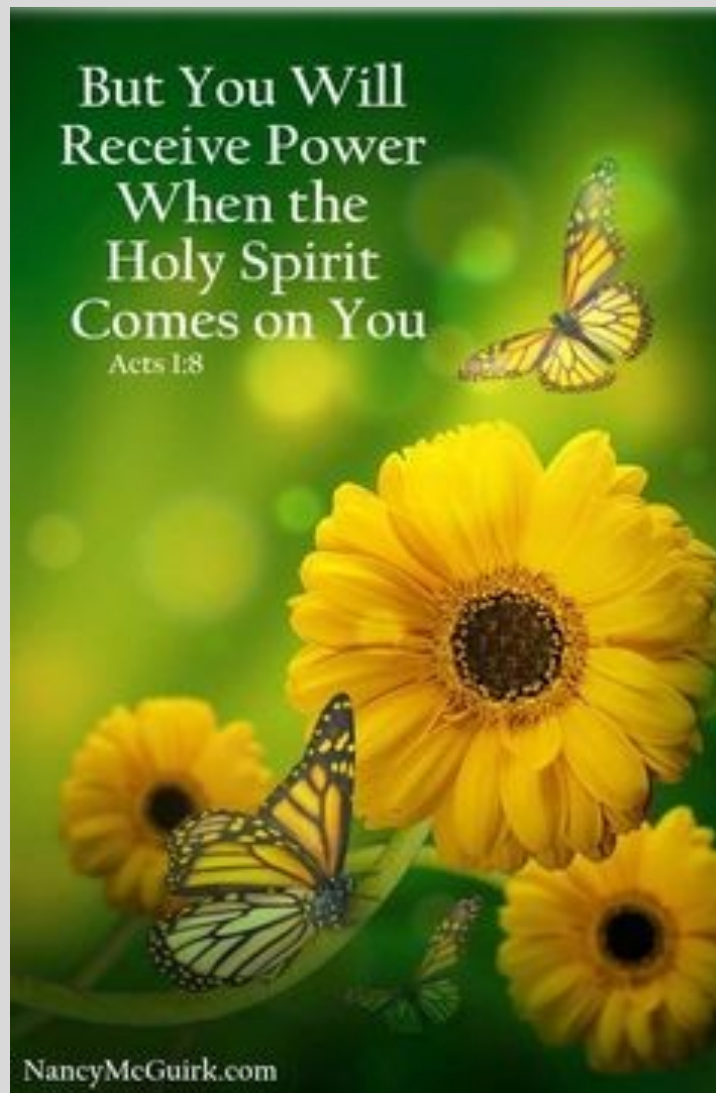


29th May 2020

KEEP IN TOUCH

Newsletter No.6

Pentecost



Return to Church? PART ONE

Since the COVID 19 lockdown, Christian churches have been closed and we do not know when we will again be allowed to hold meetings and services of worship. We don't know when – but we do know, not yet.

The Church of England Bishops speak of a three-stage process of returning to our churches.

Stage 1. Clergy may enter churches as necessary, particularly for prayer. We are in Stage 1. Paid staff and churchwardens may enter, as necessary.

Stage 2. When government restrictions are eased, the bishops will permit churches to be open if we wish for private prayer. The Bishop of Southwark has said that this is unlikely to be before Saturday 4 July.

Stage 3. As government guidance permits, churches may open for 'carefully regulated public worship in the longer term'. We cannot predict when this might be. The move to re-open schools has shown how complex this will be. The Church Council has begun to get plans ready in preparation. Please note that we shall not be rushed in this, and the bishops recognise that different churches will go at a different rate. We shall be very careful as we go ahead.

Last week's letter from the Diocese's Archdeacons allows churches to open their halls for Nurseries and Pre-schools. St Edmund's and St Antony's have been approached by their pre-schools, and have begun conversations with their leaders about when and how this will work. Risk assessments will have to be carried out, and rigorous hygiene precautions will be taken.

Return to Church? PART TWO

As we look forward to the day in the future when we may begin to re-open, we do need seriously to consider what GOD has to say.

While praying recently, a woman felt she had a picture from the Lord. In it, lots of Christian leaders were seated around a table, holding all their plans for what they were going to do once they could return to their church buildings. Jesus was at the head of the table. As they sat there, Jesus took all their plans away, then handed out his own plans. He told them to listen to him, and he would give the churches his directions.

