

SEPTEMBER 2020

CONTACT

MAGAZINE

60P



THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, KINGSWINFORD
& CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, WALL HEATH

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Dear friends,

It has been a great blessing that we were able to resume worship, celebrating Holy Communion, at St Mary's on Sunday 9th August. We were worshipping in the Church Hall because the church is being rewired; a very necessary job that may last well into September. But it didn't matter! Things were very strange because we all had to wear masks in the building, be very careful about hygiene and keep 2m apart, as much as possible. This will be the pattern for the foreseeable future. But the Word of God is not made smaller by being in the Church Hall or wearing masks and having to sanitise one's hands all the time. Jesus, our compassionate God, responds to us in our need, especially when we recognise how dependent we are upon Him. As St Paul said, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" We stand in the strength of God, as Christians. The great prayer attributed to St Patrick called "The Cry of the Deer", using Kuno Meyer's translation, begins:

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,

Through belief in the Threeness,

Through confession of the oneness

Of the Creator of Creation.

(In David Adam's book of the same title)

At the break of every day, St Patrick recognised that the Holy Trinity flowed through him, was all around him and he could draw strength and protection from it. For Christians, God is the source of our strength, even at times of great trial and tribulation, such as our own day.

August 9th is the anniversary of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, only three days after the 'A bomb' had been dropped on Hiroshima. Many thousands of people died and continued to die long after the war, even up into our own time, from the effects of the radiation. A point had been passed in human history which has brought great suffering as well as ushering in the modern world of nuclear power. Great benefits flowed with the technology, but there was a terrible cost too, which still requires us to question how we use it. God loves all human beings equally, whether we share their culture or not. The bombs forced the Japanese government to capitulate, but the strength of God was not seen in the victory of the Allied forces but in the way that peace was forged, between very different peoples, over the following decades.

People across the world had endured the trials and tribulations of the Second World War, of which 15th August, this year, was the 75th anniversary of its end. Victory in Japan Day has been remembered every year since. God was an enormous source of strength to so many during the conflict and afterwards. The certainty that people were not alone, not disregarded by some haughty and disinterested God, enabled so many to get through the hard times until the joy of VJ Day itself. Each year the sacrifice of many service personnel from right across the Commonwealth, the peoples of the Far East and the families who

lost loved ones is commemorated, so that their sacrifices are not forgotten. You can find out more about the individual stories of people who served and of the history of the time by searching for the Royal British Legion website.

Lives had been turned upside down by the 2nd World War. But, mercifully, ours are not disrupted by the violence of war, although our lives have also been hugely disrupted since the end of March. There will be services each week at Saint Mary's at 10 AM and Church of the Ascension at 9:30 AM. Holy Communion and Morning Prayer will alternate. People have worked very hard in both of our churches to make them safe to attend, providing you follow all of the advice and guidelines given. The 'online' worship is also continuing, on a Sunday morning at 10 AM and on a Wednesday at 10 AM. If you want to attend church please ring Helen Moren 01384 270757 for St Mary's Church or Sheila Freeman 01384 357921 for Church of the Ascension. It is essential to book because we only have a limited number of places in each church, due to needing to keep everybody 2m apart. Ring me if you want to join the online worship and I will tell you how to go about that.

Because we know God is with us, we know we will pass through this time of trial. But we give thanks for the sacrifices of so many, 75 years ago, as they fought through their time of trial and, by their sacrifices, ensured that we could live in relative freedom and peace now.

