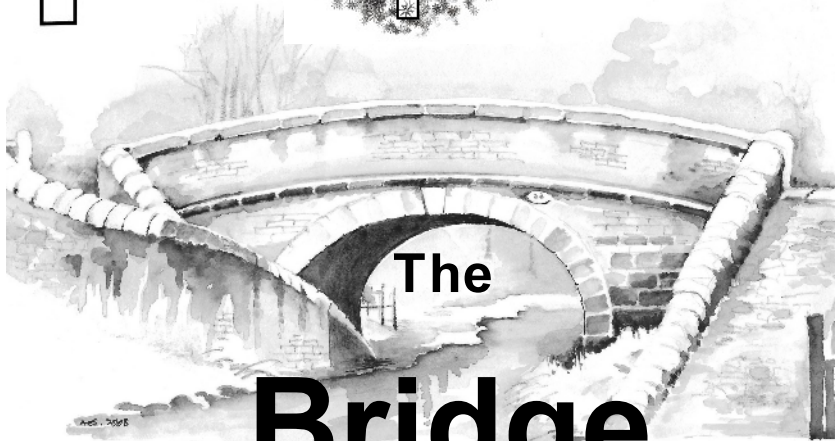


Special Online
edition during
Coronavirus
pandemic



Bridge

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



November 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, Langrville, Anton's Gowt and those with connections to the area.



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READER Parish Safeguarding Officer	Nicola Bradbury Ms A. Sykes	Phone number 01205 480064 01205 870794
METHODIST CIRCUIT MINISTERS Superintendent Minister	Rev'd Julie Doddrell (Rest day Friday)	01205 316524
Circuit Office (Mon-Fri am)	Email: centenarymeth@gmail.com	01205 355543

Churchwardens

Brothertoft	Mr M. Harrison	01205 290575
Holland Fen	Mrs K. Moss Ms J. Orford	01205 280404 01205 280202
Kirton Holme	Mrs T. Fountain Mr M. Harrison	01205 290747 01205 290575
Langrick	Mrs A. Bowhen Mrs M. Casey	07800862190 01526 342039
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Any enquiries please contact the PCC Secretaries listed below.

Secretary to the PCC Sibsey & Carrington Group

Brothertoft Group	Ms J. Orford june.orford@mypostoffice.co.uk	01205 280202
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All material for The Bridge – editorial, adverts, pictures, volunteer enquiries, etc

thebridgemag@outlook.com

Websites

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



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

Thanking God for the past as we look to the future

November is an emotional month. It begins with All Saints Day when we thank God for all the Saints who have gone before us – the Roman Catholic Church recognises more than 10,000 Christians who have been considered worthy of the Saint (with a capital 's') title after their death. The next day is All Souls, traditionally called the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed or the Day of the Dead. Many Christian denominations mark this with a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died, for example, some churches invite bereaved families and friends of those whose funerals were held in the church during the previous year. During such a service candles are lit for every person as their names are read out. It can be a very moving, meaningful and emotional occasion for many people.

A few days later, on Armistice Day, the nation comes together to remember and give thanks to God for all those who sacrificed their lives while serving the country in the armed forces. Armistice Day was first observed at 11am on 11 November 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War a year earlier. This happened at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. The first official Armistice Day commemoration was held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and this was followed by a peace parade for which the Cenotaph memorial was

created in Whitehall and today is at the centre of the nation's commemorations.

During the Second World War, most of the Commonwealth of Nations agreed to change the name from Armistice to Remembrance and so include those who died during that war. In more recent times, servicemen and women killed and injured in other conflicts since the Second World War have also been included, and services are held at parish churches and local memorials on the closest Sunday to Armistice Day.

The Royal British Legion, which cares for ex-servicemen and women injured while serving the country, and for the families of those who have died, plays a leading role in many of the services which often attract the largest congregations of the year. However, this year, for the first time since 1919, these services will probably not be taking place in the usual ways because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As November starts with a series of acts of remembrance to thank God for all those who have gone before us, it concludes with the excitement of Advent Sunday when Christians begin looking forward to celebrating the coming into the world of Christ.

Advent Sunday on 29th November marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Christian Church, a year that we hope and pray will enable the world to come to terms with Covid-19 and enable us all not only to rebuild our local communities, but make our churches stronger and more relevant to the new world we will be serving.

Support line

Anyone in self-isolation in Lincolnshire can call 01522 782189 (7 days a week 9am-5pm) or register for help at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/requesthelp.

NHS Volunteer Responders

If you need help to collect shopping, medication, transport to NHS services, or just a check-in and chat due to self-isolation or if you are feeling lonely or vulnerable please call 0808 196 3646 (8am-8pm). Carers and NHS staff may also refer the people they care for with their agreement. Information can be found <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/>

Covid-19: what we know

This month it is officially recorded that globally at least 47million people have been infected (a rise of 11 million over the past month) and over 1.2million deaths occurred from the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. Vaccine trials continue. Infection rates are increasing in Europe and North America as cooler Autumnal weather returns and people spend more time indoors. With less fresh air various respiratory conditions typically increase at this time.

The key Covid19 symptoms to watch out for include a persistent cough, a high temperature and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Most people get one of these symptoms. If you or a member of

your household show symptoms get tested immediately and stay at home along with the rest of your household and social bubble and do not have visitors. If the test is positive you and your household and social bubble must self-isolate. The person with the symptoms must self-isolate for 10 days while other household and social bubble members should do so for 14 days. You must not leave your home during this time.

Use friends, family, voluntary groups and NHS Volunteer Responders to bring your medicines, food and other items and leave them on your doorstep and to complete other errands.

To reduce the spread of the coronavirus everyone must wash hands regularly, if coughing or sneezing cover your nose and mouth with a fresh tissue (not hands), avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes and socially distance from everyone you do not live with or outside your social bubble by 2 metres (6 feet). If you cannot socially distance by this distance you should wear a face covering.

Face coverings are mandatory in shops, NHS premises, banks, post offices,, public transport and in most indoor places where you will meet others , such as, places of worship, museums, hotels, village halls, libraries, cinemas, hair salons, barbers and professional services (legal, financial, etc). A face covering will reduce the risk of droplet transmission.

Businesses and venues must show a QR code or take information for

Track and Trace purposes. You can download the NHS Covid19 app to identify potential contact with an infectious person and check-in QR codes

Across Europe France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Poland, and Czech Republic have introduced further lockdown measures to try to stop health care systems from being overwhelmed. The UK has adopted a second period of national lockdown as cases of infection, hospitalisation and deaths increase rapidly.

Emerging clinical studies suggest that those with Vitamin D deficiency may suffer the most severe symptoms of Covid19. In the UK taking Vitamin D supplements between October and March has been official public health policy for some years as there is not enough sunlight to create it naturally and diet is not rich in Vitamin D. Scotland plans to provide Vitamin D to all vulnerable people this winter.

