

Special Online edition during Coronavirus pandemic



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The

Parish magazine serving the communities around the churches of The Sibsey and Carrington Group &

The Brothertoft Group



April 2020



Serving Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington, New Bolingbroke, Westville, Sibsey Northlands, Wildmore, New York, Brothertoft, Langrick, Kirton Holme, Hubbert's Bridge, Amber Hill, Holland Fen, Gipsey Bridge, Langriville, Anton's Gowt and those with connections to the area.

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Websites

www.kirtonholmechurch.co.uk www.achurchnearyou.com



The Sibsey Group of Churches can be found on Facebook search for Sibseygroupofchurches

In response to the Coronavirus:

Dear friends

write to you as the newly appointed Vicar of The Sibsey and Carrington and the Brothertoft groups of churches.

Due to the current situation where Worship at our churches has now suspended, the been church community were keen to offer you all our support and care at this time. Sadly scheduled services will no longer available the be and Churches will be closed until further notice.

We were hoping to be opening all the churches on Palm Sunday and on Easter Day where Palm Crosses and an Easter message from myself would have been available, but in order to ensure your safety we are currently seeking to find electronic ways of continuing to serve our communities.

The volunteers will not hand-deliver this magazine but instead we will find ways to make it available online as a means of reaching out to everyone at this difficult time. If you would like to receive a copy please send us your email and we will seek to get one to you, hopefully the magazine is available on websites or with a link to it on Facebook.

If you are aware of anyone who is self-isolating and who has little support please do let us know, we may not be able to visit but we can certainly hold them in our prayers, supporting them as best as we can. We are here for you all at this time and will be holding you all in our prayers whilst seeking to follow the Government Guidelines so ensuring the well-being of everyone.

With my prayers for you all at this

time. Reverend Clive

PS I will be adding future service sheets and sermons to the Sibsey Group's Facebook page. Anyone wanting them emailed or sent to them please contact me.

Note from the editorial team

We are not able to print and deliver *The Bridge* for April to you during Government restrictions. This edition will be posted online. Please get a copy to all those who usually receive it by email or by printing it off and make others aware that it is available.

We will continue to respond to any changes that the Government introduces in the coming months.

This edition contains church and local information as well as general stories, puzzles and humour. We hope you enjoy it.

If anyone has comments, ideas and suggestions please email thebridgemag@outlook.com or contact Reverend Clive.

The next edition will be produced at the beginning of May.

Please ensure material for the next edition is received by 20th April 2020 by email

thebridgemag@outlook.com

These are unprecedented times be kind and supportive to each other and we will all get through it.

COVID-19 Community Support Network - Sibsey

A group of villagers in Sibsey have set up a steering group and come together to to provide assistance for those in isolation.

ESSENTIAL Shopping via our delivery service working in partnership with SIBSEY shop. To enable us to cope with demand, we can only offer delivery twice per week. We ask that you consider the safety of those helping you and ask you to be thoughtful about your order, this means that we may not be able to get fizzy drinks and your favourite type of bread, but we will do what we can. To protect the volunteers will we not visit numerous shops looking for

specific items, we can only supply what SIBSEY shop stocks. I'm sure you understand that we are putting volunteers at risk every time they shop.

- Place your order on Friday for Monday delivery.
- Place your order on Tuesday for Thursday delivery.

The telephone to ring your order to is 07854 094302 you will reach Charlotte (Charli) She will talk to you about payment and safety precautions to take.

Deliveries will be made by Carl in his RED SPOT coffee van or other volunteers. Please remember the social distancing rules and stay 2 metres away from them, we need to protect you and our volunteers.

21 Meals for a week.

This is breakfast, lunch and dinner for a whole week! Age UK have partnered with Salted Orange Food Company to do this for £20 for those that are 65+. You can call them on 03455 564 144 or online www.ageuk.org.uk/lincolnsouthlinco Inshire/our-services/food-throughadversity/

Essential Walking Doq only please telephone 07947 886329 Sue or Karen 07957 481289 they will ask one of their team to help about and advise safety precautions. Please note WE ARE NOT ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO GO OUTSIDE. The Government advice is to stay inside, but there are people who are happy to take a daily on their exercise dog allowance for those people who do not have a garden for their pets to do their business.