Here are four Theological Questions we need to consider, before we get on with any practicalities:

- ◆ What has God been saying to his church during this time of COVID pandemic?
- ◆ What does it mean to be the Church of God in this place, in 2020?
- ◆ How might God wish us to shape, and re-shape, the church?
- ◆ What does God value highly?

Why does all this matter? Quite simply, because we are the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and we exist to bring honour and glory to him alone.

You will receive Power when the Holy Spirit comes on you

One of the best Bible books to read on this is Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, where the apostle sets out the nature of the Church as planned and created by God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At Matthew 16:18, Jesus told his disciples, "I will build MY Church". In Ephesians, Paul says more of what it means that we are the Church of Jesus Christ. Let me highlight some points:

I would like you all to look up these verses and think about them.

Chapter One

We are 'saints' (v10), belonging not to ourselves, but to God. By God's plan, we are blessed (3), chosen (4), predestined to be God's children (5). This is all by his grace (2, 6, 7). Also in God's plan, the Church is key to the ultimate purpose that 'all things – earthly and heavenly – will be brought under one head, even Christ'. We his people exist 'for the praise of his glory' (12). Then, Paul prays: That God's people will know the Father better (17); that we will understand the hope God has given (18); that we will know just how amazingly great is the power that raised Christ from the dead (19-23). This first chapter is essential theology.

Chapter Two

What do we his people on earth exist for? See vv 8-10. Through Jesus Christ, God has saved us – by grace – in order that 'we should do the good works that God has prepared for us to do'. We are not following our own agenda, but creatively following God's agenda. Mission is centred on what God has done for us in Christ.

Chapter Three

Paul prays again. I recommend we all read, ponder and pray over vv 14-21. Paul's prayer is what he believes God wants for us most of all. He has already prayed in chapter one. Here his prayer is that: Christ will dwell in and among us. We will know the full extent of Christ's love (though it goes way beyond our understanding). We shall be 'filled to the measure of all the fullness of God'.

Chapters Four to Six

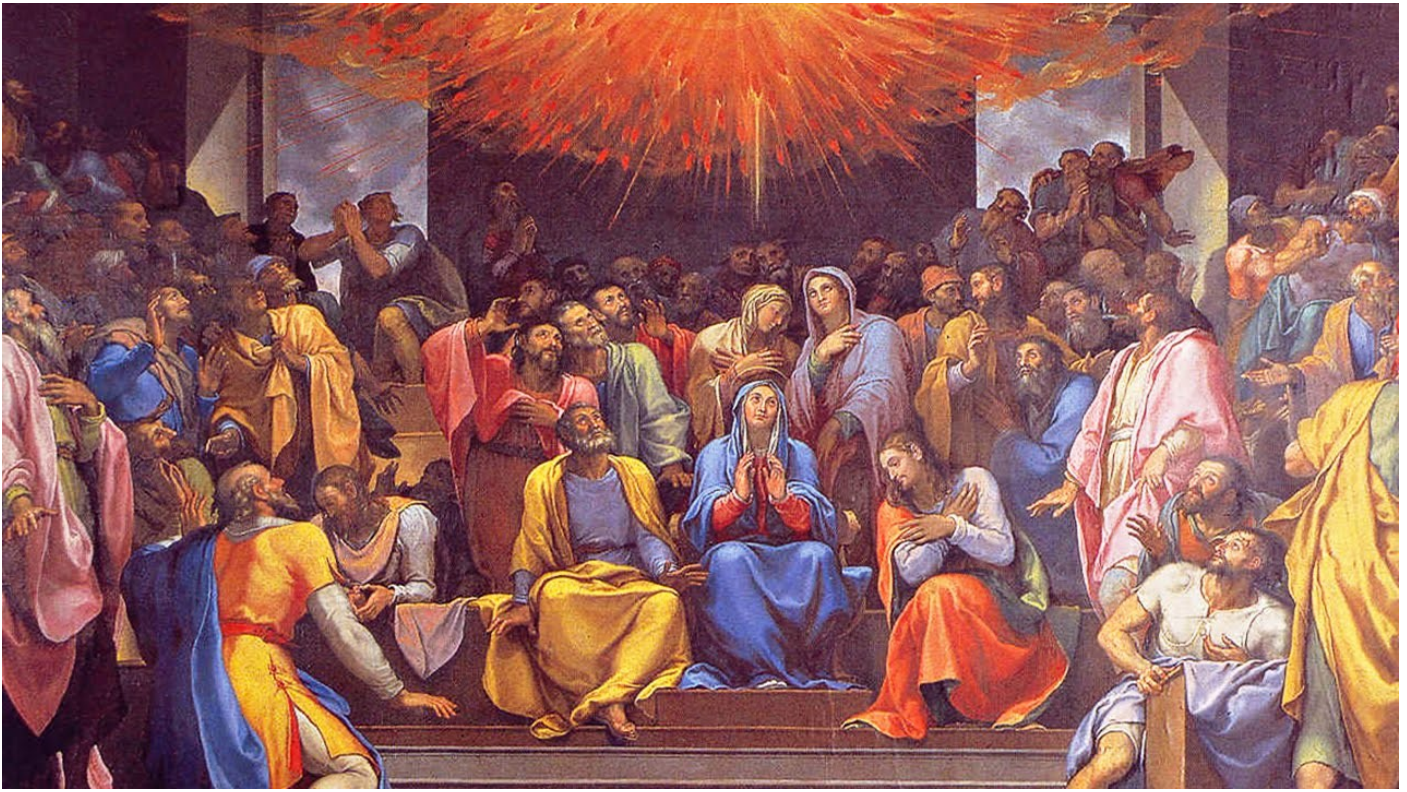
As we work out what this theology means in the way we live out being the church, Paul stresses the importance of our relationships, how we live together, as we submit to Christ (5:21).

