

KEEP IN TOUCH

Newsletter No.7

19th June 2020



Charlie Mackesy, artist of the horse and his boy

Be still... and know that I am God

Rev'd Jeremy writes...

Whatever else we may feel about the past 3 months, for the vast majority of us, one thing is undeniable; it has made us slow down. The Lockdown has interrupted the sheer busy-ness of our lives. We powered down, even if only for a while!

That's been no bad thing. We've enjoyed hearing the birds sing, going for long walks in the sunshine, tending our gardens. We've been able to pause and reflect. Of course, now that the Lockdown is easing, we are beginning to lose that. There's traffic on our roads, the shops are busy again. The trains rumble through Purley, lorries trundle up Mitchley Hill, and vehicles are starting to jam the Addington Road. I thought it was meant to be a "new normal" but it all looks so familiar doesn't it.

What have those times of quiet reflection taught us? What memories will last? What difference will it make to our lives? We all need to pause on those questions as we come out of Lockdown. I've never really liked the term "new normal" because I know how we all-too-easily revert to type. But I

sincerely hope some things will change and be different - we need to reflect especially how our Church will be different in future, and think imaginatively about how it might.

I heard a story the other day about a man who regularly took his three dogs on a walk. Two of them bounded forward, and ran as far as they could across the field, obviously enjoying the time of their lives. But the third just ran in front of the man, round and round in circles. A fellow walker stopped him one day and asked why this should be - why did two dogs run as far as they could, with seemingly boundless energy, yet the other just ran in front of the man round and round in circles, seemingly afraid to join the great adventure of the other two. "The reason", explained the man, "is that the two energetic dogs love freedom to run and explore; whereas the other one has always been caged up. So it's afraid to explore the field, and reluctant to go far".

There's a lesson for us in that story isn't there! Without knowing it, we can be confined, restricted in our world-view, scared to explore new things and move to new places. With such a beautiful, ancient building like All Saints' Church, it's tempting to think that the future will just be a continuation of the past 800 years. But we forget that even over that long time span, there will have been times of radical, far-reaching change.

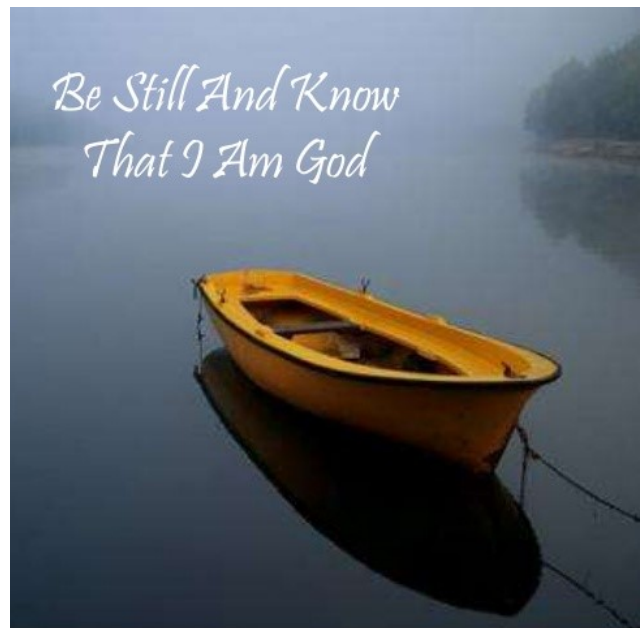
We have enjoyed a period of calm. And now we are invited to explore what God has for us in the future. Is it going to be just more of the same? Or are we willing to open a new chapter in the life of our Church and this entire Community? We keep staying "life will never be the same again" - let's mean it! We are nearly 800 years old. But we are also a 21st century Church. And we believe in an unchanging God, who has always moved his people forward - a God who calls us to stillness, but also sends us out to serve and represent Him.

So we have a choice - either to timidly go round and round in ever decreasing circles as if we were still in a cage, or to enjoy a real sense of release and begin to explore new things, new ways of worshipping, new ways of serving the Community in which God has placed us.

Jeremy

It is with sadness that we let you know of the death of a friend...

Brenda Lloyd died in Hill House Nursing Home on 21 May, and the funeral took place on 12 June. Please keep her family in your prayers.



Churches Open for Individual Prayer

About two weeks ago, in response to the government's easing of restrictions, the Bishop gave permission for Anglican churches to open for people to go in for individual prayer. This was about three weeks earlier than had been expected.

We'd been preparing for this for some time, so the churchwardens and I arranged for the necessary safeguards to be put in place to ensure social distancing and to keep everything safe. Half of the nave pews have been closed with tape, and we shut off access to the chancel, N Aisle and St Catherine's – again with tape.