Telephone Befriending

Age UK have a befriending service. See their website or call 0800 678 1602 for details.

Prescription delivery

We are working with Old Leake Medical Centre to provide delivery and also expect to be able to collect from Stickney Surgery too. If you have a prescription delivery request call Kerry on 07900 994400.

Exercise needs

Move It or Lose It! Rebecca from Regenerate Fitness can care for your remote exeercise needs. Call her on 07817 503095. You do not need to leave your house or come into contact with anyone for this. If you have someone that is looking after any of these needs for you please continue to use their help. If they become ill or have to stop then please remember we are here for you. You are not alone.

If you are able to use a computer or have family or friends who can please join the Facebook group *'COVID-19 Community Support Network Sibsey'* and the app 'Nextdoor'. We find it easier to communicate that way.

Setting Up Your Own Community Aid Group

Lots of information here at https://covidmutualaid.org/loc al-groups/

If you are setting up a local network lots of advice will come from the Lincolnshire task force by emailing

CEC_CVC@lincoln.fire-uk.org

NHS Volunteers

There has been nearly 750,000 volunteers come forward and these will start to be used after 31st March after security checks are completed. They will be used to provide patient transport, collecting prescriptions and shopping for selfisolating residents, and calling residents to make sure the isolated and lonely have someone to chat to each day.

If you know someone is selfisolating and vulnerable you can register them for government help at www.gov.uk/coronavirusextremely-vulnerable or call 0800 028 8327.

Alzheimer's Society Helpline

f you or someone you care for are worried about coronavirus and need support and advice, call our Dementia Connect support line on 0333 150 3456.

Lincolnshire Care Association

LinCa has asked for volunteers to come forward at www.linca.org.uk

National Emergencies Trust

n partnership with British Red Cross are supporting local UK charities. You can donate by texting APPEAL to 70141 to donate £10 to the National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus appeal or https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appe al/national-emergencies-trustcoronavirus-appeal

Scams and Fraud

Police have warned there is increased risk of fraud and theft

- Online phishing emails
- Attempted entry burglaries
- Impersonation
- Bank account scams
- Romance website fraud

Please remain vigilant for yourselves, friends and neighbours and if suspicious report it to Police on 101. You can sign up to Neighbourhood Alerts online. Do not let strangers into your home and be careful not to reveal personal information.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

CARRINGTON, FRITHVILLE/WESTVILLE & NEW BOLINGBROKE RESIDENTS

Your Parish Councils have put together a list of emergency numbers for the residents of the three Parishes to call.

If you are isolated & unable to access essential items then please call one of the numbers relevant to your Parish.

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER AND FOLLOW GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES AT ALL TIMES www.gov.uk

CARRINGTON	
Mrs Victoria Clark	07770 927309
Cllr. J. Hayes	07500 935605

FRITHVILLE & WESTVILLE	
Cllr. S. Clark - Chairman	07876 677898
Cllr. J. Portess - Vice Chair	07990 887380

NEW BOLINGBROKE	
Cllr. I. Thompson	07570 453849
Cllr. A. Paul & Mrs. L. Paul	07725 697966
	01205 480648

THESE NUMBERS ARE **ONLY** FOR HELP WHERE ESSENTIAL ITEMS ARE NEEDED AND **NOT** PARISH MATTERS.

FOR PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS CALL THE CLERK FOR YOUR VILLAGE

Frithville/Westville Parish Council Clerk: Mrs S Knowles 01205 316457

Carrington & New Bolingbroke Clerk: Mrs V Clark 07770 927309



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Letter from the Vicarage

Dear Friends

t is with sheer delight that I write this message as your new Vicar!

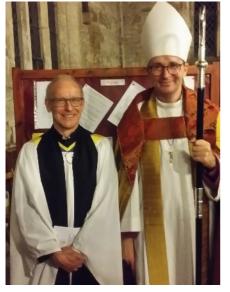
I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has worked so hard during a long that the Interregnum ensure to Churches in the Benefice and their commitment to their local communities has remained so strong and robust. I look forward to working with you all and getting to know you over the next few months. Sadly of course we find ourselves in a difficult place with all of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus and all the restrictions and safeguards which are now being encouraged. Therefore guite a number of our social activities and special events as well as usual Sunday Services planned for the run up to Easter cancelled. Please have patience during this time as we seek to care for one another and especially those who are particularly vulnerable both within our churches and our wider communities.