The clergy, wardens and Church Council need much wisdom and grace in planning and preparing. Please do pray to the Lord, to show us HIS way for the future.

With love and prayers,
Martin



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AN INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Most powerful Holy Spirit,
come down
upon us
and subdue us.

From heaven,
where the ordinary
is made glorious,
and glory seems but ordinary,

bathe us
with the brilliance
of your light
like dew.

From Celtic Daily Prayer, Volume 1.

Shared by Lynne



God's Commission, God's Promise

Jesus..... gave his charge [to his disciples]: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life....."

(Matthew 28:18-20 MSG)

A commission coming from God,
a daily task coming from His Son:
sharing God's way of life,
instructing others in the example given by His Son.
A daunting task? An awesome responsibility?
A commission entrusted to the followers of Jesus.

But that was then.
Surely he doesn't mean now?
Surely he can't mean me?

My life as a reflection of yours, Lord,
shared with everyone I meet?
Encouraging others to follow your example
by showing them your way of life?
This task, this responsibility,
this instruction entrusted to me?

A commission comes from God,
a promise comes from His Son,
now, as then, to all His followers.

Angela Jones, May 2020

Jesus..... gave his charge [to his disciples]: ".....Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life....I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day...."

(Matthew 28:18-20 MSG)

ROYAL MAUNDY

Gerie Knights writes...

In the middle of November 2019 I received a letter which, at first sight looked like an invitation to the opening of a new retirement home in my area. I've had one or two of these before! However, on seeing the seal and inside address of the Lord High Almoner at Buckingham Palace, I realised my mistake. As I read through the contents of the letter, to my utter amazement, all became clear.

My name had been submitted by our Diocesan Bishop Christopher to be one of the recipients at the Royal Maundy service in St George's Chapel Windsor on 9th April 2020, during which Her Majesty The Queen would distribute Maundy gifts of specially-minted coins to each of the chosen 94 men and 94 women. I had been invited to bring one Companion (in my case, my husband) to look after me and sit beside me in the Chapel, and we were both invited to attend a Luncheon Reception in Windsor Castle following the service. We booked a room at a lovely hotel on the river. It was to be the treat of a lifetime.



How did I feel? Surprised, flattered, privileged, grateful, unworthy, humble, guilty (a lot of self-examination kicked in!). I have never before received such an honour. What had I done to deserve it? I felt shy about telling anyone for fear of being thought a braggard (which I sometimes am!). On reflection now, I am most grateful for having been part of a church family, the time I spent as our Parish Administrator, my Commissioning as a SPA and subsequent role as Croydon's Archdeaconry SPA and now as Diocesan SPA and representative on the new Lay

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Council. I thank God for all those who have nurtured and encouraged me over the years for it is because of them that I am so blessed.

The Royal Maundy Service goes back a very long way. We know of its origin in John's Gospel when, at the Last Supper, Jesus washed his disciples' feet and after Judas had betrayed him and left the Upper Room, Jesus gave them "a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you" These words are said by the Lord High Almoner as the service itself begins.

