

**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH AND
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS**



MAGAZINE

JUNE 2020

Free

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Associate Minister: Rev. Jonny Fillis jonnyf87@aol.com

Church Secretary: Chris Penn

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Property: Ray Saunders

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs

Cross Street: 01727 846891

Bookings: bookings@dsbc.org.uk/01727 568162

Charity Registration Number: 1127791

Services Themes in June

- 7th June** *Going back to fishing in Galilee*
John 21:1-14
- 14th June** *Gatherings were always meant to scatter*
Matthew 9:35-10:23
- 21st June** *Sparrows, Hairs and Family Fights*
Matthew 10:24-39
- 28th June** *What's in a Welcome?*
Matthew 10:40-42

Photograph on front cover by Linda Roberts

Dear Friends,

I have begun to feel a bit like a prisoner in an old film scoring off the days on the wall of a prison. It's sometimes difficult remembering what day it is and Bank Holidays don't help. So much of that which goes to mark the rhythm of life has disappeared - no football to mark Saturdays and no meeting for church on Sundays. Perhaps the worst consequence of day-confusion is having to run out at 6.00am in my py-jamas to put out the recycling as I'd forgotten the night before!



I wonder how Noah counted the days? It rained nonstop for 40 days, but that wasn't the end of Noah's family's isolation. Adding up the time in Genesis 8, it looks like Noah and Co were in the ark for a total of one year and two weeks.

There was a time during that period when it appeared that they could come out. It had stopped raining long ago. The flood waters had receded, the ark had settled on firm ground and the land was drying.

It may be stretching things a little to compare a 21st century pandemic to a prehistoric flood. But the story we read in Genesis describes an event that affected the whole world – all people, *pan-demos*.

There will be inquiries after the event to determine how successful our nation has been in dealing with the situation we are in. It is said that we can't compare ourselves with other nations, as each country counts its statistics differently. However, it is difficult to see how New Zealand's death toll of 21 souls compared to the UK's 36,000 plus, is a statistical anomaly.

That having been said, what is past is past and if there have been mistakes made, how those mistakes are dealt with is what is now important. People will now have their view on how and when the country should get back to our state at the beginning of the year.

The government will probably say when we are *permitted* to meet in our building again, but it is not for them to tell us when we *must* meet again. It is for *us* – seeking the mind of Christ – to decide when we can come out of the ark.

To this end we will be taking soundings from the congregation and the deacons will be spending a considerable part of our future meetings looking at this. Perhaps it stretches the parable too far, but we need to decide how dry the ground must be before we come out.

But as I have said in one of our podcasts – the building may be closed, but our church is open. We are continuing to play a part in our community, praying for the sick and the weary, and worshipping the God who will call us out of where we are and lead us to where he wants us to be.

Best wishes

Simon

June 2020

Church Finances

Our church finances are generally healthy, but we are experiencing a significant loss of income at this time because of all our room lettings having been cancelled. While the majority of our income from the congregation comes through standing orders, we have also lost our 'loose offerings' at Sunday services.

I am conscious that many individuals are experiencing a loss of income at this time, and so it is with some hesitation that I make this request. If you are someone who chooses to make an offering to God at Sunday services, could you consider doing so in a different way?

We are happy to receive bank transfers and the details are below:

60-18-11
42087783

If you decide to make an offering in this way, it is helpful if you are able to email our Finance Manager, Liz Blight, lizblight@gmail.com, so that she can connect up the entry on our bank statement.

Alternatively, we can still receive cheques and these can be sent to:

Liz Blight
63, Dalton Street,
St Albans
AL3 5QH





Identifying blessings encourages HOPE!

For one week, actively write down God's blessings.

Day 1: Identify a blessing that came to you from a family member.

Day 2: Identify a blessing from a stranger.

Day 3: Identify a blessing from technology (radio, telephone, internet, television).

Day 4: Identify a blessing from a friend.

Day 5: Identify a blessing in something you read.

Day 6: Identify a blessing from creation (animals, environment etc).

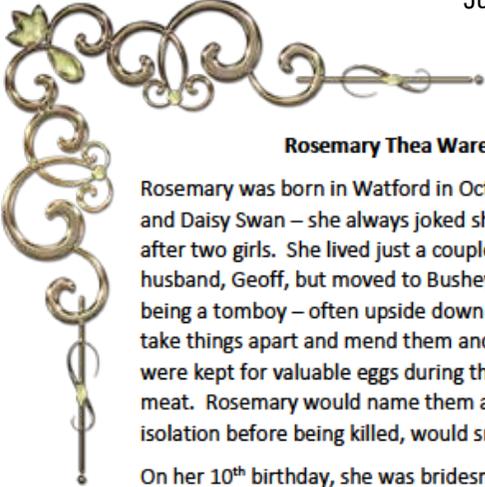
Day 7: Use day seven to thank God for your week of blessings and actively bless a friend, family member and stranger today.

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances.

In Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



Rosemary Thea Ware 30/10/1933 - 21/04/2020

Rosemary was born in Watford in October 1933, the youngest daughter of Jack and Daisy Swan – she always joked she was her Dad's last attempt at a boy after two girls. She lived just a couple of streets away from her future husband, Geoff, but moved to Bushey and spent her formative years there being a tomboy – often upside down hanging from trees, watching her father take things apart and mend them and looking after the family's chickens. They were kept for valuable eggs during the war and occasionally killed for their meat. Rosemary would name them and feeling sorry for them being placed in isolation before being killed, would sneak in and feed them worms.

On her 10th birthday, she was bridesmaid to her eldest sister, Esme who married Peter, a yank over here in the war. When they left for America, Rosemary was devastated, thinking she would never see her again.

It was at Bushey that Rosemary defied her Mother and joined the youth group at Bushey Baptist Church, led by Leslie and Hilda Smith. She had so many happy memories of this time and kept in touch with the Smiths for many years.

At Watford Girls' Grammar School, Rosemary was inspired by two teachers – Miss Conway and Miss Spencer and her love of the English language, poetry and languages never left her. After school, she joined the Civil Service at the Air Ministry in Stanmore. She had wanted to be an Air Stewardess, having experienced a flight whilst on holiday on the Isle of Wight, but you had to be 21 and she was only 18.

Rosemary met Geoff at a dance at Watford Town Hall in December 1959. He had noticed a beautiful girl across the dance floor, plucked up the courage to go and ask her to dance...only to be beaten by someone else. Rosemary was standing behind the girl and not wanting to appear foolish, Geoff asked her to dance....and it took off from there!!