We planned to open the church this week on Tuesday morning and on Friday afternoon. Do please let me and Jeremy know your views, as we consider when and how often we might open the church in the future.

This comes with thanks to those who helped with cleaning, risk assessment and stewarding.

Best wishes – in prayer,

Martin



Judith Shone writes...

We have been blessed by good weather over this Lockdown period. We have been able to walk down in the warm sunshine, listen to the birds, and the traffic has been quiet. Some activities have restarted. I have had the pleasure of playing my first game of Croquet.

We think of those who have not been able to enjoy it because they have not been well or not able to get out.

We thank those who have taken time to set up worship on the web so that we can still worship alongside others.

We pray for each other and we look forward to meeting together as one in church again.

Peace with us,

Judith

Obedience

By George MacDonald (1824-1905)

**I said: "Let me walk in the fields."
He said: "No, walk in the town."
I said: "There are no flowers there."
He said: "No flowers, but a crown."**

**I said: "But the skies are black;
There is nothing but noise and din."
And He wept as He sent me back –
"There is more," He said; "there is sin."**

**I said: "But the air is thick,
And fogs are veiling the sun."
He answered: "Yet souls are sick,
And souls in the dark undone!"**

**I said: "I shall miss the light,
And friends will miss me, they say."
He answered: "Choose tonight
If I am to miss you or they."**

**I pleaded for time to be given.
He said: "Is it hard to decide?
It will not seem so hard in heaven
To have followed the steps of your Guide."**

**I cast one look at the fields,
Then set my face to the town;
He said, "My child, do you yield?
Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"**

**Then into His hand went mine;
And into my heart came He;
And I walk in a light divine,
The path I had feared to see.**

Thank you Sally Nicholas for introducing me to this poem.
Rosanne



Dear All,

"My client was so delighted to see the food parcel, she said it felt like Christmas with all the right assortment"... "I do not normally ask for help but times are tough - thank you so much"... "Thank you, it makes life so much easier"... "God bless you..."

FOOD LIST - JUNE 2020

At Purley Food Hub we provide food and other items to people in crisis. Please consider donating one or more of this month's 14 priority items:

- Tins of Cooked Meat - e.g. Chicken
- Tinned Ready Meat Meals
- Tinned Fruit
- Custard - Packets of Instant
- Tins of Rice Pudding
- Small 500g Packets of Rice / Packs of Microwavable Rice
- Jars of Jam and Honey
- Savoury Spread - Meat/Fish Paste, Peanut Butter
- Potatoes - Tinned and Packet
- Cartons of Long Life Whole Milk (*NOT skimmed milk thank you!*)
- Shower Gel
- Washing Tablets/Capsules
- Small Washing Up Liquid
- Toilet Rolls

We would be grateful if you would consider sending the food list on to family, friends and others you know who might be able, safely, to **drop off donations** on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10.00am-12.00noon at Purley United Reformed Church, 906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN (next to Purley Hospital). Please ask them to bring these to the door at the end of the roadway that runs along the left side of the church building.

We thank you so much for your continued support - you have helped provide more than **185,000 meals** since January 2013.

PURLEY FOOD HUB | Tel: 07546 635295 | Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com
Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net | Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

Scouting continues 'remotely'...

Scouting continues 'remotely' at the 16th Purley (7th Sanderstead All Saints) while some of our members have returned to school (those in years 1 and 6 or with key worker parents). The Beavers have collectively earnt over 60 badges, including book reader, first aid and scientist. The Cubs have enjoyed imaginative Zoom meetings, including map reading by sharing screens, and have voted to rename their Sixes after famous Explorers. The Scouts continue their Task Master challenges and last week had to exhibit some 'art' from outdoors.

At Whitsun weekend we should've been camping with the rest of the Croydon District at Frylands Wood, but instead held another 'virtual' camp for 'CroyCamp 2020'. We don't know yet, but think our annual summer camp may also have to be 'virtual' so we're starting to develop some plans. Alongside our planned programme we're also trying to respond to issues in our world, and have been looking at how we can support conversations with young people about racism in light of the BlackLivesMatter movement. We're also incorporating the Scout Association's new Great Indoors Challenge badges into our plans, which are open to non-Scouts too - have a look at the ideas <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>.

Kate Balzer, Group Scout Leader

Elsa's Nature Art Exhibit for the Scout's challenge



Be still and know that I am God...



Rachel and Robyn ready for virtual 'CroyCamp 2020'

Lotti making a water filter for her Global Issues badge



Home Groups ...

Here is a picture of our last Home Group meeting - we were all present which was great.

We have been having weekly quiz nights as well as weekly Bible studies or Prayer & Share sessions - all via Zoom.