With love,

Giles

St. Mary's Church

Cream Tea for MacMillan

Saturday 26th September 2020
2.30pm - 4.30pm

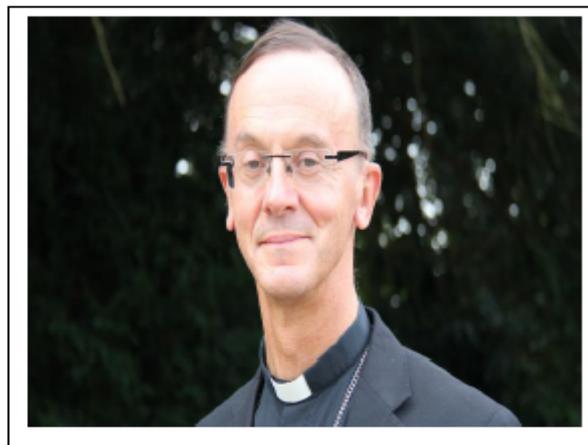


The team have decided that we would like to support MacMillan under these very difficult circumstances with a 'socially distanced' cream tea.

We are going to produce a 'cream tea in a bag' which can be collected as a takeaway tea, or alternatively (if the weather proves agreeable and our customers are willing to bring a camping/garden chair) we will serve the bags from the church centre kitchen door onto the grass at the back of the centre, where we can perhaps enjoy each others company at a distance. Please be assured all government guidelines and protocol will be strictly followed.

The cost will be £5 per serving. If you would like to support this venture please let Elaine (077376 79727), Karen (01384 864709) or one of the special events team know by Sunday 20th September.

Letter from
The Bishop of Worcester



At the start of the year we held the first round of our 'Open Conversations'. A fantastic 95% of parishes were represented at them and I'm hugely grateful to all those who took part. We are planning a further set of conversations in September and I hope they will be just as well attended.

Since those first conversations, the pandemic has changed the world in ways that would have been inconceivable six months ago. That makes these new conversations all the more important as we seek together to discern God's will for the future in challenging times.

Conversation is an essential part of the Christian life. It's no accident that the word 'conversion' is related to the word 'conversation'. To converse is to be connected. The conversation continues as we continually turn towards the person with whom we're speaking. The word conversion literally means 'to keep turning' to God in conversation.

God comes to us individually and corporately. As we turn to one another in conversation to share our insights, we turn to God for conversion. Only together can we discern his will for us.

Jesus came to proclaim the Kingdom of God and in this diocese we are clear that we are called to be Kingdom People of love, compassion, justice and freedom. And to grow as Kingdom People, we need to have churches across the Diocese which are healthy and sustainable.

These conversations will enable us to explore what a healthy and sustainable church might look like in our own context – regardless of the size of our congregation or whether our church is urban, rural or something in between. This is a chance to reflect on what our future might hold as we seek to worship God, make new disciples, share hope and transform our communities.

The meetings will be held online using Zoom, but will follow a similar format to the previous open conversations, with opportunities for people to contribute in small groups. There will also be other opportunities to engage for those unable to use Zoom – you can find out more at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/open-conversations.

Please do take part if you can. May we converse well and, as we do so, be continually converted!

Bishop John

Following the open conversations held around the Diocese at the start of the year, we are now planning a series of further opportunities to engage with the process as we look at how we can effectively resource a healthy and sustainable Church into the future.



It will be a chance to hear more about the strategy for mission and ministry across the Diocese and think about how it might impact on your own church. Only by working together can we ensure that God's Kingdom continues to grow in Worcestershire and Dudley.

These meetings will be held online using Zoom, but will follow a similar format to the previous open conversations, with opportunities for people to contribute in small groups. To sign up for one of the conversations, please contact the training team with your preferred date on training@cofe-worcester.org.uk or 01905 732812, You will be sent the Zoom details ahead of the conversation.

Conversations will take place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 8 September: 3 to 5pm and from 6 to 8pm
 - Friday 18 September: 10am to 12 noon
 - Monday 21 September: 6 to 8pm
 - Tuesday 22 September: 6 to 8pm
 - Thursday 24 September: 6 pm to 8pm
- Monday 28 September: 2 to 4pm and 6 to 8pm:

To sign up for one of the conversations, please contact the training team with your preferred date on training@cofe-worcester.org.uk or 01905 732812, You will be sent the Zoom details ahead of the conversation.