Married in 1961, a house in Park Street and 3 children followed – Chris, Jenny and Linda. In 1968, eager for a large garden for the children, they moved to Hammers Gate where many happy memories were made – Rosemary somehow managed to keep them all fed, watered and clothed while working at Abbey Junior School, Marlborough Motors and then, Crusaders. She would turn her hand to anything – she was famous for her cakes and bakes - "my Mum makes the best cakes in the world" Jenny once told the local shop keeper who was trying to sell her French Fancies: Chris in particular loved them and so the

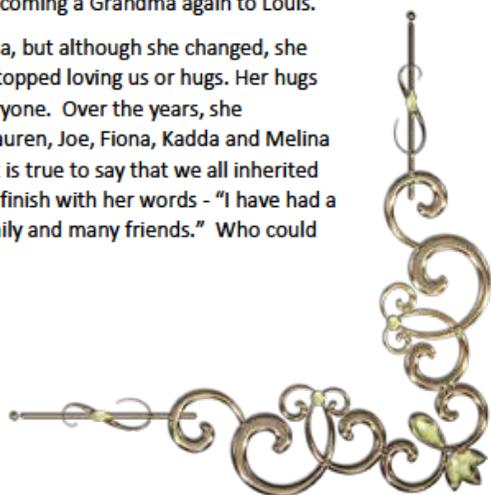
rule of 2 slices of bread – one cake, 3 slices of bread – 2 cakes came into being! ; she would dig over the huge vegetable plot by hand while Geoff did all the fiddly stuff: She prepared mountains of runner beans for the freezer and onions for pickling; She made Jenny and Linda bikinis out of two pairs of pants and she did her best at hairdressing, although using a spirit level or even a pudding basin would have been an improvement!

After retiring, Rosemary and Geoff travelled a lot, spending time visiting her sister, Esme, Pete and their large family in USA; Chris and family in Germany and many other holidays. Rosemary's love of languages came in handy especially as Geoff would just communicate with odd phrases in a strange accent and much waving of his arms! Rosemary was also able to do the job she loved the most – welcoming people to Cross Street Café. So many people were touched by her warm welcome, listening ear and friendship. It gave her great purpose in life, especially when in 2008 she lost her Geoff.

Throughout her life, Rosemary felt the joy of singing – from school choirs, to hymns in church, singing to her children ("I know an old woman who swallowed a fly" was a firm favourite) and in the last few years at Herts Musical Memories and unforgettable parties with Georgi.

Rosemary loved her family. "The advent of Grandchildren takes some beating" was her reply to what was her happiest memory. She delighted in becoming Grandma to Matt, Dan, Steph, Jono & Rachel; Oma to Steven and David. She literally whooped with joy at the news of becoming a Great Grandma to Olan and could not contain her excitement at becoming a Grandma again to Louis.

We often felt that we lost Mum to dementia, but although she changed, she never forgot who we were and she never stopped loving us or hugs. Her hugs were legendary and freely available to everyone. Over the years, she welcomed Keith, Penny, Conrad, Marina, Lauren, Joe, Fiona, Kadda and Melina into the family with love and hugs. I think it is true to say that we all inherited the hugging gene from her! I would like to finish with her words - "I have had a good life, richly blessed by a wonderful family and many friends." Who could ask for more?



June 2020



**Painting of Rosemary Ware
By Chris Ware**

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PASTORAL NEWS

Sadly, as many of you may know, Barbara Benham passed away a short time ago and our thoughts and prayers go out to Clive and Andrew and the rest of the family. Simon will be conducting her funeral on 2nd June. (See tribute to Barbara elsewhere in the magazine).

Simon is also conducting the funeral of Rosemary Ware on 28th May and we pray for her family members and Simon, too, in these difficult times.

Members of our church family are undergoing treatment at present and we think of Sue Owen and her family. Paula Iddiols is undergoing a major operation on Friday and she and her family very much need our prayers. Several of our congregation are either undergoing tests or awaiting results and possible further treatment, including Janet Moverey Peers.

Kai Kipgen is still unable to fly home from Haipi and we also remember them in our prayers, also Mike and Julia. So good to see Mike on Zoom.

Although lockdown seems to be easing, problems remain and we pray for those moving soon, including the Gillespys, Beadles and Fillises.

As schools are set to go back, we think of parents and teachers, whose concern is the safety of the children. We pray for those who are having to make decisions about whether or not to allow their children to return.

We also remember all who work in the Health Service and those who are in care homes, both patients and their

June 2020

Carers and we pray for their safety. Carers and people isolating in private homes are also glad of thoughts and prayers and we pray especially for the sick, the sad and the lonely.

We are grateful that some of us can meet family members (from a respectful distance!) and rejoice that the Humber's will, by now, have met their newest addition to the family.

Once again, our thanks are due to our Ministers and all who work so hard to make Church prayers and the Sunday Service (with virtual coffee) so accessible and uplifting.

***Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me,
Christ before me
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and
restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet,
Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of
friend and stranger.***

Majorie and Leslie Jones





BARBARA BENHAM

It is with great sadness that we learnt that Barbara died in Watford General Hospital on 9th May, after a fall at home a few days earlier.

Barbara had been suffering declining health for some months but she always remained positive and cheerful.

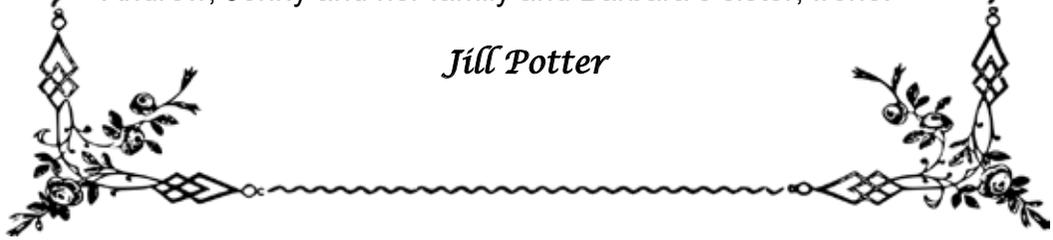
Barbara became a member of our church in 1990 and for the last 30 years she and Andrew have been faithful and active members of our congregation.

In the early years of her marriage to Clive, Barbara was a primary school teacher. For over 20 years she has been teaching in the Sparklers Group of our Young Spectrum. Barbara with Andrew have also been an active part of our Messy Church team since it began 9 years ago. Also Barbara, Clive and Andrew have helped in our Cross Street Centre as part of the team.