Mike Fixter



Here is a photo of the Rectory Park Home Group enjoying a recent session going over the thought provoking questions from Martin.

Michael Turner



Using the BLESS acrostic can help us to focus on all of the felt needs of those we are praying for:

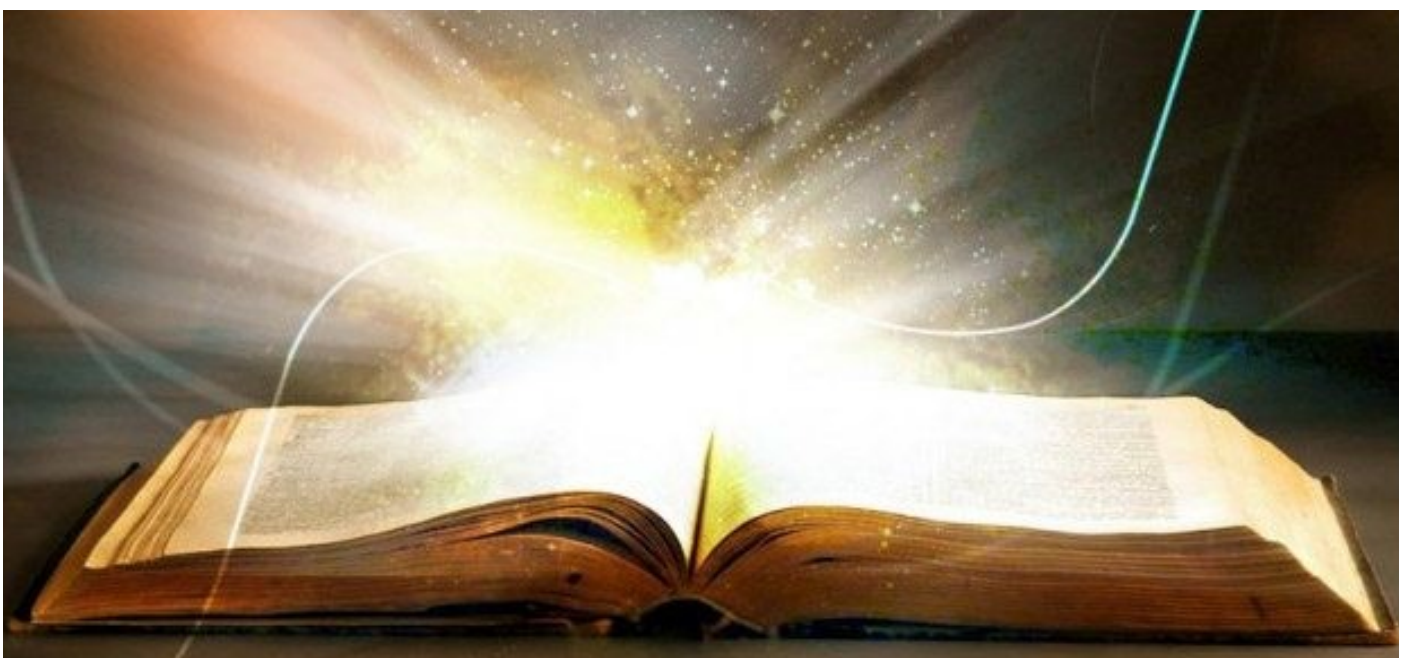
Body – health, protection, energy

Labour – employment/
unemployment, retirement,
adequate income

Emotional – inner peace, joy,
wisdom, insight, patience

Social – healthy relationships
between spouses, parents, children,
friends, reconciliation; love

Spiritual – repentance, salvation,
obedience, faith



Be still and know that I am God...

Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary to David and Sue Chillman!



Happy
50th
Anniversary



20 June 1970 - 2020



Congratulations!! Much love to you both, from us all.

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.

Mission & Ministry Newsletter

June 2020: Part 1

All of our resources for this time can be found on our website....



<https://southwark.anglican.org/cypmm/faith-at-home/>

Thank you for all you do to **walk, welcome** and **grow** your mission and ministry amongst children and young people.

Keli

Answer to the Bible books Puzzle — (from last newsletter)...

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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 attituded 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**

Be still and know that I am God...



“
**I NEED TO PRACTICE
SOME SOCIAL
DISTANCING FROM
MY REFRIGERATOR**

Take it down, Karen.
It's illegal.



**What a year this
week has been.**



Be still and know that I am God...

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***

It's Friday, then Saturday, Sunday, what!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AnG04qnLqI>

Happy Friday!

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.

Rosanne Morris

Rector's Admin Assistant
Tel: 020 8657 0665

