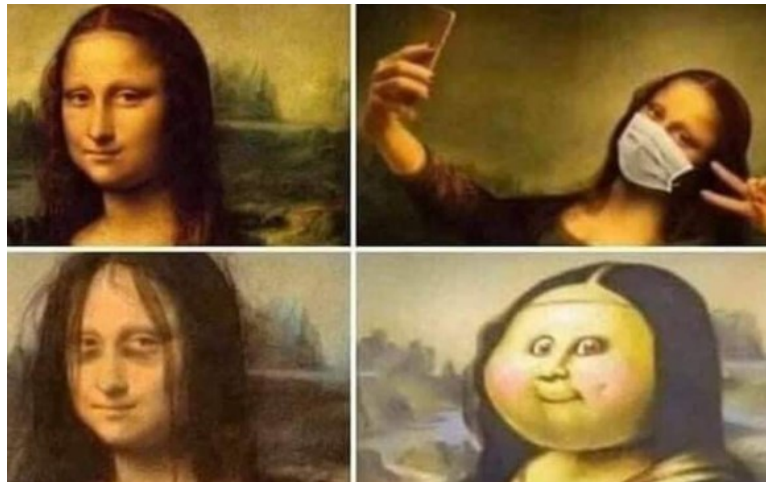


Kings Wood

"Never give up, never despair"

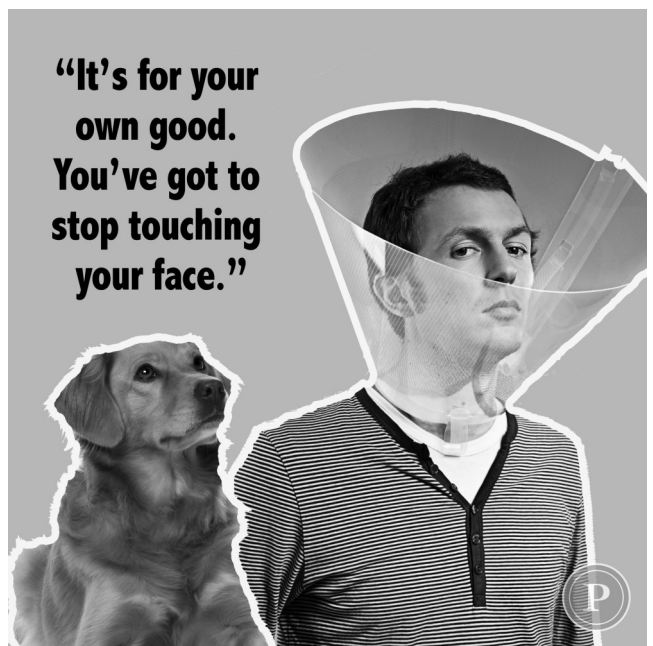


**PEOPLE WALKING INTO BARBER SHOPS WHEN THE QUARANTINE ENDS**



**EVEN THE**

**SEAGULLS GET IT**



**"It's for your own good. You've got to stop touching your face."**

Sending out virtual, socially distanced, respectful, heartfelt hugs to everyone right now!



**THE QUARANTINE IS OVER!**

**Now how we gonna get out?**



“Never give up, never despair”



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

Last Sunday, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Details of what is available to listen to are below.

Archbishop Justin Welby answers your call with a short message followed by a choice of options:

Press 1 to listen to hymns we love with a series of short talks based on the well-loved hymn.

Press 2 to listen to a different daily hymn.

Press 3 for the Prayers which are specific for the Coronavirus pandemic.

Press 4 to hear options 5 to 7:

Press 5 to hear a Church of England weekly Service.

Press 6 to join in with traditional Morning and Evening Prayers.

Press 7 to hear the latest Government advice on the Coronavirus pandemic.

Press 0 to hear the first menu.

**Shared by Rosemary Kempell**

A green rectangular box containing the text "God be with you Till we meet again" written in a black, elegant cursive script.

"Never give up, never despair"

## ***We'll meet again***

Don't know where, don't know when,  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.  
Keep smiling through  
Just like you always do  
'Til the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away.

So will you please say "Hello" to the folks that I know,  
Tell them I won't be long;  
They'll be happy to know that as you saw me go,  
I was singing this song.

*We'll meet again,  
Don't know where, don't know when,  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.*

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

[Vera Lynn singing]



“Never give up, never despair”

Please go to our website for all services, including Bible Studies, meditations & prayers...

[www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk](http://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](http://www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk)

**Phone:**

020 8657 1366

**Email:**

[rector@sanderstead-parish.org.uk](mailto:rector@sanderstead-parish.org.uk)

*Martin Greenfield, Rector*

*Sanderstead Parish*



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