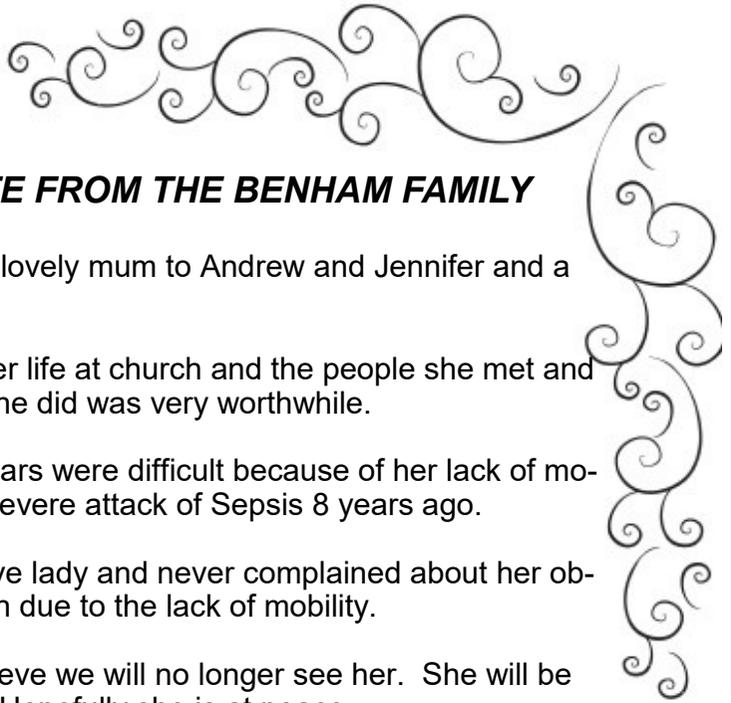
Simon will be conducting Barbara's cremation service on 2nd June with the family attending.

Our thoughts are with the whole family at this sad time and she will be greatly missed. We continue to pray for Clive and Andrew, Jenny and her family and Barbara's sister, Irene.

Jill Potter



June 2020



TRIBUTE FROM THE BENHAM FAMILY

Barbara was a lovely mum to Andrew and Jennifer and a wonderful wife.

She enjoyed her life at church and the people she met and thought what she did was very worthwhile.

The last few years were difficult because of her lack of mobility due to a severe attack of Sepsis 8 years ago.

She was a brave lady and never complained about her obvious frustration due to the lack of mobility.

We cannot believe we will no longer see her. She will be badly missed. Hopefully she is at peace.

Thank you so much for your cards and letters of condolence. It is a comfort for all the family.

Barbara was a lovely mum to me, Jenny and a much loved granny to her grandson, Jack, and loved watching him grow and was very proud of him. She was a caring generous and kind person. So sad.

Clive and Andrew, Jenny and family



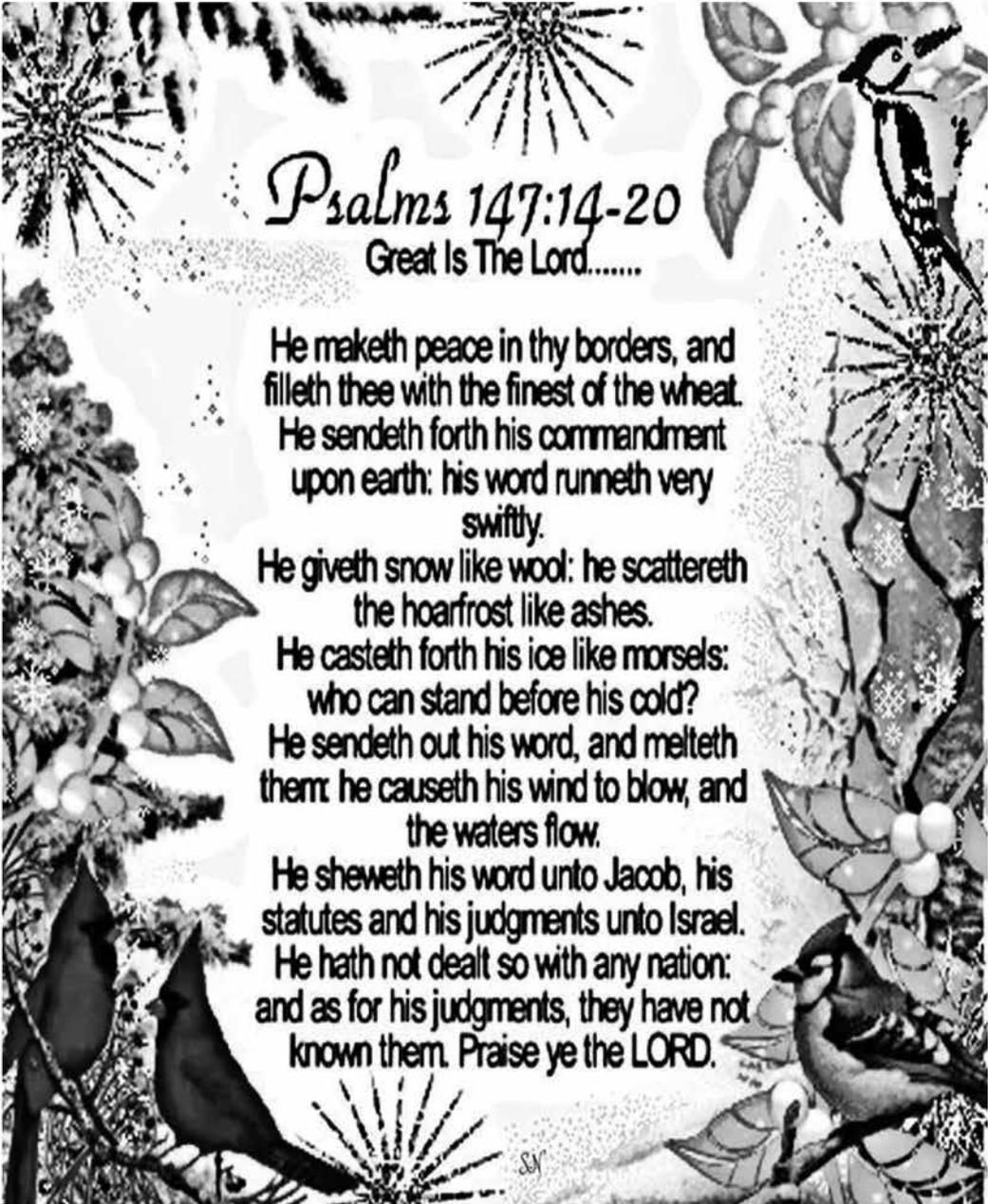
PASTORAL TEAM

The Ministers, Simon and Jonny, and members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Marjorie and Leslie Jones (01727 841845), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051), Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), and Ewen Gilhespy (01707 267682) are also active members of the Pastoral Team.

Simon, Jonny and the team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.





Psalms 147:14-20
Great Is The Lord.....

He maketh peace in thy borders, and
filleth thee with the finest of the wheat.
He sendeth forth his commandment
upon earth: his word runneth very
swiftly.