Please do let me know of those who are in need of prayer and I will hold them with you before God for his blessing. I had hoped to visit as many people from the churches now under my care as soon as possible after my Induction but sadly that will now not be possible but I am sure that I will get to know you all in the course of time.

May I thank you for the wonderful welcome you have given to Carolyne and myself and the maps (and cycling routes!) which will help me enormously once I am able to get out and about to see you all.

In the meantime may I reassure you that I am here for you and as we approach the glorious season of Easter, may we constantly give thanks to God for the glorious light of Christ whose light will shine brightly for us as we go through the difficult times which lie ahead.

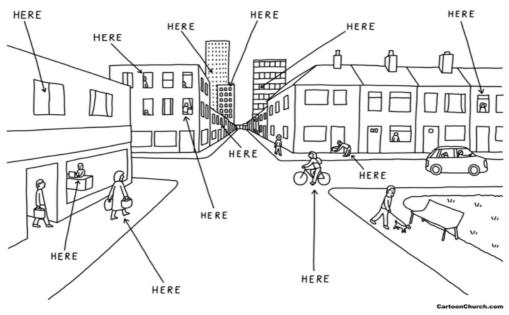
With my prayers and best wishes to you all. *Clive*.





Reverend Clive Todd was inducted as our new Vicar on Monday 16th March 2020 by the Bishop of Grantham, The Rt Revd Dr Nicholas Chamberlain. The service was held at St Margaret's Church, Sibsey. The Bishop shortened the service and the congregation was slightly smaller following Government announcements regarding the coronavirus pandemic that people should avoid nonessential social gatherings.





Something to do - finish off all those tasks you haven't finished

Adoctor on TV said this was an ideal time during this period of isolation and staying at home when you can finish off all those tasks you did not complete. It will bring inner peace and calm.

Not sure if my best friend understood it quite right. He just sent me a message "I looked through my house to find things I'd started and hadn't finished so I finished off a bottle of merlot, a bottle of Bailey's, a bottle of wum, tha mainder of Valium srciptuns, an a box a chocletz. Ya haf no idr how fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all who need inner piss. An telum u luvum. An two hash yer wands, stafe day avrybobby!!!"

Local road closures

Subject to change due to Government restrictions. West Fen Drainside, Frithville 20/4-1/5; Hobhole Bank Level Crossing 29/4; Swineshead Bridge Level Crossing (A17) 6-13 /4; Kirton Drove 6-8/4; Station Road, Hubbert's Bridge 16/3-3/ 4 and Hubbert's Bridge to Langrick Bridge 27-29/4; Kirton Holme Road 4-6/5; Local diversions will apply. Latest roadworks information on https://roadworks.org

The big surprise lurking in your Granny's chicken soup

Granny always knew her chicken soup was good for you when you were poorly, but she did not realise quite *how* good.

Now research has found that the traditional hot broths used in many cultures to battle flu and fevers pack a bigger punch than even the cooks realised.

A range of soups, ranging from vegetable to beef and chicken, were discovered to have the power to interrupt the life cycle of *Plasmodium falciparum*, which causes 99 per cent of deaths from malaria. Some of them were actually as effective as a leading antimalarial drug, dihydroartemisinin, in fighting malaria.

No one particular ingredient was found to be common to the broths, but there certainly seems to be "evidence that they contain antibiotic properties", according to one doctor. The study was carried out at the Imperial College London and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The Hubble Space Telescope

The Hubble Space Telescope was launched 30 years ago, on 24th April 1990. It was named after Edwin Hubble, an outstanding expert on extragalactic astronomy in the 1920s and 1930s.

The launch, originally scheduled for 1983, had been delayed by technical and budget problems and by the Challenger disaster. Ironically the NASA error that caused the Challenger tragedy was similar to the one that led to the Hubble telescope being launched with a defective mirror – unwillingness to accept technical warnings when there was great pressure from above to go ahead.