What if I don't have access to Zoom – how can I get involved?

Recognising that not everyone will be able to join a video call, we are providing two alternative ways to take part in the Open Conversation process:

1. We are asking those attending to partner up with someone in their church without zoom access and share their experience, if possible, showing some of the video clips which will be available on this web page on their own tablet or phone, and giving a summary of the table time discussions in which they participated. So please do ask around in your congregation and find someone who is willing to do this with you.
2. Join one of two telephone conference calls, where a shortened version of the input will be communicated. These will be free to dial into, and accessible to anyone with a phone. More information will follow shortly on these.

More information and resources when available can be found at :
www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/open-conversations.

LAY MINISTRY IN LOCKDOWN

Wow! Well what can I say? Challenging, inventive, inspiring; unity and lots of love and support, these are the words that spring to mind as I look back over the last months since the end of March.

None of us knew what to expect, we just knew that so much had changed in a very short space of time. Adapting to these changes was indeed challenging, but as a Team at St. Mary's, we are used to coping with challenges; so in our inimitable way, we got stuck in immediately.

For me personally, it was so important to get a telephone ministry up and running, and this we did within days of lockdown, We may be few in number but each one of the Pastoral Team took their own list of people to keep in touch with, supported by others of our congregation who volunteered to help out, bless you all; your support has kept us going when indeed we have felt very challenged. Heartfelt thanks.

This help and support also extended to weekly newsletter deliveries, which was quite a big job to start with; however technology has its place and now Margaret and Mike Penn email out to the majority of our congregation.

So what else has been happening? Funerals have been a big part of my personal ministry during lockdown; and yes I will admit to being a little nervous the first time I went to Gornal Wood Crem, but several funerals later, and thanks to the great care and attention the staff paid to cleanliness everything was fine, if a little rushed with only 20 minutes per service, creativity has become the new norm for funerals.

Sadness early on during the virus hit us hard at St. Mary's with the loss of our dear David Orme and Lis Corfield. Amidst the sadness of the loss came the great privilege of taking both their funerals. David's at Gornal Wood, where only 6 people could attend. Not the service we all along with the Rachel, Pat and family would have wanted for David, but together we did our best.

Dear Lis's funeral took place in the church yard at St. Mary's, it was a glorious day and we were able as a congregation to gather to say farewell to a dear friend, who's support along with David's will be sadly missed at St. Mary's.

Being able to help families in this way has been a great blessing to me, and I shall be forever grateful for the opportunities this has enabled.

Doing things differently, as with graveside funerals has enriched an already blessed time for me. I must also thank Team St. Mary's for their support.

Back in July thanks to some very careful planning we were able to have our first funeral in church.

Private Prayer on Wednesday's and Saturday's has been a great success, again down too much hard work by our Wardens. Being able to just sit in our beautiful church has given such comfort not only to us but to our church members able to come. Just being able to have contact and see people has been a blessing.

None of the ministry which we have enabled would have happened without love and commitment and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our strength and courage in times of adversity and challenge. Yes its been hard and scary at times but we have come through, and come through well.

My grateful thanks to you all.....God bless Jill



MU's 'Thank You Key Workers' Appeal

The Mothers' Union wants to help families of key workers by offering them a range of free day trips/experiences and short breaks. It is appealing to MU supporters to help make this possible.

As a spokeswoman for MU explains: "There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. But because of their personal sacrifices, quality family time has not always been possible.

"Therefore, we are extending our existing Away from it all Programme (AFIA) to say a special 'thank you' to key workers in these unprecedented times.

"Any donation will help provide a range of day trips/experiences and short breaks for families of key workers, especially for those who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes - families who would generally be unable to have experiences like this."

If you would like to send a donation, go to:

[Say thank you to a keyworkers family
today - Donate now](#)



St.Mary's Mothers Union Newsletter June 2020

This week we are sending you a copy of MU news, what the Mothers' Union at St.Marys has been doing in the weeks since lockdown.