The practice of the Sovereign washing feet discontinued in the 18th Century. At that time the service was taken by the Lord High Almoner and officers of the Royal Almonry. In 1932 the giving of the Maundy gifts was resumed by King George V and has been carried on by each monarch ever since. To quote the notes of the Lord High Almoner sent to me as a background of this ancient tradition:

"The Royal Maundy Service is The Queen's service and follows a standard form of hymns, prayers, readings, anthems. During it Her Majesty goes into the congregation to give out the Maundy gifts. It is the only occasion when Her Majesty goes to the Recipients to present an honour rather than them going to her. Because it is a royal Service, rather than simply a cathedral or diocesan occasion, the Queen is attended by her own choir: the gentlemen and choristers of the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace. They can be seen every year on television at the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph in London."

To my great disappointment and, no doubt, to the other 187 recipients, the Royal Maundy service had to be cancelled because of Covid-19. The Queen sent each of us a letter expressing her disappointment also, as she said, "It is one of my most rewarding duties as Sovereign to observe this highly significant ceremony at such an important point in the Christian calendar."



When I read the letter to my husband, I cried. I was so looking forward to seeing our Queen face to face. However, it brought home to me the seriousness of this pandemic under which we are living and the drastic changes we are all having to make for the sake of those who serve us in so many ways - but especially those who are helping to keep us safe, nourished, encouraged and uplifted in these uncertain times. I know that Jesus's message to us - to love one another - is ringing true in our churches, communities, hospitals and care homes and our government and this includes our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth, Defender of our Faith.

Although I was unable to be in Windsor to receive the Royal Maundy from Her Majesty in person, I feel hugely privileged to have been chosen. I received the specially minted silver coins in the post, along with her letter. They will always remind me of this very unusual time when great sacrifices are being made by so many for the good of all.

Gerie

Feedback from VE Day...

The Scout Group's VE Day cake and Fancy dress competitions...

The cake was made by Rowan Palfrey (and his mum Sarah),
and the fancy dress was won by Robyn Middlemiss, who dressed as an evacuee.



Kate Balzer,
Group Scout Leader

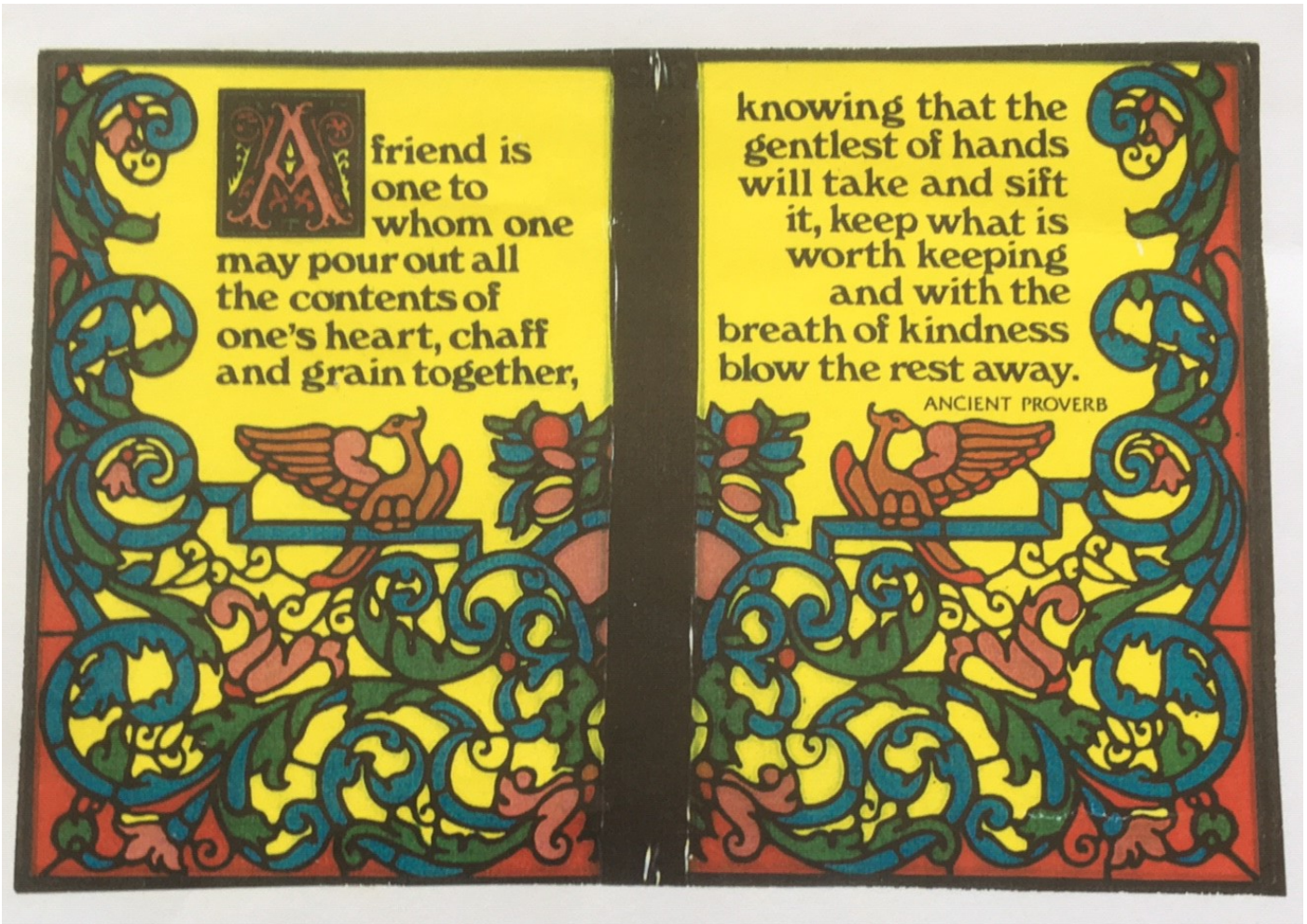
A note from Yvonne Taylor...