In the case of the Hubble telescope, also built by NASA with help from the European Space Agency, a more basic machine revealed the problem with the mirror, but those in charge did not believe it because a newer, more complex machine had given the go-ahead.

The problem was put right by astronauts in 1993 – the telescope was always designed to be serviced in orbit – and since then its position outside the Earth's atmosphere has enabled it to record many detailed visible light images that have enabled scientists a deep view into space, leading to new theories in astrophysics.

The telescope is estimated to remain in working order until 2030-2040.



"The organist isn't too sure about it, he says he can't play that fast."

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10



Information, Help and Support

Please look after yourselves during this period of social isolation, restrictive rules and anxiety for many people. The circumstances are unprecedented in the modern age. Here are some sources to help you.

- Government website www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- BBC www.bbc.co.uk
- Age UK www.ageuk.org.uk/coronavirus or call 03455 564144 or email info@ageuklsl.org.uk
- NHS www.nhs.uk or call 111
- Mental Health www.mind.org.uk
- Support www.samaritans.org or call 116 123
- Lincolnshire County Council www.lincolnshire.gov.uk or call 01522 552222.
- NHS Lincs Mental Health Helpline 24/7 0800 0014331

Please do some exercise if you can. Phone and message family and neighbours for a chat and to check they are coping.

Wash your hands frequently particularly when getting home or into work.

Listen to a TV or radio news broadcast daily to keep up to date with any new guidance or new rules.

Keep your distance from others – social distance - at least 6ft or 2m.

Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms – high temperature, cough, fatigue, difficulty breathing Self-isolate for 12 weeks from 22 March if you are over-70, have underlying health conditions or are pregnant - apply strict social distancing or shielding as advised by the NHS.

How Coronavirus is transmitted

The virus is transferred from person to person either by direct contact between two or more people, or the respiratory droplets expelled from breathing, talking, coughing or sneezing. As well as breathing in the droplets you can pick the virus up from surfaces or products you handle or touch. If the virus is on your hands and you then put your hands to your mouth, nose or eyes the virus can enter your body. On some surfaces it can survive for a few hours (paper, cardboard) other solid surfaces either a day or more.

On some plastics it can remain active for up to 3 days.

This is why you are being asked to stay home, wash hands regularly, keep 2 metres distance from others

and avoid social gatherings other than with people you live with.

If a member of your household does get the disease COVID19 you should follow the guidelines and self-isolate to reduce the chances of transmitting the virus to others. You start to transmit the virus shortly after infection and symptoms do not appear until 5 to 8 days after infection but some people do not show any symptoms making it very difficult to contain. The disease affects all ages and it is difficult to predict the effect on individuals.

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Sibsey WI

►he expected speaker could INSPIRING WOMEN not attend our last meeting so Paula with Jayne's help used slides to describe her bursarv weekend siahtseeina trip to London and enrolment for a bread-making course at Borough Market followed by scrabble bingo and pictorial quiz on local buildings and landmarks. WI ingenuity in the face of a speaker's last-minute absence. We rose to the challenge.

We usually meet at Sibsey Northlands Village Hall on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) as well as outings and events but suspended for now. Visitors are always welcome. For information email sibseywi@gmail.com

thew Ambe

Amber Hill WI

t was back to the traditional theme of WI meetings this month - a cookery demonstration. However, this one could not be classed as traditional at all. The speaker. Linda proved to be witty and Hewett. extremely entertaining as well as sharing with us some valuable information and tips on bread and pastry making. The enthusiasm she has for her chosen career certainly came across and, I think, we all enjoyed the evening very much.

Flower competition: - 1st Thelma Fountain, 2nd Elizabeth Gadd and 3rd Freda Stephens Storage tin competition: - 1st Joyce Barker 2nd Cindy Smith and equal 3rd Sally Dickens and June Davy

Kirton Holme and Hubberts Bridge Never Forgotten Club

Bangers and Mash were on the menu On March 12th at 12.30pm. Followed by bread and butter pudding. Catering staff given a vote of thanks by Vice Chairman followed by a quiz/ bingo with much laughter. Tea and cakes concluded the meeting. Future meetings suspended for now.