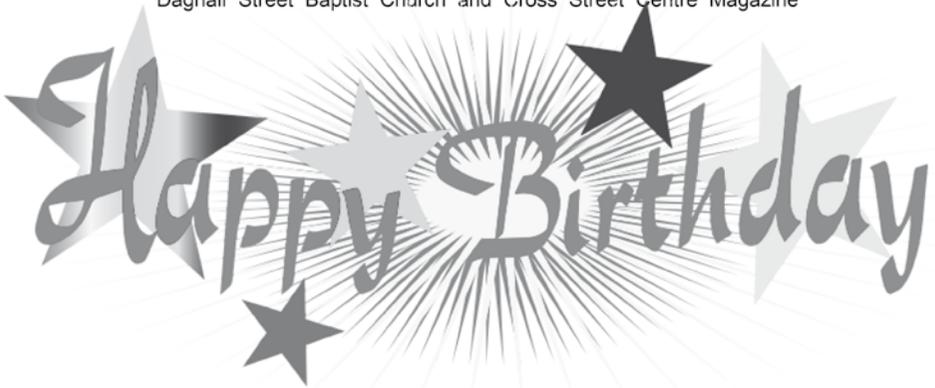
He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth
the hoarfrost like ashes.

He casteth forth his ice like morsels:
who can stand before his cold?

He sendeth out his word, and melteth
them: he causeth his wind to blow, and
the waters flow.

He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his
statutes and his judgments unto Israel.

He hath not dealt so with any nation:
and as for his judgments, they have not
known them. Praise ye the LORD.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

11th - John Mills

20th - Dot Symes

23rd - Gemma Winpenny & Flo Mintern

Wishing everyone with a June birthday a happy and healthy day!

**And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And they exercised
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who
Live in ignorant ways**

**Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.**

Kathleen O'Mara 1869

History repeats itself. Sharing this poem written in 1869 and reprinted during the 1919 Spanish flu Pandemic.

Linda Williams



Good News ... and Bad News

The **good news** is that the lower Cross Street store is overflowing with black bags of clothes and shoes to go to the **Genesis Shop** on the **Manor Estate in Sheffield**.

The **bad news** is ... that the shop is closed and so we can't hire a van and clear all that we have collected.

Many of us have been clearing out our wardrobes, but if you have any black bags still to make their way to the church, please hang on them as we should know when we are able to make another trip in about a month's time.

Simon



MATTHEW 25: 35

**"FOR I WAS
HUNGRY
AND YOU
GAVE ME
SOMETHING
TO EAT..."**



HELP US
SUPPORT THE
VITAL WORK OF
FEED -
VINEYARD
CHURCH'S FOOD
BANK

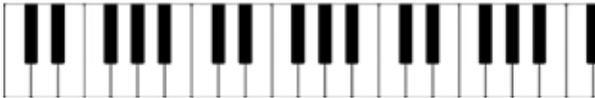


***Offer of a traditional upright piano at no cost.
Needs to be collected from St Albans. Would suit
anyone who has room for it at home.
Also suitable for a Church hall.***

Anyone interested please contact:

Nigel Puffett on 07793 355718

Revd Diana Spink



Pippa and Toby Vokuhl

ON SOLID GROUND

June 2020



www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl

How much soil can you remove around a hillside house before something collapses? The houseowner of the Pokhara home shown below may have asked himself just that question as workers started road-widening works in the immediate vicinity of his property. I personally would be worried even now, never mind the prospect of what may happen during the next earthquake.



I wonder how many of us feel slightly worried, unsettled, or undermined by the Covid-19 related challenges to everyday norms and standards we could rely on, the foundations to our everyday lives. In these unsettling times, as Vokuhl family living here in Pokhara, we were recently reminded what and who ultimately provides a solid base for life:

Ephesians 2:20-22 (NLT)

Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

As individuals, as a family, and as a community of believers whether in Nepal or in the UK, there is a firm foundation for all of us, designed, built and maintained by the master-builder himself, that we may continue to be a building for his delight.

When we last sent a prayer letter from Pokhara, we were 2 weeks into a strict Covid-19 response measure lockdown. Exactly 2 months later, after incremental extensions, we are still in the exact same lockdown scenario, which is hard in a number of ways. Whilst considered necessary in a developing country with very limited ICU services, the long strict lockdown has been terrible news for daily wage earners throughout the country. In my recent BMS video <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/people/pippa-and-toby-vokuhl/> I mentioned the many seasonal workers attempting to make their way back to home villages during lockdown to try and live off the land. Since then, the situation near the Indian border has become very concerning and thousands of returning workers are stranded there without adequate provision of food and water. Please pray for the many desperate people in this situation. It is in these hotspots that most of Nepal's Covid-19 cases are being recorded now.

In light of these challenges do give thanks with us for the Christian witness within adversity. Our local church for example continues to support 90 families with food parcels, and small amounts of money for cooking gas, whereas some of the 'official' support for the poor has been found to be very substandard quality. Pray that God's character would be discovered through these acts of love.



Pray that God will continue to give INF staff, as BMS's local partner, wisdom and discipline in the preparation of medical emergency facilities and response plans,

particular geared towards catering for potential disabled Covid-19 patients.

As a family we appreciate your prayers for continuous resilience, and for God's sustenance, especially with schooling children from home, and seeking to progress building designs via digital communication. Please pray that together with local believers, and expatriates in Pokhara, we can be that carefully joined temple of God, that the writer of Ephesians refers to.

We look forward to continuous interaction with you, and are grateful that the internet is making all sorts of digital communication across the globe increasingly possible these days.

With much love from us all,

Pippa and Toby, with Jakey, Ella, and Millie

If you would like to support Pippa and Toby Vokuhl by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

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Father's Day Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters F A T H E R.

Don't guess - use logic

R					T
		T	E		
	R	F	T	H	
	T	H	R	E	
		E	A		
H					E

Cracked or whole?

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God, not from us”

2 Corinthians 4:7

A man in India had two large clay pots, which he carried at each end of a pole hung across his shoulders. One pot was new while the other was cracked, so at the end of each trip to fetch water and return to irrigate his field, the latter pot was only half-full.

Day after day, the water-bearer continued, until the cracked pot could contain itself no longer, ashamed at its constant failure to accomplish what it was meant to. “I’m so sorry, please forgive me. I’m damaged and useless. You should dispose of me and get a new pot in my place. I’m not giving you value for your efforts”, the pot said.

The water-bearer replied, “I’ve always known about your crack, and knew I could use you just as you are. Haven’t you seen the beautiful flowers along the path to the stream? I planted those seeds because I knew you’d water them faithfully each day. All these months I’ve been able to pick these beautiful flowers - to give away and bring joy to others. If you weren’t just the way you are, all that beauty would not have come into being.”

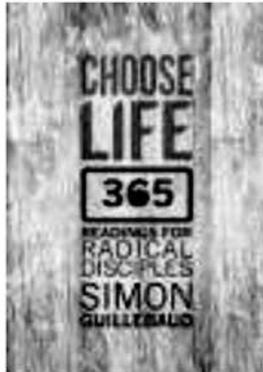
The devil has been a liar, deceiver and accuser from the beginning. If you feel like an obsolete cracked pot, remember today that God wants to use you - that you still have a role to play. Just as the water spilled through the cracks to water the flowers, so God’s light shines out through your cracks to bring hope to others. Everyone is cracked somewhere, whether they admit it or not. People can’t relate to perfect beautiful jars, but with us as jars of clay, the glory goes to God, not to us. He wants to use you today.