The Government has issued new guidance on the lockdown restrictions from 5th November at www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november

The World Health Organisation provides an international perspective on the pandemic and is online at www.who.int

Additionally the Church of England has issued online guidance to churches and communities dealing with the various implications of the coronavirus pandemic locally www.churchofengland.org



Test and Trace Support Payments

If you have been told by the NHS to self-isolate, either because you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, you may be entitled to a £500 Test & Trace Support Payment. Some Councils have also implemented a local discretionary scheme for people who do not meet the main criteria but are facing financial hardship as a result of self-isolating. Contact your local Council for more information.

Help for Businesses

If you are running a business there are a number of financial schemes and advice services available to help cope with coronavirus. To find out more visit this website www.businesslincolnshire.com

Vulnerable and shielding

Recognising that mental health and well being were adversely affected in the first lockdown this time people affected are advised to stay at home but may still mix with other household members, take exercise, but avoid contact with people outside your home. See more on www.nhs.uk



Poppy Appeal 2020



Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be 'point of sale donations'. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: "The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead", but that "the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised "not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present."

And yet the need is still huge: "Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them."

Wear your poppy with pride!
www.britishlegion.org.uk

13th November 2020 - World Kindness Day 2020

World Kindness Day is a global day that promotes the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world. The day has the purpose is to help everyone understand that compassion for others is what binds us all together. This understanding has the power to bridge the gap between nations.



On World Kindness Day, groups and individual

people are encouraged to go out of their way to be kind to others, whether that be at home, work, school, or just out in public. Celebrate by pledging to do at least one intentional act of kindness on that day to benefit someone else. It can be as straightforward or as involved as you like. No matter what you decide to do, your act of kindness will unite you with others dedicated to changing the world one kind act at a time.

Some ideas - say 'Thank You', hold open doors for others, smile often, chat with a stranger and ask about their day, compliment someone, surprise someone with flowers, pick up rubbish, phone a relative you have not spoken to for a while, help around the house, give someone a hug, send a positive message to five contacts, bake a cake for someone special or co-workers. Be Kind and enjoy the day!



T.J.W.

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Letter from the Vicarage



My Dear Friends

As I write my letter to you today another lock-down has been placed upon us.

Sadly that does mean that all Church Services for November within the Benefice have now been cancelled and Remembrance Services including short services beside Memorials have all been abandoned. We have all worked hard like so many people, businesses, and local institutions and we have had so many good ideas to remember as best as we were able and it seems as if all that hard work has been for nothing and yet that is not the case at all.

Church Services, Remembrance Services and all Special Commemorative events only have significance when they are done collectively together. Remembrance is the Nation remembering together, church services are when the Church remembers together. Out of every disappointment opportunities arise for the future. The key thing to remember at this time is that this war against an unseen foe will only be won, if we fight against it together.

We do not know when the lock down will be eased, yes we are

hopeful that will be on 2nd December and we can proceed again with socially distant worship and engagement with our communities, so the existing pattern of services already arranged for after that date will be kept. We will plan services and invite people to attend them providing that we do so on the understanding that everything leading up to the celebration of Christmas will have to be provisional dependant on how successful we all are in reducing the R number, so that we may return to some level of greater social integration.

As we go through this month of restrictions, let us seek to be as positive and creative as we can be. In working together we will get through this crisis and that is what is key for the future. Working together means just that, the Church will have to change its approach and so will many institutions within society. But that can and will only lead to doing something which although different will in itself be more creative and in keeping with the world in which we live.

Throughout this lock down we will seek to continue to provide local on-line resources for people to worship in their own homes. Many churches across the nation are providing opportunities through social media systems to engage

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Together in Christ

Called to love, to worship and to serve God

with wider audiences, Cathedrals across the nation are providing excellent worship opportunities to a very high standard for all to enjoy. We do not all need to re-invent the wheel, but what we do need to do is to remember that we are all in this together, in sharing resources and encouraging others and engaging with them rather than simply re-trenching into our own local huddles we will become the Church which the Lord Jesus Christ has called us to be.

So as you all stay in your homes and limit your activities, remember to pray and to give thanks, that through our endeavours and sacrifices we will overcome and be restored in the fullness of time, to move forward with confidence and joy into a safer and more secure, loving and caring community before God.

Keep safe and secure and may the prayers of the Universal Church wash over each of you and bring you peace.

Clive.

Brothertoft Group Friendship Club 2020-21 October 2020 Draw

1st Prize £25 Paula Tunnard

2nd Prize £15 John Pinion

3rd Prize £10 Wendy Appleyard

Mick

Local road closures

Subject to change. B1183 Main Road, Frithville 2-13/11. Sutterton Drive, Amber Hill 15/11, Red Cap Lane, Boston 16-25/11, Hubbert's Bridge 30/11-1/12. Local diversions will apply. Latest roadworks information on <https://roadworks.org>

Sibsey & Carrington Group - Christmas cards not to be left in churches

To protect against the inadvertent transmission of coronavirus, it was agreed at our PCC AGM that Christmas Cards should not be left in Churches for collection to reduce handling. Some people are sending no cards at all this year to reduce the risk of transmission.

Instead a large 'Greetings card/board' will be displayed in each Church. Members of the congregation can sign it with their greeting and in return offer a donation (£5 suggested). These donations will go to **The Church of England Children's Society** and to some extent will compensate for the loss of giving from the **annual Christingle Service as this has been cancelled for this year.**

Any donations can be put in the envelope provided and placed on the Offertory plate. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

During lockdown the church websites on A Church Near You will be updated weekly with Rev Clive's written Service at Home and Reflection. A weekly news update is also added with details of online services being broadcast.

All Saints' Day and Remembrance Day in November naturally turn our thoughts to death and what lies beyond...

The Blessed Dead

They lie at rest, our blessed dead;

The dews drop cool above their head,
They knew not when fleet summer fled.

Together all, yet each alone;
Each laid at rest beneath his own
Smooth turf or white allotted stone.

When shall our slumber sink so deep,
And eyes that wept and eyes that weep
Weep not in the sufficient sleep?

God be with you, our great and small,
Our loves, our best-beloved of all,
Our own beyond the salt sea-wall

By Christina Rossetti (1830-94)



...at the going down of the sun we would have remembered them - but some rotten scrap metal thief has stolen the brass plaque with the names on!!

Help our wildlife before it is too late

A quarter of mammals in the UK are at risk of extinction, and this decline will continue unless their habitats are restored and some species are reintroduced.

So warns the chair of Natural England, Tony Juniper, referring to a recent list of endangered animals issued by the Mammal Society, and approved by the United Nations.

UK mammals most in danger are the greater mouse-eared bat, the water vole, the hedgehog, hazel dormouse and Scottish wildcat. The European wolf is already extinct.

Tony Juniper advises that reintroducing some mammals would help others at greater risk. For example, introducing more pine martens would help control the grey squirrels, which in turn would give our native red squirrels a better chance.

As one professor of environmental biology said: "Here in Britain we are managing to send even rodents towards extinction. Things have to change rapidly if we want our children and grandchildren to enjoy the wildlife that we take for granted."