New members are welcome particularly anyone willing to join our committee. Potential meeting dates are listed on the notice board at the back of Sibsey Church subject to the current social restrictions being lifted. Thank you for the continued donations

for the Women's Refuge in the blue box at the back of Sibsey Church.



We are still in Lent until Easter. How have you met the challenge? Download the app, sign up to the email and learn more about #LiveLent at www.churchofengland.org/livelent

Contributions to The Bridge

Thank you to all our advertisers and contributors. In order to get our edition to the printers on time please ensure material is sent by email to thebridgemag@outlook.com or phone 01205 750336 as early as you can usually by the **21st of the month before publication**.



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5 – 12 April - Passion Week

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all his teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before he was to die, Jesus and his followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving from to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

day they returned The next to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how he was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning his authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to his disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem: wars, earthquakes and famines; and how his followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates his death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with his disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible in Luke, records him praying, '*Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done*'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

10 April - Good Friday: Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who was crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

12 April – EASTER: the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!



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Let's plant a tree

We could ask our local council to plant a tree on our street. So advises the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) who has recently announced that the majority of the Britain in Bloom finalists are in urban areas.

This is the competition's 56th year, and rather than simply judging on the beauty of the flowers planted, towns are this year winning points for increasing the number of trees in their centres.

Each of the 70 finalists will be visited by a pair of RHS judges in August, who will decide the winners of medals, categories and the Champion of Champions. Of these 70 finalists, nearly two-thirds are in urban areas where trees and plants have been used to regenerate high streets. Leeds, Blackburn, and Paddington, London, are among the 10 finalists that have been 'greening' their central shopping and business hubs.

So – in the meantime, why don't we ask the local council about planting that tree?

When someone on the train is using bad language

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Colossians 3:8 Suppose you are on a train, enjoying the journey while you browse your latest magazine. You then hear a passenger nearby swearing at the top of their voice down their mobile phone. Further along the carriage a couple are having a conversation and every sentence seems to use the word 'God' and the Saviour's name, but not in a good way. What do you do? Get up and move to the quiet coach or sit back and hide yourself behind the magazine?

Attitudes to language have changed in the last few years. Words that were not acceptable at all are now commonplace on television and daily life. While it is not usually a crime to swear or use bad language in public, there is an exception: if it occurs on a train. There are Railway Byelaws which cover this.

One of these is: 6. Unacceptable behaviour (1) No person shall use any threatening, abusive, obscene or offensive language on the railway. The offender could even be fined by a court. So, if someone's language is turning the carriage blue, and you have had enough, what do you do? A simple solution might be to politely ask the person to turn the language down a bit. They might not realise they are doing it, or that it is a problem. (Such as when there are children around.)

On the other hand, if that person is already angry, your reproof might be seen as a challenge to them, and the situation could quickly escalate.

If you really feel you need to take action, it may be best to speak to staff or call British Transport Police. They have a number you can text to report nonemergency incidents.

Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 makes it an offence for a person to use threatening, abusive or insulting words if the words are within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress thereby.

Of course, what is harassing, alarming or distressing will vary depending on the situation.

As always this is a light-hearted guide to a complex subject, and at least we can choose not to use bad

language ourselves. David Pickup a solicitor

"In light of the challenges we now face, it is time for us all to rediscover that same spirit that saw us through the War"



Dame Vera Lynn (Age 103)

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Time for a Smile

Heads bowed in prayer, the congregation at our Church listened in complete silence to the Minister as he said, 'Now let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.' A little girl's voice voice could be heard throughout the hushed congregation as she said, "Daddy, I didn't know Jesus had a tortoise."..

He was a Christian and he loved swimming in the sea. One day, a passing boat saw him swimming in a rough sea a long way from shore and someone shouted, "Do you need help?" The swimmer replied, "No, I am sure God will save me." Later, a fishing boat passed near and the fisherman called out. "It's pretty rough out here, can I help you get back to shore?" The man replied, "It's OK thanks, I know God will save me." The story goes that the man drowned and went to heaven. He asked God. "Why didn't you save me?" And God replied, "Didn't you see the two boats?"