June 2020

A Prayer: Lord, take me as I am, cracks and all, and use me as you want, for your glory. Amen!

From: CHOOSE LIFE (365 readings for radical disciples)
by Simon Guillebaud
Published by Monarch Books. With Permission.

Submitted by *Ewen Gilhespy*
(Co-ordinator of Bible Reading Notes)



Other Bible Reading Notes are available
from **Our Daily Bread Ministries**.
They have a range of resources on line at **odb.org**
Why not access their home page to see for yourself?

Perhaps you would like to sign up to receive daily Bible Reading Notes by email, to join them on facebook, or... to have their mobile app.

Deacons Meeting Report

I've been wondering when or if, prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, a church members meeting has ever been cancelled. I have no recollection, but maybe during the winter power cuts of 1973/74 or the big freeze in 1963? I know that there have been no cancellations during the past 5 years, so the 5th May Church meeting is the first for me. It is uncertain when we will next be able to, 'legally,' meet together in person, so the deacons decided it would be helpful to give an update on our deliberations during the last couple of months.

Thanks to the internet, our regular deacons' meetings, have been 'skype'd' or 'zoom'd', in fact we have been 'meeting' more frequently than our scheduled 10 meetings a year.

We are very grateful for regular guidance received from the Central Baptist Association and the Baptist Union. Whilst we endeavour to comply with our obligations as trustees, during these times, like so many others, we can simply do the best we can. Interestingly, our governing document, or constitution, doesn't allow for "electronic" meetings, however, the government and charity commission recognise that alternative processes are necessary at this time. Our constitution requires us to meet as members at least 4 times a year. We met in March and are wondering now if we might be able to meet in September, November and December to comply. Time will tell!

We have also begun to look at how church might look, and what measures we might need to take for the future. We face many questions and have few answers. When, and how we might be able to re-open, is unknown, but it is certain that the new normal will be very different. We will be discussing further in early June when our starting point from John 21: will be "**When can we resume fishing on Galilee?**" We have already reflected on the story of Noah, who, after 40 days of rain, had to wait a further 150 days for the flood to subside, and by the time the ark landed on Mount Ararat, the Noah family's isolation was around 11

months. God's promise of a new relationship with Noah was in the form of a rainbow, which remains a symbol of thanksgiving and hope.

We are indebted to Simon and Jonny for adapting their leadership of us as a worshipping fellowship during these times, through on-line daily prayer and Sunday worship, and also to Danny for enabling the communications as they regularly reach over 200 people. Although our premises are closed, we are grateful to David for continuing to regularly clean and monitor for safety and security, and particularly, for the carpet cleaning which he has been busy with.

It was especially sad to record the death of Rosemary Ware on 2nd April and Barbara Benham, on 9th May. Both had been in membership for 34 and 30 years respectively and were loyal and valued servants of our Lord within our fellowship. They will be sorely missed. Simon will be conducting their funerals, along with many others, and we remember the grieving families, whilst hoping that in the not too distant future we may be able to meet together for services of thanksgiving for those now departed.

Cross Street Café accounts for 2019 are finalised, a strong start to trading in 2020 was recorded, and the directors agreed to furlough Catriona and Heidi. Gift Day, planned for Easter Sunday, has been delayed until Harvest Sunday, 27th September.

Messy Church ran 8 sessions during 2019, mainly catering for the very young, with the exception being Christmas, when Ark Farm attracted over 200 people. Two successful sessions were run at the beginning of this year with the theme, 'The Kingdom of God is Like ...' The future will require much prayer and consideration as we move through and beyond the current crisis.

Toddlers had a busy 2019 and start to 2020, until the premature close in March. Linda's small team work well and appreciate the church mum's who help as and when. New people have arrived

and there are good links with Spanish toddlers and Messy church. They hope to be able to restart in Sept.

The 2019 Church accounts are due to be complete by end of July and the first quarter 2020 accounts show a small improvement over the budgeted forecast. Offertory receipts are slightly down, roughly in line with the cash offerings which have not been collected since April, and we are grateful to those who have increased their standing orders and for contributions in lieu of offerings.

Property maintenance is on hold, apart from statutory tasks, and as soon as we are able, the manse boiler will be replaced and serious work must be carried out on the church boiler.

September was to have seen us celebrate the tercentenary of Baptists worshipping in Dagnall Street. Planning continues, despite the likelihood that some events are unlikely to go ahead.

If you have any views or comments about church matters, please contact Simon, Jonny or one of the deacons.

Chris

Penn



Mission News

BMS World Mission – Coronavirus Appeal

Pandemic is not a word we've had to use for a long time, but it reminds us that the challenges we are facing are also affecting everyone throughout the world. Whilst we struggle with lockdown, isolation, illness, grief, and a rather steep climb out to a rather different future, we actually are very well protected compared with many of our brothers and sisters, particularly in countries where BMS World Mission workers are based.

Unsurprisingly, BMS want us to remember their Coronavirus Appeal, www.bmsworldmission.org/coronavirusappeal or call 01235 517641.

Firstly we are asked to pray:

- For all those who have lost livelihoods due to lockdown measures. We pray especially for those without a financial safety net in countries like Sri Lanka, that they will be able to access the food and other essential items they need to survive.
- For hospitals and key workers all over the world giving their all to fight Covid-19. We pray that medics like Patrice in Chad will be protected, and will have the resources they need to care for their patients. (Chad has few doctors, no NHS and no ventilators.)
- For all those whose mental health will suffer because of the pandemic. We pray especially that in fragile states like Afghanistan, strong support networks would be provided to care for those who are struggling.

Secondly, this is how BMS make sure our gifts get to where they're needed:

1. We Pray – We prayerfully seek God's will for our work, knowing we do everything in his strength.

2. We Mobilise – It's people like you, your churches and your communities, who make transformation possible. We mobilise this incredible powerhouse of support so your gifts reach the people who need them most.
3. We Partner – BMS works with trusted partners around the world. Their local knowledge and expertise ensures your giving gets to the most vulnerable people, where it'll make the greatest difference.
4. We Stay – You care about change that lasts a lifetime, and we do too. That's why we link up with partners for the long-term, making sure your donations create transformation that's sustainable for years to come.