Have you got hedgehogs in the garden? This winter what can you do to help them survive the harshest season? Further help from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 or www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

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The destruction of Coventry

German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry – including its medieval cathedral – 80 years ago this month, on 14th November 1940.

Coventry was targeted by 'Operation Moonlight Sonata' as an industrial city, but more than 4300 homes were destroyed and about two-thirds of the city's buildings were damaged. There were many direct hits on the cathedral, and flames spread quickly. More than 550 people were killed and over 850 badly injured, with nearly 400 sustaining lesser injuries.

There would have been more casualties, but many citizens left at night to sleep in nearby towns or villages after earlier air raids.

Rumours that Churchill knew of the raid in advance but declined to take precautions to prevent the Germans knowing their code had been broken were later shown to be misguided.

Joseph Goebbels later used the term coventriert ('coventried') to describe high levels of destruction in other towns.

The cathedral was left as a ruin, still standing today as a reminder of the bombing. A new cathedral was built close alongside in the 1950s, designed by the architect Basil Spence. The Queen laid its foundation stone in 1956. It was consecrated in 1962, and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* was composed to mark the occasion.

Children In Need 2020

This year's appeal takes place on Friday 13th November on BBC channels. Fundraising has already started.



Since 1980 it has raised over £1 billion for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. When adjusting for the year 2020's inflation this totals £1,493,556,399 from 1980-2019.

www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk

In praise of peanut butter

One quirky change of life under Covid-19 is that for some reason, we are eating more peanut butter. According to a recent report in *The Grocer*, sales of the stuff rose by 35.5 per cent in the Spring.

Peanut butter producer Kirstie Hawkins (Whole Earth brand) is delighted. "Peanut butter offers an easy way to add more nutrition to breakfast and snack choices."

Whatever the reason, sales of peanut butter, at £98.9million in the past year, are now £2million more than those for jam.

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Before you take your bucket out to do a street collection...

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. (1 Corinthians 16:1-3)

The Bible teaching on giving encourages us to be generous and planned in our giving. Suppose you decide to be spontaneous as well by organising an outdoor collection, street by street and door to door for your favourite charity. You then end up holding a bucket in your local park for people to put money in. Unless you have a permit from your local council (or the police in London) you are breaking the law.

If you want to collect money, you will probably require a street collection licence, depending on your local council. This rule includes any public area such as a park or open space. It is all to do with the Police, Factories etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1916, as amended by the Local

Government Act 1972 and Schedule 29 of that Act. A bit of a mouthful, but it was an Act of Parliament passed in the middle of the First World War which regulated flag days and charity collections.

Why did Parliament spend time and effort controlling giving money to charity at one of the worst points of the war? The reason is there had been bogus 'charities' set up by criminals playing on people's generosity. The authorities wanted to reduce nuisance and make sure that no two or more charities clashed by collecting on the same day.

The law forcing you to get a licence is to make sure collectors are properly authorised and that money is collected in a secure way and the total proceeds collected are properly accounted for.

As always this is a light-hearted guide to a complex subject. Always get proper advice before acting - and be generous!

David Pickup, a solicitor

Contributions to The Bridge

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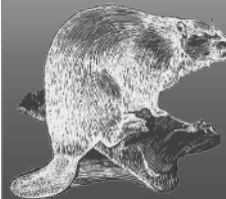
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Why do we need Advent?

Many people say: “I can understand God, but I can’t see where Jesus fits into the picture.”

A theologian called Athanasius, Egyptian by birth and Greek by education, gave the answer to your question 1600 years ago. He said: “The only system of thought into which Jesus Christ will fit is the one in which HE is the starting point!”

Once we try to begin with our own human-based attempt at understanding God and the meaning of life – let alone the place that Christ occupies – we’ll be like the man who tries to do up his shirt buttons, *beginning with the wrong button*. He may hope that it will all work out, and that the shirt will eventually fit properly, but it never will.

So, you need to begin with Christ, if you want the picture to make sense. He is right there in the Bible, from the start. All Creation finds both its origin and its fulfilment in Him, its rightful heir (Colossians 1:15-17). You will notice from Colossians 1:17 that, far from Christ fitting into our system, we can only ‘fit’ – and thus find coherence and meaning – in His... or rather, in HIM.

It is through Christ alone that we can know the face of God, and His salvation in our lives. Jesus is fully God and fully human, Christ – the God-Man – is the perfect mediator.

By His saving death He has bridged the gulf between heaven and earth (Philippians 2:5-11).

No one else will do. That was the blazing conviction of those first-century Christians. Beside Christ there was no other name (Acts 4:12). Historically, Christ’s name claims supreme recognition in all the areas of life that matter most. It happened in the world of worship – where the Druids, ju-ju men, witch doctors, temple priests and the gigantic gods Mithras, Serapis, Diana, Jupiter and Venus were all swept away.

It also happened in the world of suffering. When we put the leaders of history and of thought together, it is quite clear that none of them suffered as Jesus did. In Him we see God incarnate, living among us, loving, suffering, dying and reclaiming. This fact alone is enough to explain the beginning of hospitals in our world. They were never begun by a state department. They owe their origin to the influence of Christ, and reflect His compassion.

It happened in the world of creativity. Christ has inspired symphonies, paintings, soaring architectures and enduring literature. Take Christ away, and the writings of Shakespeare would be meaningless. Atheism, by its very nature, could never have this impact, for atheism has no wings.

It happened in the world of eternity. The pre-Christian epitaphs say it all: ‘I was not, I was born, I lived, I am not, that is all’. ‘Guesswork is over
.... (continued on page 18)

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that world exploded the message of Christ, bodily raised from death, never to die again. That message alone is enough to change our view of the entire universe. The universe itself only *fits* because of Christ.

By the Revd Richard Bewes, a former Rector of All Souls Langham Place, London.

Does marriage make you happy?

It may. But then again, it may not. Research spanning 40 years has found that being married does not necessarily make people significantly happier than if they were divorced or single.

Psychologists at Michigan State University found that, while married people showed a slight increase in happiness, the difference was still less than one percentage point.

The findings are in contrast to a previous study by the Office for National Statistics, which found that being married or in a civil partnership was the third most important factor in happiness, behind only health and employment.

One researcher observed that, if someone longed for a lifelong partner to build a happy life together, but that individual was not completely happy to begin with, then getting married would be unlikely to cause a dramatic change in the long term.

Lord, prop us up!

There is a story of an old farmer who always prayed the same

prayer at his church meeting. 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side'. After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The farmer replied: "Well, it's like this... I've got an old barn out in one of my fields. It's been there a long time, and gone through a lot of storms. One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So, I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up, too, on my leaning side.

Our 'leaning side' is where we are weakest in ourselves. Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, bitterness, bleakness in life. Then we too need to pray for God to prop us up, especially on that leaning side.

He wants us to stand tall and free, in Him.



Quarantining in church had its drawbacks. Two days in, the biscuits were gone, and Rupert was hungry.