A bishop had fallen seriously ill and was told by his doctor not to have too many visitors. However,. when his long-term agnostic friend called he was ushered to the bishop's bedside. "My Lord bishop," said the visitor, "I do appreciate you seeing me when other friends have not been admitted." The bishop replied, "Well, it's like this; I feel confident of seeing my friends in the next life, but I was concerned that this might be my last chance of seeing you."

I never think about the future; It comes soon enough. (Albert Einstein)

What do you call a chocolate bunny that was out in the sun too long? A runny bunny.

Puzzled by his first lesson on evolution, young Johnny arrived home from school and said, "Mum is it really true that I am a descendant of apes, monkeys and gorillas." She replied, "I don't really know darling, I never knew any of your father's family."

While driving in the countryside, a family caught up to an old farmer and his horse-drawn cart. The farmer obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: 'Ecologically efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother's explanation, he replied: 'Mummy, when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a photo of me on the packet?'

It was Palm Sunday, but five-year-old Jamie stayed at home with mum because of a bad cold. When his father and sisters returned, they were carrying several palm fronds. His sister explained: "People held them over Jesus' head as

"People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by."

"That's not fair!" Jamie protested. "The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out. "Aces!"

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Easter Sunday Sermon

With all churches closed and no public worship taking place Reverend Clive has prepared his Easter Sunday sermon (12th April) in advance.

My Easter message comes to you all as we think and pray and reflect on the glory of the resurrection amidst the situation we and so many across the world find ourselves in. Although we may not gather to rejoice we can open our hearts to one another and still give thanks to God for the gift of love revealed in Christ Jesus. In the popular hymn Abide with me, we hear the following words, Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom and point me to the skies, heav'n's morning breaks and earths vain shadows flee, in life, in death O Lord, abide with me.

On this Easter Day the reality of life is revealed, the promise of life is renewed and we are reminded that the God who regards not the person of men, yet ever is moved with compassion toward them, that God will never be buried. The women attend the Lord's tomb and they are met with what seems like an earthquake a momentous occasion and they witness the angels of God removing the human obstacles placed before them and their risen Saviour. For despite the guard placed upon the and despite the careful tomb precautions of humanity nothing can limit the power of God. According to the Gospel of Luke the women brought their spices to adorn Christ's body immediately after the Sabbath.

They had prepared them earlier just after Jesus had died and within hours preparations were being made to honour the custom of the dead and yet all was placed on hold for not even grief was allowed to transgress the law of the Sabbath. Death could wait but death did not wait, when the women arrived death had already been conquered by Jesus.

In reality what had been enacted in our midst was the death of self and the realisation that life was deeper, more meaningful and far more significant than we had ever considered it to be.

When we look at our world at this time with the Coronavirus changing the way in which we live, communicate, and socialise with one another, our lives may seem to have become rather limited, we now are seeking to inhabit a smaller space, we seek to live simply and hopefully maintain happy and contented lives as we learn to live with the consequences of our changing circumstances. We may have to limit what we do in this life at this time but we are reassured by the resurrection of Jesus that in and through his sacrifice for us we do not have to limit our spiritual lives or our hope in eternity.

We hope through our faith in Jesus Christ for greater and better things to come and rightly so but Jesus opens up for us the reality and the beauty of what living within this life today really means for us, for the resurrection is not something to which we long for in the future but is in Christ made real in our midst.

Jesus by his resurrection opens the door of life and through his teaching and by our acceptance of his love we can find a depth within this life never before considered possible. In following Jesus we are not only redeemed and saved but are given the power to bring others to understand and accept that this magnificent gift is not just ours but theirs.

Jesus through his life, passion, death and resurrection gave all for the sake of others, his response to his people was to serve them and through his life with them, to enable them to lift themselves before God as his children, Jesus achieved this through his response to them, so in response to our Risen Lord how do we respond to others?

Do we place them and their needs before our own, or have we lost ourselves in a world which is full of self- interest. At times such as these our society needs to rediscover the spirit of community living, and to restore the concept of using our lives positively and creatively not just for ourselves but for all who live around us.