Mothers' Union is a worldwide organisation with over 4 million members; founded by Mary Sumner 150 years ago at Old Alfresford.

There has been a branch at St. Marys for over 100 years and we now have 2 groups – one who meet in the afternoons and an evening group for the younger members who work. Our title is slightly misleading because since the 1980s membership is open to women, men, those married, those not married and those divorced, those with children and those who do not have children – and our branch covers all those categories, including our first male members – John, Bob & Mike.

No meetings but our work in Lockdown began on Mothering Sunday after we closed our Church doors – by the delivery of 110 potted plants ordered and delivered to Church before lockdown began.

Several members of the evening group and friends delivered plants, the following week Palm crosses and newsletters were delivered, followed by Easter cards. One of our male members contacted everybody on the electoral roll and acquired email addresses which covered 48 households, leaving our posties to deliver the remaining 24 homes and that will continue until our doors are open again!

We have had a telephone ministry and a prayer chain for many years, so that has continued in earnest! The evening Group have a Whats app. group and that became our emergency prayer chain.

We have acquired more helpers, who we hope will become members when this is all over?

And we as members are keeping the promises we made when we were enrolled and we are grateful to each and everyone who have helped us.

We lost one dear member, Lis Corfield, who had been delighted to become a member some years ago. She supported us in every way and her sales of damson jam always enabled us to support our Overseas work.

We also lost our dear friend David Orme, who had been our Auditor for many years and had audited our books shortly before he was taken ill.

We shall miss them and send to their families our love and prayers.

We have had 2 emergency calls during lockdown-

1. from the Teenage Mums project which Liz and Bob dealt with,
2. from the Women's Refuge which Michael and I dealt with.

There will be more needs before this is over and we shall deal with them. Thank you to other branches in neighbouring Deaneries who provide support by leaving goody bags on my doorstep!

At present I would ask you to keep any items you may have for the refuge or other projects, - toiletries, bedclothes or knitting at home until required.

Our work will continue where ever there is a need and we look forward to being together again.

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your spirit may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus name. Amen

We pray for:

Our overseas links:

Port Elizabeth South Africa remembering our dear friend Lorraine Cassem , mum to Kaye Boyce & grandma to Jon Luke, Kayleigh & Daniel.

Our members in The Philippines, Nigeria and Uganda

Staff at Mary Sumner House, our Central HQ

Worcester Diocese and Judith Grubb, our Diocesan President
Members in this Deanery and Liz Williams, our Deanery Leader
Our Indoor members and all who care for them

And finally the personal prayer of Mary Sumner

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee, and every life I touch do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

Stay safe, stay well and God bless.

Margaret (on behalf of the Branch committee)

*The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues
his letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

The Rectory,

St. James the Least

On the perils of leaving the pulpit

My dear Nephew Darren



When the churches reopen for public worship (whenever that is!) I hope you will come and take Evensong one Sunday. But, thinking of your visit last August, I would prefer you used the pulpit when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete 'The Times' crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in front of them? They found it most disconcerting, as out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle. It did Lady Plumtree's vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church in the first place and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

I concede that our pulpit has its dangers. I have known several bishops come to grief as their robes wrap themselves around the newel post as they ascend the steps. One, unable to untangle himself, was obliged to preach while half-way up the steps and with his back to the congregation, while our verger was dispatched to find a pair of scissors.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.

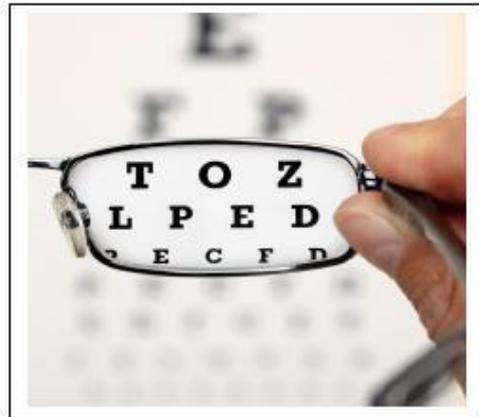
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Has lockdown damaged your eyesight?