In England from 4 July, where it's not possible to stay 2 metres apart keep a distance of 1 metre + precautions



Precautions such as

 Wearing a face covering

 Keeping interactions brief

 Following the COVID-19 Secure guidelines wherever you are

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80 years on, we still need courage and endurance

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – when the horrors of the Luftwaffe bombs were heavy over British skies. On this Remembrance Day we can only imagine the terror of living in Coventry, in Liverpool, in London during those months, 80 years ago. It must have seemed like the beginning of the end of the world.

It is a good time to stop and thank God that in the end, evil did *not* prevail. Hitler did not win the battle to dominate Europe. His expected 'rule of a 1000 years' lasted a mere 12 years (1933 to 1945). And we can thank God for the courage and endurance of our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, in the midst of such towering darkness and destruction. Sadly, 80 years on, the world is still at war. Man's greed, arrogance and desire for domination have not gone away. There are still battles to be fought for our land, major problems to be solved. Coronavirus, economic uncertainty, terrorism, climate warming... the threats are different from Hitler, but our need for courage, endurance and perseverance is the same.

It is a good time to pray for our nation and ourselves, to turn to God in repentance and in faith, to 'walk more nearly' and 'follow Him more clearly'. It is a good time to be ready to serve our God and serve our neighbour in whatever ways lie open before us.

5th November Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night celebrates the failed Assassination attempt on King James I by Guy Fawkes and a group of Catholic conspirators.

They tried to overthrow the Protestant monarchy and spent months plotting to blow up the King during the opening of Parliament on November 5, 1605.

This plot - known as the Gunpowder Plot - was led by Robert Catesby, but it is Guy Fawkes who is now remembered for the planned rebellion. He was found guarding the barrels of gunpowder with which they had planned to spark the explosion, and was arrested and executed.

After the plot was revealed, bonfires were lit to celebrate the safety of the King and the failure of the plan. Since that night, November 5 has been known as 'Bonfire Night' and is celebrated every year bonfires, fireworks and by burning Guy Fawkes effigies.

This year has already seen many organised events cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions.

If planning your bonfire and fireworks at home plan carefully to make it safe and enjoyable, buy fireworks with the CE mark and only set them off one at a time after reading the instructions and at arms length. Never return to a firework after it is lit. Protect spectators by keeping them at a safe distance. Keep naked flames and all inflammable items away from bonfires and fireworks. Don't leave bonfires unattended.

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Worship Rota

Due to national lockdown from Thursday 5th November until Wednesday 2nd December places of worship are closed except for limited activities allowed in law.

No regular services will take place during this period.

Sunday 6th December

10.30am Sibsey	Holy Communion
10.45am Langrick	Advent Holy Communion
3.00pm Kirton Holme	Christingle

Sunday 13th December

10.30pm Sibsey	Morning Worship
10.45am Wildmore	Holy Communion

Notes

- 1. Services taking place are subject to clergy or lay persons being able to attend to lead the service and Government guidance permitting. Last minute changes or cancellations may occur.*
- 2. Seating capacity is limited to allow for social distancing. If you could let local churchwardens or the vicar know in advance of your attendance at a service it would be appreciated.*
- 3. Use of face coverings is expected. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Singing is not permitted. Movement around the church will be restricted. Contact details will be taken for 'Track and Trace' purposes.*
- 4. Holy Communion will only take place if licensed clergy are available and if COVID-19 secure procedures can be followed. Members of the congregation will remain seated and the priest will move around.*

Helping people cope with loss

Bereavement at any time is hard. Bereavement during a period of isolation with restricted movement and limited contact with family and friends is so much harder. During the global coronavirus pandemic many thousands in the UK have faced the loss of someone they know.

Loss and HOPE was launched just before the Covid-19 crisis to enable the Church to respond effectively with support for those who are grieving. This timely coalition between HOPE Together, Care for the Family, the Church of England and At A Loss, is developing support for the increased numbers of people who are bereaved at this time. The church-facing website www.lossandhope.org is gathering ideas from Christians across the country to help churches support the bereaved. Loss and HOPE is also connecting Christians who are experts in supporting people who are bereaved, to run the Bereavement Journey course.

This tried and tested six-session course uses films and discussion, which help to guide people through the most common aspects of grief. It is for anyone who has been bereaved at any time, and it offers an optional session with the Christian perspective.

To find out more about the course visit www.thebereavementjourney.org or contact projectleader@lossandhope.org for more information.

Social lifeline to older people

It is not a surprise that older people are demonstrably happier when they can stay in touch with friends and family.

Now recent research by University College London (UCL) has found that people over 50 who use the internet for communicating with loved ones, have better mental health. But they tend to feel worse when they use the internet for information, such as job-hunting.

As one researcher said, the internet “does provide some substitute for face-to face communication, and does have a positive impact on mental health.”

O England, Country of my Heart's Desire

O England, country of my heart's desire,
and of the hedgerow and the village spire;
Land of thatched cottage and murmuring bees,
and wayside inns where one may take one's ease.
Of village green where cricket may be played
and fat old spaniels sleeping in the shade –
O homeland, far away across the main,
how would I love to see your face again!

From a poem by E V Lucas

Sudoku challenge

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 without repeats.

6						2		4
			3				6	
	1			4				
		9				7	8	
		2	1		5	6		
	8	4				1		
				2			1	
	5				7			
4		8						3

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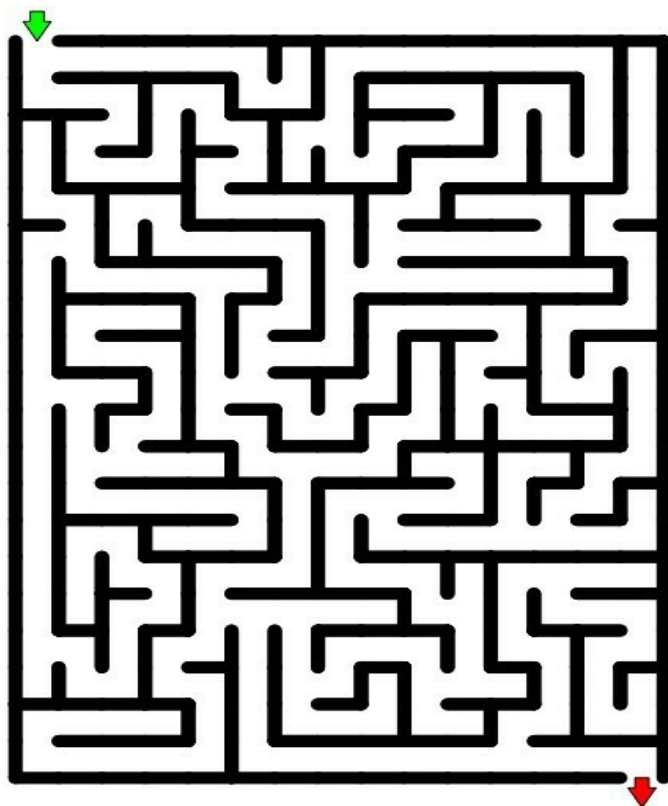
Wordsearch

Find the 24 words hidden in this Wordsearch puzzle.

The words can be found in the article about St Andrew on page 34.