Thirdly, this is what our gifts can provide:

- Protective gear for medical workers.
- Food support for those whose livelihoods have already been affected by Covid-19.
- Help to build the capacity of churches, communities and agencies around the world to respond.
- Support for the mental health needs of medical workers and patients affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

BMS Partners
The Vokuhl family in Khatmandu
Nepal (3.5.20)

Hi Chris

How lovely to hear from you! Thank you so much for taking all the time to be in touch and keep us up to date with your news. We are so sad that we can't be with you again this summer, but maybe we can find another way to touch base with DSBC somehow. The pilgrimage sounds wonderful - do share some photos when you have done it! We continue in lockdown here - it is suspected that next week the government will open up the country again following the Indian system of red/orange/green zones - it is likely if that happens that Pokhara will be

'orange' - we are yet to record any cases of the virus but obviously being a bigger city has its own risks. Schools will probably stay shut so the home schooling goes on ... we try to remain grateful for our many blessings such as a table to work at and a fairly good internet connection. We are joined daily by our next-door neighbour who is Millie's age and has neither of those things and whose parents don't speak English (I'm not even sure if they've had any level of education) so wouldn't be getting any education at the moment. I have had training at the hospital in case I am needed as a volunteer should the pandemic start overwhelming the health system here, and we continue to support INF and our local church as we are able. Toby has been able to work from home and continues to push forward the design for a new hospital accommodation block which is being planned. Much love to you all at DSBC - we so deeply appreciate your support at this time and do hope we can see you all again soon!

Pippa, Toby, Jakey, Ella and Millie

Saltmine Trust

Saltmine Trust is a Christian dramatic arts charity committed to communicating the gospel in an imaginative and entertaining way. They work in a variety of environments, one of which is primary schools, presenting the Christian worldview in a way that is acceptable within state schools.

In March 2018 a team of three young actors from the trust spent a half-day in each of 17 Primary schools around St Albans. The tour, sponsored by ten local churches, including DSBC, and two individuals, cost just under £6,000.

Local organiser, Ian LaRivière, of Park Street Baptist, planned another tour for this March, and Dagnall Street agreed to sponsor two half day presentations.

Unfortunately, the 2020 tour had to be cut short after the first

week, but our sponsorship, which included Aboyne Lodge Primary School, was able to proceed before the closures. The good news was that 12, out of a planned 20, schools were visited and some 2,300 children involved, including 700 older pupils who experienced a Saltmine drama workshop as well. It was hoped that a resumption of the tour might take place in July, but looking forward, a similar tour is being planned for 2022.

The message of the play was that no-one is rubbish and that we can all turn to God and be accepted. Saltmine's own description of it is below:

A Long Road Home

Welcome to Bert and Horace's junkyard. They collect, curate and repurpose all the rubbish that the world doesn't want. One day Charlie turns up in their yard. She begins to tell them how she took her inheritance and left home to explore life in the big city. Charlie's life was full of luxury with epic parties, rock star friends and even a pet Chihuahua but this faded into nothing when the money disappeared. She is empty pocketed, feeling pretty worthless and a long, long way from home. Through song, storytelling and laughter, Bert and Horace show Charlie that she is not as 'rubbish' as she thinks and help her to consider whether she could take the long road home back to her Dad.

CA Project Update

Although we are no longer fund raising for the project to support Children Affected by HIV/Aids in Kenya, we still follow its progress, and it was good to hear from Sue Claydon during Jonny's Christian Aid week service on Sunday May 17th. We had planned for her to come to speak at our May Church in the Café about her recent visit to the project in Kenya, but unfortunately this could not take place.

During her talk, she told us that the project is delivered throughout the 17 counties of Kenya by 27 local church-based NGO groups.

The particular group she visited in March was called “Cheer-Up”, an appropriate name for a group that aims to restore hope to those children and their families who had lost it. The project, we were told, supports 140,000 children in 65,000 households. There are 140 volunteers and 3 paid workers delivering support, and each child and household is individually assessed for health, diet, education, housing and economic need. The project also supports and resources the care givers.

We look forward to, hopefully, being able to meet with Sue and John Claydon in the future and hearing more about this amazing project.

Heritage Open Days

DSBC have provisionally registered to be open for HOD visitors on Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September, when we also hope to have our special Tercentenary archive material on display. Whether we will actually be able to open for visitors remains to be seen, but we hope it will be one of a number of opportunities to mark our incredible heritage of 300 years of Baptist’s worshipping in Dagnall Street.

Chris Penn



Judy Cook

Serving others with hope

April 2020

www.bmsworldmission.org/jcook



Dear friends, at this ever increasing unusual time in our lives, let us hold on to the hope and certainty we have in Christ, that He will sustain us and always be with us. As I reflect on these last two months here in Chiang Mai, both at Hope Home and at my CCT workplaces I can see the ways God has sustained us through the worry of illness and the necessary changes in practice in order to social distance and protect ourselves and others. Yet we can and still do have opportunity to be light and hope to others.

Life for people living with HIV continues, with extra concern over whether they will be more susceptible to COVID-19 themselves. By necessity most programs offering physical, face-to-face support have ceased in order to adhere to social distancing, but their needs continue. The staff of CAM continue to visit those in most need and who are isolated from extended family support. We praise God that we can still be His hands and feet serving those in their deepest needs in practical ways. The young girl in the photo has been known to Ploy and the other CAM staff since birth and now she faces tough times since her frail body is no longer able to accept the HIV treatment options. She has little family of her own besides frail elderly grandparents and Ploy can come alongside her at home and be the loving 'mother' she needs right now - pouring love and encouragement and hope over her through simple but important acts such as helping her wash her hair when she is too weak to do this herself now. Praise God for people like Ploy, who, like so many worldwide in the health and other essential services, are willing to be there working on the frontline so that people are loved and cared for in their time of need, and not abandoned.

During much of March and April I have been to the local hospital many days visiting Joy, our 12 year old precious girl at Hope Home. She came through one severe time of pneumonia with spells on the intensive care unit and the ward and then had a few weeks at home.



Thankfully at this time, before travel restrictions were put in place, we had her birth mum visit and spent almost a week with her just loving on her. Then the infection returned more severely and back to intensive care she went and has stayed for over 3 weeks. The knock on effect of COVID-19, and rightly so, meant that I was not allowed to visit and see her, so she was separated from us, though the nurses are wonderful carers and know her well. Thankfully this policy changed and I was allowed in, so long as I only spoke to her through a hanging plastic sheet from 1 metre away - but it was better than nothing. At the time of writing I am hopeful we will move up to the ward where I can be with her all the time and reassure her that she is not abandoned. At this time of feeling concerned for her, I held onto the hope that God's presence is and was embracing her all the time.

It is all too easy to feel hopeless and worried at times like this, and feel that things are out of our control. I have been so amazed and encouraged by the prayers and encouragement of others at this time uplifting me and restoring hope.

The discussions on end of life care for Joy have been and gone yet again, and she seems to have turned a corner and fights on. Pray for us as we realistically start to prepare our staff and children, all family together, that each time Joy becomes ill is a time when life is uncertain. Natalie is looking forward to Joy coming home again and is helping decorate her newly isolated bedroom and medical equipment ready and this is a very practical way she can feel involved in her care. Joy herself seems to be at such peace and is ever smiling and I firmly believe she has God's peace and joy bursting inside of her. She has the unquestioning faith of a child, and for that I am thankful.