Thank you for such an interesting newsletter - it is so good to keep in touch with everything...

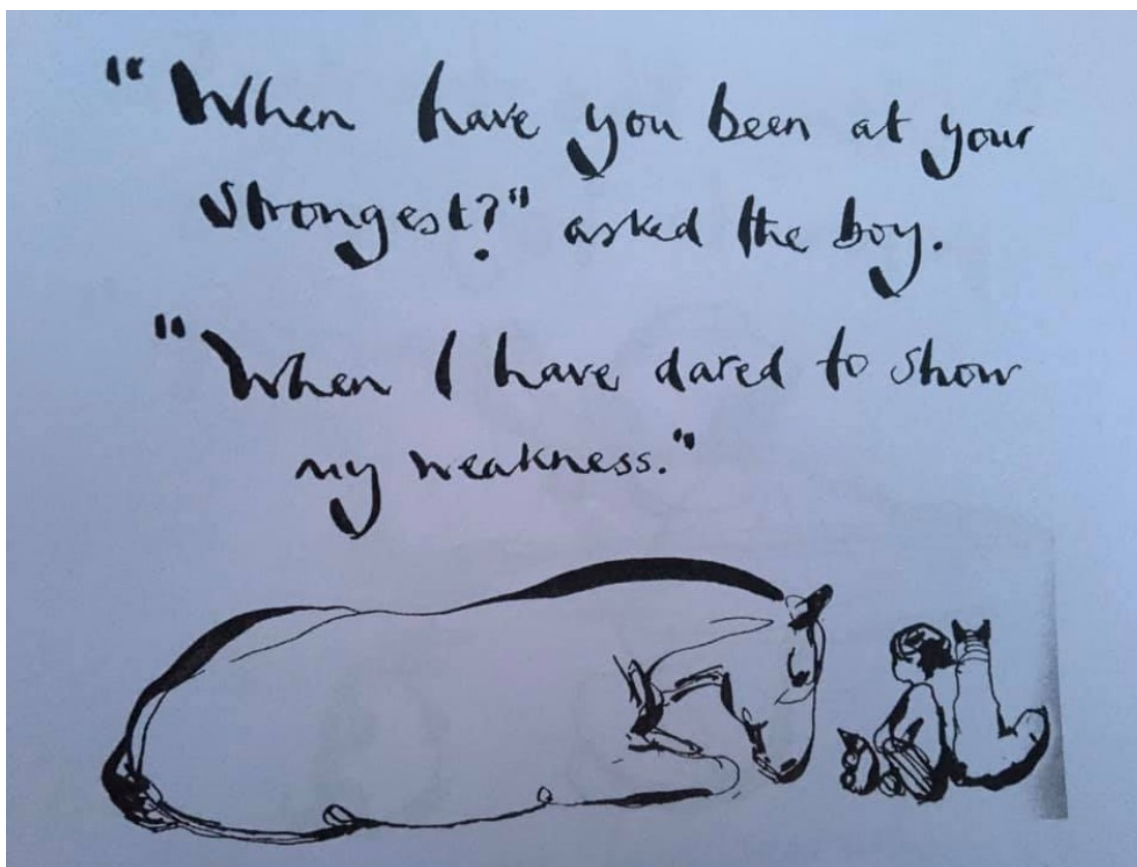
Although I was 7 when the war ended I cannot remember VE Day but do remember my father returning home some time later. We were living with my grandparents in Scotland for the war duration and of course communication was very limited, only wireless and very infrequent visits to cinema, no telephone or TV. I can remember the gas lamp lighter doing his rounds by bike, collecting milk by jug from the horse drawn milk cart, and we rarely saw a motor car! How communication has altered and how reliant we all are now on Wifi.