H	W	I	T	S	N	I	S	M	A	S	T	G	M	R
S	E	S	O	A	S	E	E	A	N	N	C	E	S	H
V	R	N	D	R	A	S	I	O	I	O	P	E	C	N
N	D	N	O	O	S	U	S	E	J	R	E	S	A	O
S	N	N	M	I	O	O	I	R	G	V	T	I	I	R
E	A	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	E	T
G	H	H	A	L	T	A	A	L	W	D	R	M	H	A
A	A	O	M	E	T	A	L	N	I	E	A	T	A	P
M	A	I	N	P	I	O	U	S	F	I	H	C	S	P
I	N	T	R	O	D	U	C	I	N	G	H	S	A	S
R	H	L	U	S	U	I	F	S	I	A	S	T	I	A
G	A	C	U	L	P	R	S	E	I	V	R	P	L	I
L	E	C	A	L	P	L	E	A	N	A	H	T	A	N
I	A	L	E	A	O	E	A	D	S	O	F	U	I	T
P	G	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	O	I	A	R	A	E

Maze Find your way from the top to the exit at the bottom right.



Solutions for October edition

1	3	7	5	6	9	2	4	8
6	2	8	7	4	1	9	5	3
5	4	9	2	8	3	6	1	7
2	9	1	6	3	7	5	8	4
3	8	6	4	9	5	7	2	1
4	7	5	8	1	2	3	9	6
7	1	3	9	5	4	8	6	2
9	6	2	1	7	8	4	3	5
8	5	4	3	2	6	1	7	9

L	E	O	V	P	O	K	S	D	A	R	K
A	V	C	T	E	R	O	K	V	R	E	A
E	L	H	R	H	S	N	W	N	P	H	T
L	A	R	U	T	A	N	R	E	P	U	S
L	V	I	E	H	M	L	E	E	R	H	I
C	I	S	T	Y	H	D	L	W	B	S	R
L	T	T	N	A	A	C	T	O	S	R	H
A	S	I	W	W	I	R	N	L	W	E	C
D	E	A	T	H	N	F	P	L	T	S	L
M	F	N	E	A	I	L	C	A	G	O	N
H	R	S	M	R	A	H	C	H	V	L	T
O	H	R	E	T	N	I	W	E	E	C	L
S	T	S	E	I	R	P	D	R	U	I	D

I Got it From Agnes

by Tom Lehrer

I love my friends, and they love me,
We're just as close as we can be.
And just because we really care,
Whatever we get, we share!
I got it from Agnes,
She got it from Jim.
We all agree it must have been
Louise who gave it to him.
She got it from Harry,
Who got it from Marie,
And everybody knows that Marie
Got it from me.
Giles got it from Daphne,
She got it from Joan,
Who picked it up in County Cork,
A-kissin' the Blarney Stone.
Pierre gave it to Sheila,
Who must have brought it there.
He got it from Francois and
Jacques,
Haha, Lucky Pierre!
Max got it from Edith,
Who gets it every spring.
She got it from her Daddy,
Who just gives her everything.
She then gave it to Daniel,
Whose spaniel has it now.
Our dentist even got it,
And we're still wondering how.
Ah, but I got it from Agnes,
Or maybe it was Sue,
Or Millie or Billie or Gillie or Willie,
It doesn't matter who.
It might have been at the club,
Or at the pub, or in the loo,
And if you will be my friend,
Then I might...(Mind you, I said
„might“)...
Give it to you!

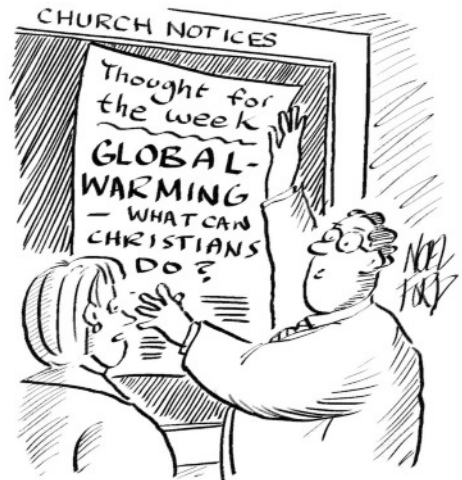
Tom Lehrer, now age 92, has put all of his lyrics from nearly 100 songs into the public domain.



The pianist, singer-songwriter was a pioneer of musical satire in the 1950s and 1960s, including being the resident songwriter on the US edition of *That Was The Week That Was*. No subject was off-limits.

However, he retired from performing in the early 1970s to concentrate on teaching maths and musical theatre.

'I Got It From Agnes' from nearly 70 years ago seems apt at this time. If you look online you can find videos of it being performed.



"Given the state of our heating system, you'd think the vicar would be all for it!"

Christmas Campaign

Building on the successful #FollowTheStar campaigns the last couple of years this year's theme will be 'Comfort and Joy'.

Comfort and Joy holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church's role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. We also have to anticipate there may be further spikes of Covid19 infections.



Already available is the booklet *Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas* available from Church House Publishing and the reflections and activities will also appear in app, smart speaker, email and audio formats.

The Church of England plans 9 online services during Advent and Christmas including Christingle, carols, nine lessons and midnight.

Nigel Beeton writes: Five years ago, in November 2015, the Met office began the practice of naming storms, and the idea seems to have caught on! Apparently, you can even send suggestions to them now.

Named Storms

Deirdre, Angus, Katie, Jake

These are names which trouble make;

Gertrude, Doris, Caroline

Bring us weather less than fine!

Desmond, Erik, Imogen

Storms are named, but only when

Just like one named Abigail

They bring wind and rain and hail!

Barney, Clodagh, and Aileen

What, I wonder, does it mean

Barbara, Dylan, Eleanor

If the choice of name is poor?

Ali, Freya, Callum, Ciara

Does it make things any clearer

Jorge and Hannah, Brian too

If they name one after YOU?

By Nigel Beeton

40 years ago

On 21st Nov 1980 American TV soap opera *Dallas* revealed 'Who shot J.R.' after keeping viewers in suspense for eight months.

From The Registers

Funerals “May they rest in peace”.

Jill Hardy of Tattershall Road. aged 77

Service at South Lincs Crematorium on 26th October.



Memorial Services will be held once current restrictions are eased if families want one.



This month sees the first anniversary of the death of the following parishioners. We remember them and their families and friends at this time
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.

PUBLIC NOTICE Mr A G Taylor and Mrs ME Taylor are applying for a Faculty to reserve grave spaces in Brothertoft Churchyard. Public Notices are on display in the Church and on the Notice Board. If you wish to object and need more details please contact the Brothertoft Churchwarden before the closing date of 10th November 2020.

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.

Helpers needed

If you could help your local churches in some way please contact Reverend Clive to discuss your interest. Various roles may come up on the parochial church council, cleaning, flower rota, a reading, a prayer, writing an article, providing support or leadership and many others. All ages and experience welcome and Reverend Clive would be happy to discuss your ideas and suggestions. Your help and support would be appreciated.



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Do you need some help while self-isolating?