As I reflect on the situations we face here in Chiang Mai, and read about worldwide situations I have hope that God is bringing good out of these tragic situations. I don't even dare to try to understand the why? the where is God in this? and so many questions. However I see good things growing... communities caring for each other more, neighbours reaching out to help neighbours, churches reaching out far more to their congregations even if socially distancing, and many more people hearing the Gospel preached because churches are closed and the social media services on line are more accessible and being listened to!

Please, I do not in any way intend to undermine the reality of the horrors people are facing now in health and economics too, but rather seek to look for our source of Hope in these times.



Pray for people living with HIV who face extra concerns in these days of worry, and pray that people like Ploy, and the staff at Baan Sabaay can continue to be light and hope to them.

Pray for Joy especially to continue to progress through this latest setback in her health, and that she will remain at perfect peace in Him.

Pray for communities and churches to continue to be there for each other, in whatever ways are possible despite the social distancing and enforced isolation.

Pray that the COVID-19 spread can cease

So in conclusion, I pray for you that you too will continue to know and live in the hope we have in Christ alone, exemplified though our Easter celebrations, but the reality forever.

Romans 15.13 : may the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. May our lives overflow with hope, pouring hope and peace over all the people we connect with.

If you would like to support Judy Cook by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517017 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



Going Forward

“I feel like Mother Nature has sent us all to our rooms to think about what we’ve done,” reads a popular meme on social media currently, and a few weeks ago a team of top biodiversity scientists reported: *“There is a single species responsible for the Covid-19 pandemic – us... Recent pandemics are a direct consequence of human activity, particularly our global financial and economic systems that prize economic growth at any cost... Future pandemics are likely to happen more frequently, spread more rapidly, have greater economic impact and kill more people if we are not extremely careful about the possible impacts of the choices we make today.”*

The new coronavirus is believed to have emerged at a wildlife market in China, where huge numbers and variety of animals from far and wide are crammed together in cages, stressed and immunosuppressed, before butchering. People in large numbers come into contact with the animals and their body fluids, creating perfect conditions for the spread of disease.

But on a much larger scale, our overexploitation of the natural environment across the world is bringing humans and animals into closer contact all the time: not only are wild species exploited for food and medicine, but rampant deforestation, expansion of agriculture, intensive farming, mining, development, and climate change itself all drive wildlife to live closer to people, creating opportunities for pathogens to get into new hosts; indeed more than 70% of emerging diseases come from the animal kingdom.

At the same time, the explosive growth of fuel-hungry air travel has facilitated the virus’ rapid global spread, and our modern world’s high burden of air pollution appears to have increased how the new virus affects us; 80% of covid-19 deaths have occurred in countries’ most air-polluted regions, where lungs are already weakened or damaged. And as with climate change, this disaster is deepening inequality, with those less fortunate more

likely to suffer both from the disease itself and from its social and economic impacts.

Coronavirus, and its impact on us, is in very many ways an environmental disaster. But it's only a taste of what's to come if we're not careful; a small chapter in an ongoing ecological catastrophe. The UN's environmental chief, Inger Anderson, pointed this out recently: *"There are too many pressures at the same time on our natural systems and something has to give... We are intimately interconnected with nature, whether we like it or not. If we don't take care of nature, we can't take care of ourselves. And as we hurtle towards a population of 10 billion people on this planet, we need to go into this future armed with nature as our strongest ally."*

Yet the crisis itself offers a glimpse of a brighter future. While we have all been confined under lockdown restrictions, air pollution levels have dropped across the globe, with reductions of some pollutants up to 50% in places. In India, the Himalayas became visible from the Punjab region for the first time in decades. Amazingly in China, known for its polluted air, it is estimated there will be 75,000 fewer deaths from air pollution-related disease this year thanks to the break in pollution – that's around fifteen times more lives saved than lost in that country to covid-19. Here in St Albans, doesn't the air seem fresher and the sky brighter?

Rivers across the world have cleared thanks to reduced boat traffic and reduced industry. Fish populations are recovering now that restaurants are closed. Turtles have reclaimed beaches and built record numbers of nests in parts of Asia, and dolphin sightings have increased in bays and shallow waters around the world. A rare species of river dolphin has returned to Calcutta's waters after 30 years absent.



Wild goats ventured down from the hills to explore the empty streets of Llandudno in Wales, and coyotes were filmed exploring beaches near the deserted Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. And if you have been



watching Springwatch you will have seen some of the ways lockdown has helped wildlife right here in the UK.

It's all very nice, but of course this is only a temporary situation. In China, air pollution levels returned to normal in early May, and no doubt other countries will follow suit as they get their economies – and their factories – pumping again.

Yet what this crisis has shown is the capacity of governments, individuals and communities to make sacrifices and take drastic action in our daily lives to help ourselves, others, and the greater good. A short-term, fast-developing emergency seems more urgent somehow than a long-term one, doesn't it? But it's not. The slow-
looming climate disaster will be even more devastating; even more far-
reaching; cause even more suffering than this coronavirus. Pandemic
aside, 7 million people throughout the world die each year because of
air pollution, but are we compelled to keep our cars at home, slow in-
dustries and ground aeroplanes to prevent those deaths? Never.
Life has many seasons; many are expected and predictable, others
inevitably take us by surprise. And every season has its invitations
and opportunities. This spring, people across Britain and all around
the globe have been forced to pause; to rest; to *just be*. We've experi-
enced new perspectives; a slower pace of life. We've had our values
challenged and learned what's most important. (You'd be forgiven for
thinking it was toilet roll!) A YouGov survey indicated that 42% of Brits
value food more since the outbreak, with 38% cooking from scratch
more and 17% wasting less food. 6% have subscribed to a veg box

scheme or ordered from a local farm for the first time. More than 40% have turned to cooking, gardening or reading (or all three) in response to the crisis, with huge spikes in demand for flour and baking ingredients, recipes, seeds and online gardening advice. 40% feel a stronger sense of community or are keeping more in touch with friends and family. Overall, polls suggest less than 10% of us want everything to go back to normal after the crisis. So what will we change? What have we learned? **What are the invitations and opportunities of this season, for us?**

A new poll by the AA shows that many drivers intend to change their driving habits to preserve environmental benefits; and the government is promising to invest in improvements for cyclists and pedestrians. Let's hope these changes stick! And let's reflect on what other opportunities we might take – what other changes we might make – off the back of this interlude. As the wheels of society start turning again, I suggest that we will have to pay careful attention if we don't want to get pulled straight back into old patterns. We must remember to value what is good over what is convenient, or cheap, or popular. We must remember when we made do with what we had, and we got through it okay. We must reject the consumerist ideology that tells us we're entitled to all sorts of things that harm the planet, little by little. We need courage and commitment. We need to show our leaders what we want. We need a radical transformation at all levels, and while none of us can do it alone, the world can't do it without us.

Let's not go back to normal. Let's go forward.

Naomí Distill



Dear Everyone

This is Malinda saying “hello” from Highfield, St Albans, I hope you are well - well in mind and spirit—also I would like to share this little incident with you.