Looking forward to the next newsletter.

Take care,
Yvonne



Shared by Sally Nicholas... Perhaps that is God, and friends.



Charlie Mackesy, artist of the horse and his boy

TANZANIA DEVELOPMENT TRUST



"You will see that All Saints has helped to make life much happier for the residents of an old people's home." Julian Marcus

RENOVATION OF KIBIRIZI ELDERLY PEOPLE CENTRE, KIGOMA, TANZANIA *Kigoma is in NW Tanzania, on Lake Tanganyika*

With support from All Saints, Sanderstead (£1,000), H & J Visram Trust, Mary Duncan, and our other regular donors.

Background. This elderly people's home in Kigoma urban area was very run down. The



residents had become an almost forgotten group of 35 ailing people, many in poor health and some with the lasting effects of leprosy.

Project officer, Kevin Curley,

talking with one of the residents affected by leprosy. By the time Kevin visited here the work was almost completed including new bunk beds and mattresses.

Hope of the Community Foundation, a Kigoma NGO run by our local representative in Kigoma urban, Evelyn Leonard, applied for funds to



implement a major improvement project. The work was to improve and refurbish the following facilities in the home....



◆ **The latrines and bathroom / showers** The work to improve these involved a major rebuild of the toilet block and install a new cess pit. Photo of the work in progress.



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- ◆ **Two bath/shower rooms** were built and mains water laid on for the flushing toilets.



Kitchen interior. Tiled floor and two new efficient stoves

- ◆ **Renovation of the Kitchen** The kitchen was a dilapidated semi ruin with inefficient and unhealthy stoves and no preparation surfaces. Wide windows were installed allow more air to pass in and out. The walls were replaced and painted inside and out. The floor was tiled and two fuel efficient stoves were built. Re-built walls and roof.



- ◆ **Renovation of Dormitories** Eight dormitory rooms were improved. Walls plastered and painted. In three rooms electricity sockets were fitted to help them charge their phones. Five doors were installed along with new and wider windows to give better ventilation and light. Bunk beds were replaced.



- ◆ **Social space** The social facilities in the home were lacking in any sense of encouragement to communication, entertainment or relaxing atmosphere. Improvements made were re-plastering of the walls, new wider windows and electricity. Some new chairs were provided and a new wide screen television was fitted to the wall to provide the residents with their first opportunity to see what is happening in the wider world.



Recent photos of the elderly people practising COVID social distancing. This is an extremely poor community.



Thank you All Saints Sanderstead, Mary Duncan, H & J Visram Trust and our other regular donors for your generous support for this large project to improve the

lives of these elderly and vulnerable people. The Wazee (Elderly people) can now call this their home, where a local charity is helping with their food provision. There is more to do to complete the renovation of some remaining dormitories and we hope funds in the coming year will enable this project to be brought to a conclusion.

Jonathan Pace, Chair

THE INCREDIBLE HOOP GLIDER!

Pentecost or Whitsun was traditionally a time for holidays fairs or festivals, some people would fly kites. This hoop glider is a smaller substitute for the kite, which we will make together during the next Sanderstead Light service (31st May) especially if children are watching. It can be coloured red, yellow or orange to symbolise Pentecost.