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Russia's new draft law bars pastors trained overseas from preaching

Russia's new draft law on freedom of conscience and religious association will make it impossible for pastors trained outside of the Russian Federation to preach in a church or even conduct home Bible study groups, warn Barnabas Fund contacts.

The bill amending Federal Law, which was recently recommended for approval by the State Duma, calls for the compulsory recertification in Russian educational institutions of pastors and "personnel of religious organisations" who have received religious education abroad, otherwise they will not be able to engage in teaching and religious activities.

Its main goal is to "prevent the participation of clergymen who have received religious education abroad and spread religious extremist ideology in the activities of religious organisations".

The new law is also intended to prevent "the involvement of members of a religious group in extremist activities and activities aimed at financing terrorism".

Sergei Ryakhovsky, head bishop of the Russian United Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith – Pentecostals (ROSHVE), said in an interview with an international news agency in September that the bill will deal a "powerful blow" to religious organisations. It "directly impedes the spread of the Gospel" and does not meet its stated goals of combating extremism, he said.

A Barnabas Fund contact said the new bill is being introduced at a time when the government is making it increasingly difficult for Christian theological educational institutions to operate.

"Over the past two years there has been an insistent campaign to revoke licences from Christian educational institutions," our contact said. "I don't know of a single university or seminary where there were no inspections and various judicial instances. They needed to prove that the government was illegally trying to revoke the licences.

"Moscow Biblical Seminary was unable to prove this, was left without a licence and was forced to close."

80 years ago

On 5th Nov 1940 that Franklin D Roosevelt became the only US President to win a third term in office.

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Nine Churches' websites

Material on the 'A Church Near You' (ACNY) church websites for Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington, New Bolingbroke, Wildmore, Langrick, Brothertoft, Holland Fen and Kirton Home is updated each week with Reverend Clive's reflection, a Morning Worship for use at home, details of local services, weekly news updates and videos. Similar updates take place on the Sibsey Group of Churches Facebook page and Kirton Holme Church website. Most changes occur weekly in time for Sunday.



Weekly newsletters from New York and Frithville Primary Schools are added during term-time.

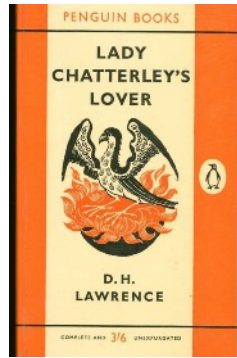
Anyone interested can join the email distribution list available on the ACNY websites. Please invite others to join. If you have any material to go on a church website please let Reverend Clive know.

You can send Reverend Clive a message through each ACNY church website through the 'Get in Touch' section.

'Lady Chatterley's Lover' – the beginning of the permissive society?

It was 60 years ago, on 2nd November 1960, that a British jury cleared Penguin Books of obscenity for publishing D H Lawrence's novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. This is

often considered the beginning of the permissive society in Britain.



The book had been published before, though not in this country. But the law had changed with the passing of Roy Jenkins' Obscene Publications Act

1959. This made it possible for publishers to avoid conviction if the work in question could be shown to be of literary merit, despite the use of crude sexual language.

Many prominent authors gave evidence on Lawrence's behalf, and when Penguin were found 'not guilty' the book sold three and a half million copies. One defence witness was Dr John Robinson, the Bishop of Woolwich, who said that while Lawrence's view was not Christian, his intention had been to "portray the sex relationship as something essentially sacred".

Lawrence himself, who had died in 1930, was the son of a barely literate miner in Nottinghamshire. He himself enjoyed the open countryside and traditional life, saying: "The rhythm of life itself was preserved by the church, hour by hour, day by day, season by season, year by year, epoch by epoch, down among the people, and the wild coruscations were accommodated to this permanent rhythm."

Time for a Smile

A local council official said that he ran for office again because he thought his possible opponent, if successful, might be even more ineffective than he was.

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?" The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, Mike has his own room, Jemma has her own room, and Bobby has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked,

"What about you dear? Can you go back very far?"
"Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

The curate told his doctor that he was worried because he just wasn't able to do all the things around the parish that his vicar expected him to do. When the examination was complete, he said, "I'm prepared for the worst, doctor. Just tell me in plain English what is wrong with me." "Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy." "Okay," said the curate. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my vicar."

People at my workplace have started a funny new tradition where they give names to the food in the office fridge. Today I ate a sandwich called Mark, followed by some cake called Rosie.

My husband and I were delighted the day we finally bought our first house. After years of renting, it was wonderful to own our own home. Our minister even gave us a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion. But in the hustle and bustle of getting moved in, his champagne was put in a cupboard and forgotten. Months later, we held a Baptism party for our third child. Wine flowed until, running short, we suddenly remembered the housewarming gift of champagne. So, in front of our guests, I opened the attached card from the minister and read it aloud: "Dave, take good care of it – this one is really yours!"

On the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive

From: The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,



Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St James the Least of All.

You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, although socially distanced at the moment, of course. But even at two metres apart, our Bridge games are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver halfway through 'Onward Christian Soldiers' at last Sunday's Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments have been hit hard by Covid-19 of course, and the fact that everyone has to bring their own sandwich and drink has rather spoilt the fun. Usually half our players regard lunchtime as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others usually see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents. It is so sad that Covid-19 has halted this merry comradery.

As for drawing the raffle, it is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.

Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round a socially distanced card table at another location, for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt. The only difference will be that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your Loving Uncle,

Eustace

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Scotland's Saint Andrew

This month Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

Spare a thought for your furry friend

Many dogs have struggled to adjust to the changes that Covid-19 has brought to their owners this year, according to the Dogs Trust.

For one thing, coronavirus has meant greatly reduced walkies for many dogs, more people around the house all day, less quiet for rest, and little or no contact with other dogs.

No wonder that the Dogs Trust has reported that 82 per cent of owners have reported an increase in barking or whining.

Nurture your friendships

Lockdown has damaged our social life, so badly that many of our friendships may not be the same for up to a year after lockdown. And although Zoom is 'extremely good' at slowing down the rate of a friendship's decay, 'nothing on earth is going to stop a relationship quietly sliding away, if you don't once in a while meet up physically.'

So warns an Oxford University academic, Robin Dunbar, who is an evolutionary psychology professor.

He was talking to BBC Radio 4's *Today*.

How is your Christmas shopping going?

It seems that many of us started as early as September this year, aiming to spread our costs during the financial stress of the pandemic.

As for amounts we intend to spend? According to research carried out by American Express, more than 25 per cent of us will spend less than we did last year, 60 per cent of us will spend the same as last year, 12 per cent of us will spend more than last year, and three per cent of us have not thought about it.

Meanwhile, other research from MoneySuperMarket predicts that our overall average Yuletide spending will be down from £582 last year to £512 this year.

Church of England provides digital resources

There are a range of new and existing Christian resources available for people to engage with at this difficult and challenging time in the life of the nation and the world:

Weekly service broadcasts -

these be made available each Sunday through the Church's Facebook page, website and YouTube.

Time to Pray app - everything you need for Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. Download for free.