Of course there will always be those who take advantage those who do not live responsibly those who offer nothing and expect much in return, but the reality of life cannot be transformed by increasing the suffering of those already in need, it can however be transformed if our approach to life is like that of Christ meek, merciful and pure in heart.

Today Jesus reminds us, that his Gospel is not for the faint hearted not for the insignificant, the Gospel is for those who are brave, those who when entering the tomb of emptiness will truly rejoice at hearing the words of the angel of God: "do not be afraid, I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified, he is not here for he has been raised." Easter truly locates us in the here and now it opens up the glory of life and casts away the oppression of death. The stone rolled away from the tomb removes forever the futility of life and makes it glorious!

In Romans 8 Paul reminds us of this in those words which say "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us."

Jesus reminds us that through him we live and share in his Resurrection, for us it is not something which is far off but with us clearly in the here and now, we are not to enter into paradise by death but by living our lives to the full. There is no time for complacency no time for self- pity and no time for looking back at what may have been; today we are called to look forward knowing that we walk securely within the gift of Jesus.

The women run from the Tomb in fear and great joy, were they afraid to share their experience with others?

At first they may well have been hesitant, just as you or I would have

been, but not only did they have the words of the angel before them, but whilst on their way the Lord personally appeared to them. What a moment that must have been to have shared so clearly and so powerfully in the Lord's resurrection. They bowed in worship, they held him in a personal embrace and then filled with joy they went with haste to share the good news with the disciples. What a challenge that is to us today to go forth with faith in our hearts and to say to others alleluia Christ is risen!! For this is not an idle tale but the story which brings home to us that God's judgements are sure, the story of the Resurrection lifts our understanding of the very nature of our lives and we are called to abandon ourselves and to find our true place with him, in him and through him.

Jesus is our risen Lord and through the joy of the Resurrection we too arise in glory. We are transformed from that which seems insignificant to that which is truly amazing. For in us rests the promise of God, in us rests the peace of Christ, in us rests the power to transform the world. With Jesus within us there is nothing that we cannot achieve and yet achievement is seen not through glory, not through power not through success, but in humble service to God.

We are a resurrected people a chosen nation transformed by the glory of God revealed in Jesus, the world was changed for ever on this day and we live within that changed and glorious world. But we cannot sit idly by and not respond, we cannot seem to treat the women's story as an idle tale and do nothing, we must run the race, we must glory in Christ's Resurrection. we must live out our lives in his service and enjoy every moment of it. Life is for living it is not for looking back but for looking forward in eager anticipation of the glory's which are to come. Heaven is in our midst and we rejoice because we live in it through it and because Jesus was and is a part of it.

The Resurrection of Jesus is not a thing of the past to be remembered but a living reality in which we live and move and have our very being, remember those words he is not here for he has been raised. Jesus is alive and with us, his Spirit lives within us and we live within him, let us not be to how concerned little and as insignificant we seem but let us rejoice as we recognise just how great we are when we live in Jesus and allow him to live in us.

Through the resurrection of Jesus God unimaginably has changed our lives , he has rolled away the stone of futility, the stone of bitterness and the stone of injustice and thrown down his gauntlet before us, daring us in the power of Jesus to live out the Gospel which we proclaim.

So let us look forward with certainty, let us pick up the gauntlet of God with confidence, and let us walk out into the world when we can do so safely with our heads held high, for we are not insignificant we no longer are born to die, for in Christ Jesus we live eternally.

Live your lives to the full, find peace within yourselves be meek and merciful, care for those in need abandon self- interest and live simply and humbly before God and give thanks to Him in glory and praise for Christ is Risen he is Risen indeed Alleluia.

Happy Easter and God bless you all.

Reverend Clive

Note: Weekly updates from me will appear on Sibsey Group Facebook page or contact me if need to be sent.

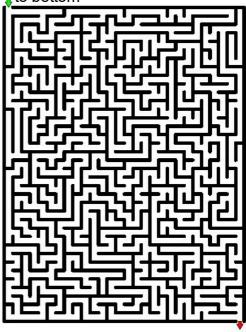
OUR MISSION STATEMENT Together in Christ Called to love, to worship and to serve God

Sudoko challenge

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Maze - find your way from top to bottom



Wordsearch

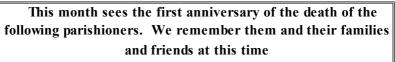


The clues for the Wordsearch for 20 words are on page 26.