YOU WILL NEED:

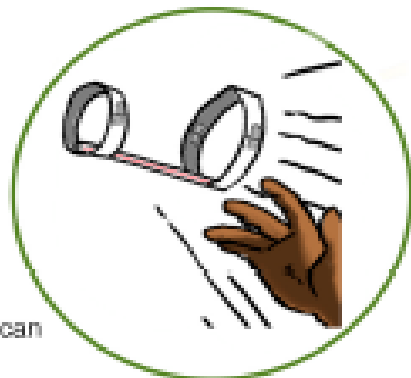
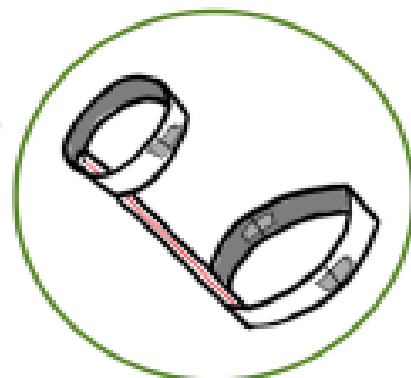
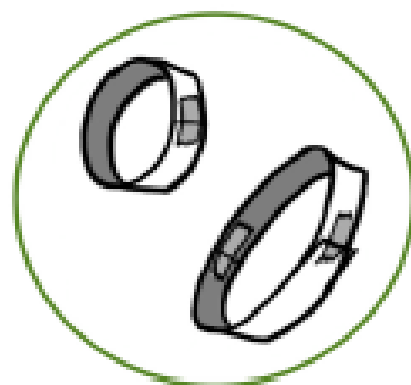
- A regular plastic drinking straw
- 3 X 5 inch index card or stiff paper
- Tape
- Scissors



Judith Robinson

WHAT TO DO

1. Cut the index card or stiff paper into 3 separate pieces that measure 1 inch (2.5 cm) by 5 inches (13 cm.)
2. Take 2 of the pieces of paper and tape them together into a hoop as shown. Be sure to overlap the pieces about half an inch (1 cm) so that they keep a nice round shape once taped.
3. Use the last strip of paper to make a smaller hoop, overlapping the edges a bit like before.
4. Tape the paper loops to the ends of the straw as shown below. (notice that the straw is lined up on the inside of the loops)
5. That's it! Now hold the straw in the middle with the hoops on top and throw it in the air similar to how you might throw a dart angled slightly up. With some practice you can get it to go farther than many paper airplanes.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Can we really call that a plane? It may look weird, but you will discover it flies surprisingly well. The two sizes of hoops help to keep the straw balanced as it flies. The big hoop creates "drag" (or air resistance) which helps keep the straw level while the smaller hoop in at the front keeps your super hooper from turning off course. Some have asked why the plane does not turn over since the hoops are heavier than the straw. Since objects of different weight generally fall at the same speed, the hoop will keep its "upright" position. Let us know how far you were able to get the hoop glider to fly by submitting it to our BLOG PAGE.

MAKE IT AN EXPERIMENT:

The project above is a DEMONSTRATION. To make it a true experiment, you can try to answer these questions:

1. Does the placement of the hoops on the straw affect its flight distance?
2. Does the length of straw affect the flight? (You can cut the straws or attach straws together to test this)
3. Do more hoops help the hoop glider to fly better?
4. Do the hoops have to be lined up in order for the plane to fly well?

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Children & Families Pastor

Are you passionate about seeing children and families get to know Jesus and grow in faith?