Daytime prayer and Night prayer service audio - building on the existing daily prayer feed, this includes daytime prayer and night prayer for each day. It will be available as a downloadable app in the coming weeks.

Live streaming services from churches -

AChurchNearYou.com now lists hundreds of churches offering livestreams of services from across the country.

The BBC's Daily Service and Sunday Worship

Prayer for the day - each day the Church of England publishes audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Smart speakers – daily prayer and audio content can be accessed via our smart speaker apps.

Mental health reflections – 13 daily reflections that seek to provide hope, reassurance and comfort.



For further information about all the digital resources please visit www.churchofengland.org and look at the guidance about coronavirus and digital resources.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

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

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

All calls to this phone service are free.

Remembering Engels, co-founder of Communism

It was 200 years ago, on 28th November 1820, that Friedrich Engels, the German socialist philosopher, was born. He collaborated with Karl Marx to found modern communism and co-write the *Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital*.

Although he had revolutionary and even violent views, Engels was also a businessman. His father owned textile factories in Prussia and Manchester, and Engels spent much of his time in England, where he lived with an uneducated Irish woman called Mary Burns, who stoked his radical leanings. He never married her, but after her death he lived with her sister Lizzy, whom he did marry – as a concession on her deathbed.

Engels' family was Protestant, but he was agnostic until he fell in with the Young Hegelians, who attacked Christianity and transformed him into a militant atheist.

Engels met Karl Marx in Paris, and they became close, working to convert socialists into communists. He led a kind of double life, as a mill owner and keen foxhunter, who pursued communist ideology even more enthusiastically.

He eventually sold his partnership in the business in 1869, receiving enough to live comfortably until his death in 1895, and to provide his friend Marx with an annual grant of £350 until he died in 1883.

When did you last buy a single-use plastic bag?

It seems that most of us have bought just four from our supermarket in the last year, which is a drop of 95 per cent since the 5p charge was introduced five years ago.

The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs reports that prior to 2015, most shoppers were buying 140 single-use bags a year.

But sadly, the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the bigger war on plastics, with a huge rise in throwaway personal protective equipment, and a resurgence in single-use cups, cutlery and other items

Zoom to that stable in Bethlehem?

School nativity plays will take place differently this year. So warned the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, speaking recently at a school in south London.

He stressed that while he wanted to save the much-loved tradition, and “how special and important it is to go along to see your children performing in a nativity play”, safety was still a priority.

“We’ve got to look at ways how we can ensure, maybe using technology, that this staple institution of every school right across the UK is able to go ahead.”

Diamonds are for lockdown...

Here's an unexpected outcome of Covid-19: it has inspired more of us to get engaged.

Engagement rings sales have risen this year, in some firms by up to 73 per cent, a survey of various jewellery firms has discovered.

When, at the beginning of lockdown, Dr Jenny Harries, the deputy chief medical officer, suggested that couples could get round the coming isolation by moving in together, it seems that many listened to her.

They decided to give it a go and 'test the strength of their relationship.'

"A lot of people have now resolved to go ahead and tie the knot," said one jeweller. "Perhaps they are thinking: 'life's too short, let's go for it'."

Another jeweller said: "Maybe if you can make it through lockdown together, you can make it through anything."

Where do you store your various food items?

Where do you put your parsnips and eggs, and what about the potatoes and onions?

The correct answers, according to new government guidelines, are that the first two below in your fridge and the second two belong in your cupboard.

More guidance on storing food safely can now be found on Wrap,

the Government's food waste watchdog. The aim is to stop households throwing so much food away.

And so Wrap.org.uk offers advice on storing everything from aubergines to onions, bananas to cheese, fizzy drinks to wine. It could be a good refresher course for many of us, and a lifeline for younger people trying to get the most out of their weekly shop.

Miscellaneous musings modern life...

Old politicians never die – they just run once too often.

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'

Member of the congregation to minister: "I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you."

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then, your body and your fat are really good friends.

Where there's a will, there are relatives.

Admirer to political candidate: "Great speech, sir! I really like the straightforward way you dodged those issues."

Church online

Among the number of new concepts introduced to us by the coronavirus pandemic is the idea of 'church online,' both among the Christian population and those less familiar with 'church.' Many ministers have commented that, while they may initially have struggled, the new format has worked, and has drawn in people who would not normally go to church; theirs or anyone else's.

One Church of England Diocese carried out a survey across its many benefices, receiving some 180 replies to its questions. Five-sixths, 84%, had made some kind of online provision for its work, with three-quarters, 76%, providing worship services. Over half did such more than once a week!

In total, the online church respondents had almost 1,300 participants on a Sunday, but these were augmented by a further almost 800 tuned in subsequently. Normally, if you aren't at a church service, you've missed it. Not now! To have so many who followed the service subsequently, an increase of over three-fifths, 62%, of the original Sunday watchers, must say something about the usefulness of this format, popularity, and the convenience of being able to worship at an alternative time.

Do online services 'work'? For many, the overall answer is positive. "Although online services have (a number) of limitations, people can meet with God. Two people have come to faith through online services," wrote one minister. It enables the church to re-connect with those who have moved away, and not found another church to attend. "It's easier for people to come than to walk through a church door," said another.

"We have overcome being a physically dispersed rural church. We are now a church built on a praying community across 30 different people praying together morning and evening," was the testimony of another. Housebound people, providing they have the necessary facilities and technological 'know-how,' can also participate.

Is it worth all the bother? Evidently so, as over half, 55%, of the churches aim to continue online services once lockdown is over. Only 7% said they wouldn't, with the remaining 38% uncertain.

Two-fifths of the churches, 41%, found that their numbers watching the service had increased over the weeks of lockdown, but this was offset by the 45% who found their numbers decreased. The remaining 14% said they had stayed the same.

Overall, have online services been beneficial? In the technical sense, yes, as "we are more capable than we thought at first," said one respondent, but spoke for many. So new technical skills have been learned. "Planning online is very different – it needs to be engaging and concise," said one person, so teaching skills presumably need to be sharpened also.

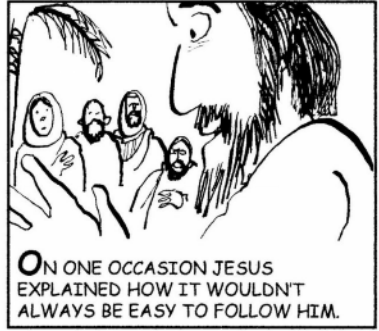
Faith-wise, as mentioned above, some have come to faith. Some have 'come back' to church. Many have watched for the first time. Some have watched services from other churches. Others, though, will have been put off by the format. "Online services are no substitute for a church service," wrote one leader, and another said, "There is opportunity to reach wider, but more difficult to go deeper."

Dr Peter Brierley may be contacted on peter@brierleyres.com.