From The Registers



Funerals "May they rest in peace". Doris Stennett, age 95. Died 14 Feb 2020. Ashes interred Wildmore Churchyard 17 March 2020.



None notified this month

If you would like to add someone's name to the Book of Remembrance in St Margaret's Sibsey contact the churchwardens.

Prayer requests

If you would like prayers said in church for you at a time of illness this can be arranged. If the request is for another person the prayers will not be said in public for confidentiality reasons. Contact the Clergy or Lay Ministers listed inside front cover.

Church Volunteers: To all who faithfully clean our churches and all who were planning to decorate the churches with flowers for Easter. My guidance is that during this difficult period all such voluntary activity should cease while places of worship are closed. This is to ensure the safety of all concerned. May I thank you all for your exceptional service to date it is really appreciated. Please keep

vourselves safe.

God bless. Reverend Clive

Wordsearch Clues for page 25

ven as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples. He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethesame that this fearful cup might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.

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The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On how to run your notice board

From: The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

Vour decision to place a notice board outside your church

seems a good one - and its design in blue plastic with



luminous red detachable letters seems entirely in keeping with the aesthetics of your building. Make sure that it is lockable, however, as an innocent notice saying 'all are welcome' may be modified by a devotee of anagrams to say something far less polite by the following day.

We recently replaced ours, which had disappeared shortly before last bonfire night. That the Scouts' bonfire had a board which closely resembled our old one in its centre was, I am sure, a complete coincidence. The Venture Scouts' collective smirk during the following week's Parade Service did give one pause for thought, and the Cubs' collapse into helpless laughter at the chorus 'So light up the fire and let the flames burn' only increased suspicion.

On reflection, you may not have been wise to use your notice board to tell everyone your holiday dates. Certainly, various local burglars were tripping over each other inside the vicarage while you were away. However, the note the last one left you, saying that next time he broke in, he would bring you something, since you had so little left, was quite touching.

Inevitably, now that your church has a notice board, there will be open warfare over who is allowed to display notices on it. Will the Slimmer's Club be seen as biblical? Why is the Ladies Guild notice twice as large as all the others? And do remember that while everyone will want space to display their notices, no one will ever remove them once the event is over. Plaintive announcements of Christmas parties in April or of Summer Fetes in November only serve to take people down memory lane.

Here's the best way to manage a notice board: create that panacea for all problems: a sub-committee. These poor people only ever exist in order to get the clergy out of tight corners and to make sure that matters are discussed at such inordinate length that every issue eventually dies a natural death. And if even that fails, you could have a quiet word with our Scouts before next year's bonfire night. Your Loving Uncle

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Things to do

Never had time to get to the theatre, visit The Vatican to see the Sistine Chapel, go to museums? Well some of the world's greatest art, cultural and entertainment sites are opening up online during the global pandemic. Pace yourself and make a special day of it to get comfortable at home and enjoy what they can offer usually for free.

Organisation	What's available	Where to find it
Royal Academy	Virtual exhibitions; Family How-to; Daily Doodle Challenge (Twitter)	www.royalacademy.org.uk
Arts and Culture	Various virtual tours from around the world	https://artsandculture.google.com
National Theatre	Free online performance of a show on Thursday each week on YouTube	www.nationaltheatre.org.uk
Auctions	Art and antique auctions around the world. Explore virtual catalogues	www.invaluable.com
Art	A virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel	www.sistinevr.com
Metropolitan Museum of Art	Virtual Tours of the Met in New York	www.metmuseum.org
Berlin Philarmonic	Free Digital Concert Hall performances of Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra concerts	www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home
Opera	Performances from around Europe	https://operavision.eu/en
London Symphony Orchestra	Free archive performances of LSO	https://lso.co.uk and YouTube
Arts and Culture	Online virtual tours from your home	https://discover.ticketmaster.co.uk/tag/online- exhibitions
Time Out	Lots of suggestions for filling your time in at home	www.timeout.com
National Trust Collections	Explore the collections held by the National Trust online	www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk

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