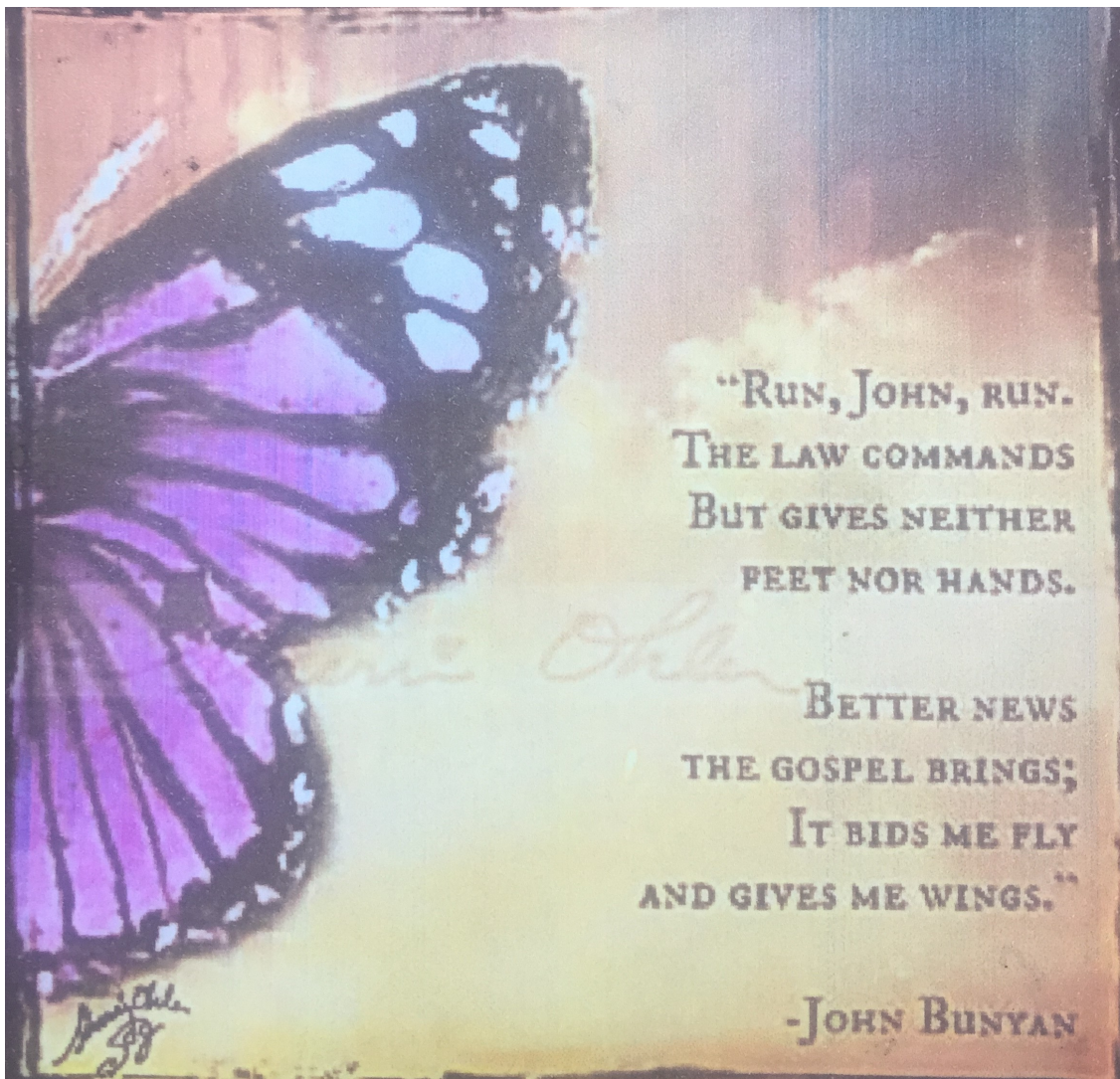
Children and Families are our number one priority and the opportunities are many here in Sanderstead. We want to appoint a collaborative and strategic leader to work alongside a group of committed volunteers.



Closing Date: 1st July 2020

We are now recruiting for this role. If you know anybody who would be suitable, do encourage them to apply.

The application pack is on the website, www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk or call Martin on 020 8657 1366 for more details.



A Puzzle...

There are 30 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. Can you find them?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in the seat pocket of an aeroplane on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend, John Rivers studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor a columnist friend was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people however will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit that it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade stall set a new record. The local paper The Chronicle surveyed over 200 readers who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly put it, "The books are all right here, in plain view, yet hidden from sight. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph just waiting to be found.

***Shared by
Libby Eldridge***

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My new social distancing shoes have arrived



A friend claimed his dog retrieved a stick from 3 miles away. Sounded far-fetched to me.

Shared by Michael Turner



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

You will receive Power when the Holy Spirit comes on you
Please go to our website for all church services and 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

Pentecost messages from the Bishops...

The Bishop of Croydon sends a short message of Pentecost encouragement to the churches....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcWrPHLRs4c>

And our Diocesan bishop, Christopher, sends one that is just slightly longer.... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNyTpukI_Bs



From my kitchen table to yours...

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.

Rosanne Morris

Rector's Admin Assistant

Tel: 020 8657 0665