The tale of the Tower Builder

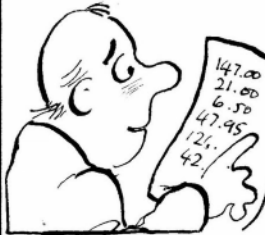


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



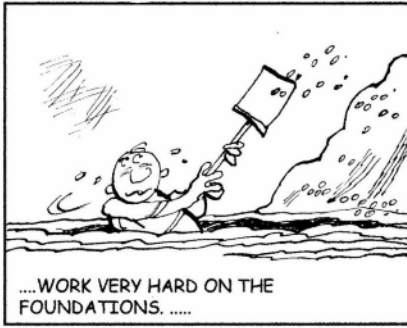
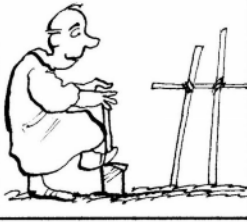
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER...

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



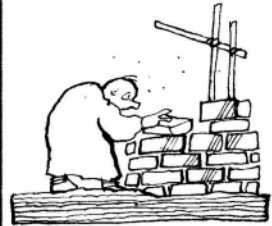
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

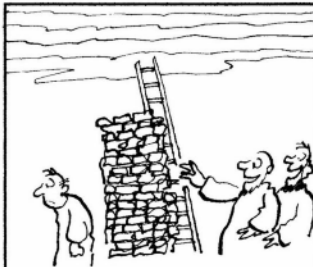


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

Green grow'th the Holly

A music manuscript from about 1515 and attributed to King Henry VIII has the words:

*Green grow'th the holly,
So doth the ivy,
Though winter blasts ne'er so high
Green grow'th the holly.*

The next three verses take us through spring, summer and autumn, so this is clearly not a Christmas carol, unlike the familiar 'The Holly and the Ivy'. What may not be known is that holly and ivy are two of the very few native evergreen trees, and in past times must have been especially popular in providing greenery during winter months.

With its shiny spiky dark green leaves, holly is surely one of the most easily recognised trees in this country. Though often bushlike, holly can grow up to ten metres high with a straight trunk and pyramid shape. It is *dioecious*, meaning each tree is either male or female, explaining possibly why the one in your garden never has any berries!

Nowadays we associate holly with Christmas wreaths and garlands, cards and carols. Pre-Victorian times saw holly branches used as Christmas trees, with the spiky leaves representing Christ's Crown of Thorns and the red berries as drops of blood. Holly brought into the house was regarded as



protection against evil spirits and as a refuge for good 'faeries' who would guard the residents of the house in return.

It is interesting to note that where no person or animal brushes by a holly, the leaves lack all spines except the one at the tip. This includes upper leaves on mature trees. A bit like people – be nice and they won't be scratchy!

Back to 'Green grow'th the Holly'.
The final verse ends:

*The God of life can never die,
Hope! Saith the holly.*

How wise. Where would we be
without hope?

Kirsty Steele

Grandma's Christmas Pudding

From Sonia Boyles, St Andrew's Church Sonning

November is an excellent time to make your Christmas pudding and may be something to do during lockdown. Here is a well-tried, simple and delicious way to do it.

Ingredients

- 24 oz currants
- 16 oz raisins
- 16 oz sultanas
- 16 oz suet
- 1 grated carrot
- 1 grated cooking apple
- 2 eggs
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 16oz dark brown sugar
- 2oz mixed peel
- 4oz fresh breadcrumbs
- Brandy - about 3 fluid oz
- 1 mug of self raising flour



Method

Place all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl, stir well and make a wish!

This mixture fills two 1½ pint sized pudding basins.

Steam the pudding mixture in the basin for about 4 hours.

Leave to cool and store in a cool place to mature.

On Christmas Day, steam for a further two hours.

Serve with brandy butter, brandy sauce or cream. Happy Christmas!

Giving

Riding home after church one Sunday morning, a mother commented, 'The choir was awful this morning.' And the father said, 'I thought the sermon was far too long.' Their cheeky 7-year old daughter piped up from the back seat, 'You have to admit though, it was a pretty good morning out for a pound.'

Did you smile at the quote above when you read it in a previous edition? Sadly, it reflects the attitude some people have to churchgoing and church giving.

How did you decide on the amount you currently give to your church each week? When did you last really think about how much you choose to put in the weekly collection envelope, or in the basket, or in the standing order?

And more importantly, why do you choose to donate anything at all? No-one makes you pay anything to attend church. You are welcome to go every week and no one would demand that you pay even a £1, as the family above did. But think for a moment of all that God provides for us - life, family, friends, health, the riches of nature, music, beauty, art, and even his own Son to die for our sins on the cross and rise again to give us everlasting life. Yes, God gives freely, even abundantly, so isn't it reasonable to ask how should we respond to his generosity?

Each church is where it is because, in the past, people have given generously. Many people would see the building as the church, but in reality it is all the people who worship in it that are the 'real' church. We are a community gathered in the love of God, seeking to share the good news of that love. Part of our worship is to give thanks to God for all he has done for us. And in response we can give our time, and our skills, but also a regular gift of money. The church needs all of these to function properly. It is often said that people only value what they pay for, so isn't it reasonable for us to think of the value of what God has done for us?

Surely we can't argue with this quote from the Bible: 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'



Oldest Christmas Decoration

Do you have a special old Christmas Decoration?

Would you be able to take a photo and let us see it with details of its age, history and your earliest memories of it for the Christmas edition of The Bridge?

If you can help please send an email to thebridgemag@outlook.com or phone 01526 342416 (leave a message if unanswered).

Don't 'go it alone'

If you are helping others at this time, remember to still leave space and time for yourself. Going the extra mile for other people all the time will only ensure one thing; your collapse. Work in teams. Even the Good Samaritan did not attempt to help the injured man all on his own; he brought in the innkeeper. By sharing the problem, they solved it!

Reach out and talk to someone if things are getting you down

03444 775 774 - Anxiety UK
0300 123 3393 - MIND
0800 58 58 58 - CALM
0800 068 4141 - POPYRUS

116 123 - Samaritans
0800 001 4331 NHS Mental Health
01522 309120 - Under 18's 9.30-4.30 M-F Lincs Here4you Helpline.



Talk, Eat, Drink in East Lindsey is working with over 50's to reduce isolation, improve well-being, support communities and empower and connect individuals. Call 01529 301966, Email: ted@lincsymca.co.uk or visit www.tedineastlindsey.co.uk to find out more. Engaging with individuals, businesses, communities and volunteers.

Take control! Make a Lasting Power of Attorney

The corona virus (Covid-19) has certainly changed the way in which we live our day to day lives and made a strange new world for all of us. During these unprecedented times, the need to have a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) in place is even more vital.

An LPA is all about you choosing individuals who you trust completely (usually a family member or close friend) to make decisions for you, particularly when you can't, or when communicating them would be an issue, or mobility or access to services would be challenging for you. Therefore, an LPA is super useful when you need one.

Having a professionally drafted LPA made by a specialist (retired solicitor) that

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addresses your wishes and protects your position will give you peace of mind.

We're able to help you notwithstanding the current situation and can usually handle everything from an initial enquiry through to their creation, signing and registration (all in compliance with social distancing rules).

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JESUS
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