Early in the lockdown I had just finished my breakfast one morning when I decided to sit on the high chair a little longer to gather my thoughts. Suddenly I was overwhelmed with the experience of feeling very cast down. It was so depressingly strong that my whole body ached and my chest was in pain.

I thought of many who suffer like me and wondered how we are going to get through this pandemic, how will we cope feeling as we do, when will it end? Questions, questions! My mind was racing! Despair set in and I dropped my head in my hands.

As I sat there I heard the door creak on its hinges, I turned my head and there was Phoenix coming into the kitchen. What a welcome sight he was! He scuppered my nightmare and lifted my spirits! Phoenix may only be a cat—my pet—but he was a Godsend that morning!

Best wishes

Malinda Harris

June 2020

COPY DATE FOR THE JULY MAGAZINE

THURSDAY, 16th JULY

I have named the 16th July as the deadline for copy for the next magazine, but as you are probably aware this is very flexible in the current climate!

It was so nice to see so many people on Zoom yesterday morning, Sunday 31st May, Sometimes I feel a bit out on a limb here in Arlesey, although all my neighbours have been very friendly since the lockdown.

I have decided that I am a born hermit as I quite enjoy myself in my solitude. I don't know where the time goes. I get up and do a few things and then it's 7o'clock in the evening time to water the garden again!! I have very clear cupboards and I have been sewing and knitting, doing some cross stitch embroidery and I have mosaiced my garden table to rejuvenate it! Cooking dinner has become a highlight of the day and I have been trying some different things. I am on Nigel Slater recipes this week. I have had lemon, honey sausages with carrot and parley mash, and his mushroom, one pan Korma. Both very tasty and will do them again. I also spent a whole week reading books (Bernard Cornwall—very exciting). It's too easy to order the next book in the series on the Kindle!

I have socially distanced and visited my friend Jean in Baldock and we had tea for her birthday. We are looking forward to a haircut and a lunch out!!

Love to you all, stay safe and well

Glynis



Fathers's Day Jokes

Johnny's father: Let me see your report card.

Johnny: I don't have it.

Johnny's father: Why not?

Johnny: My friend just borrowed it. He wants to scare his parents.



What do you call two people who embarrass you in front of your friends?

Mum and Dad!

My Dad thinks he wears the trousers in our house, but it's always Mum who tells him which pair to put on!

Do fathers always snore?

No - only when they are asleep!

Son: For £20, I'll be good.

Dad: Oh, yeah? When I was your age, I was good for nothing.

Science teacher: When is the boiling point reached?
Science student: When my father sees my report card!

Dad: You'll never amount to anything because you procrastinate.

Son: Oh yeah? Just you wait!

What did the father ghost say to the naughty baby ghost?

Spook when you're spooked to!

One evening a little girl and her parents were sitting around the table eating supper. The little girl said, "Daddy, you're the boss, aren't you?" Her Daddy smiled, pleased, and said yes. The little girl continued "That's because Mummy put you in charge, right?"



Cut out and match the sum with the answer

55

$$1 \times 12$$

12

$$4 \times 11$$

44

$$10 \times 11$$

110

$$6 \times 12$$

72

$$2 \times 12$$

Date:

Name:

Times Table Worksheet 2

Multiplying by 3, 4 and 8

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) $2 \times 4 =$ | 16) $6 \times 3 =$ |
| 2) $5 \times 3 =$ | 17) $3 \times 4 =$ |
| 3) $10 \times 8 =$ | 18) $5 \times 8 =$ |
| 4) $11 \times 3 =$ | 19) $9 \times 3 =$ |
| 5) $3 \times 3 =$ | 20) $11 \times 4 =$ |
| 6) $8 \times 8 =$ | 21) $3 \times 8 =$ |
| 7) $12 \times 4 =$ | 22) $4 \times 4 =$ |
| 8) $2 \times 8 =$ | 23) $7 \times 3 =$ |
| 9) $9 \times 8 =$ | 24) $12 \times 3 =$ |
| 10) $6 \times 4 =$ | 25) $8 \times 4 =$ |
| 11) $10 \times 3 =$ | 26) $11 \times 8 =$ |
| 12) $4 \times 8 =$ | 27) $5 \times 4 =$ |
| 13) $7 \times 8 =$ | 28) $6 \times 8 =$ |
| 14) $9 \times 4 =$ | 29) $7 \times 4 =$ |
| 15) $8 \times 3 =$ | 30) $12 \times 8 =$ |

Will 3 groups of 4 apples give me the same number as 4 groups of 3 apples?



IRISH SODA BREAD

170g/6ozs self raising wholemeal or SR white flour
170g/6ozs plain flour
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
290ml/10fl ozs buttermilk (turn ordinary whole milk into buttermilk by adding 1/2 a squeezed lemon)

Heat oven to 200c/180c fan. Tip the flours and bicarbonate of soda into a bowl, mix. Make a well in the centre and pour in the buttermilk (milk and lemon juice) and mix quickly to form a soft dough. Might need to add a little milk if the dough seems too stiff.

Turn onto a floured surface and knead briefly. Form into a round and flatten the dough slightly and place on a lightly floured baking tray. Cut a deep cross on the top of the dough and then bake for about 30 mins or until the loaf sounds hollow when tapped.

Cool on a wire rack

This goes well with fish stew.



EASY SODA BREAD

500g plain wholemeal flour
2 tsp sea salt
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp chopped rosemary (optional)
400ml whole milk
1 lemon juiced
2 tsp honey

Heat oven to 200c/180c fan. Mix together the flour, salt and bicarb and rosemary (if using). Mix the milk and lemon juice in a jug and wait for it to turn into buttermilk! Stir the honey into the buttermilk and then pour into the flour mix.

Stir with a knife until it comes together into a sticky dough. Tip onto a floured work surface and shape it into a ball. Put the ball on a floured baking tray and make a deep cross with a knife .

Put in the oven and bake for 40 mins.

Cool on a wire rack then slice and serve.

This goes really nicely with a baked Camembert!



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What, When and Where June 2020

Advice continues from the government to stay alert. The lockdown is gradually releasing and we can have more social contact but at at least 2 metres distance..

So, our usual list of events, and activities for the foreseeable future are in abeyance. However, thanks to the initiative of Simon and Jonny, with invaluable support from our ‘tech savvy’ communications team, our worship services will continue, not in church but on the internet via an email link and CD versions will also be available by request. In addition, there will be a short daily prayer service streamed live from Monday to Friday. Some of these services will include communion, and we will clearly need to be creative in the way we “share” the bread and wine.

Sadly, for the foreseeable future, our regular activities, like Daycare, Toddlers, Messy Church, Who Let the Dad’s Out, Scrabble, Knitting, Games, Church in the Café, Muffins with Mums etc. will cease.

For now, our phones, internet and social media are our means of keeping in fellowship with one another.

Stay safe and keep in touch.