Are you suffering from 'coronavisions'?
It is perfectly possible.

Lockdown led to many of us staring at our television or computer screens for long periods of time. And that could have strained our eyes, warns the College of Optometrists.



By this summer one in five adults in Britain had reported a deterioration in their eyesight. Symptoms include blurred vision, difficulty in focussing, and red or painful eyes.

As one optometrist explained: "Working from home, video calls with friends and family, watching more TV, time spent looking at your phone – all that screen time adds up.

The good news is that this is unlikely to cause any permanent harm to your vision."

Nevertheless, the College urges people to get their eyes checked if they feel on-going discomfort. They also advise that when you are looking at a screen, you rest your eyes every 20 minutes, blink regularly, use eye drops, position your screen below eye level and increase the size of the text.

Ditch the Commute?



We may prefer to continue working at home, rather than spend hours commuting each day.

A recent poll has found that a high proportion of workers, who are new to working at home, now want to carry on post-Covid, either entirely at home, or at least with fewer than five days in the office each week.

It might mean that commuting to work could fall by as much as a fifth, even after the virus is over, according to the poll by Toluna for KEK Consulting.

Churches warned to prepare for ‘tidal wave of poverty’

Church leaders are being urged to be ready to respond to the lasting impact of the pandemic on the country’s poorest people.

The effect on urban, suburban and rural communities is likely to be severe with many thousands of jobs being lost and livelihoods threatened. The poorest in society may find themselves hardest hit.

Churches are being encouraged to respond to the devastating impact of the pandemic and to build on the numerous social projects already in place.

The Trussell Trust that supports around 1200 UK foodbanks is warning of a ‘tidal wave of poverty’ poised to engulf the country.

Chief Executive Emma Revie has called on church leaders to talk to their congregations about justice and compassion and to work to address the root causes of poverty.

Speaking at a Bible Society webinar she encouraged church leaders “increasingly to talk to their congregations about God’s concern for justice and compassion to characterise the structures of our society: the way our benefit system works, the way our economy functions, people’s employment conditions and wage levels.

Emma Revie said that the Trussell Trust was “very clear that food banks are not a solution to poverty” and the charity wanted “to see people experiencing fulness of life and not being trapped by poverty.”

She praised the vital role played by churches in running foodbanks and encouraged congregations “That when we pray for our foodbanks, that we would also allow ourselves room to lament the injustices that make them necessary in the first place and seek wisdom about how we might be part of bringing about change.

“Because if we don’t concern ourselves with these things, the tidal wave of poverty is going to be too high and too powerful for us to respond to and we will see many more people being swept into destitution in the UK.”

At the webinar ‘Mission during lockdown and beyond,’ the Bible Society published research showing that church leaders are expecting increased demand for food banks, poverty relief, mental health work, bereavement support, relationship counselling, as well as courses such as Alpha that introduce people to the Christian faith.

The insights resonate with responses to the impact of the pandemic from other church leaders. The Bishop of Tonbridge, Simon Burton-Jones, warned a Church of England webinar that the pandemic would cause growth in the ‘precariat’, the numbers of people on zero-hours contracts or juggling several jobs to survive.

The bishop also forecast an increase in tension between the generations, with the future particularly bleak for many young people who have lost their jobs, and those living in insecure rented accommodation.

WHAT GOES ON AT THE CHURCH
of ST. MARY. KINGSWINFORD

SUNDAY & WEEKDAY SERVICES

Full details of all services can be found on the Vestry Notice Board or website

www.stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

Facebook or on Information Sheets
in Church



CONFESSIONS & SICKNESS. Please contact Rev Giles(Tel:- 01384 273716)

PARISH OFFICE. For Baptism, Wedding and General Enquiries:

Please email www.stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

BELL RINGERS. Our bells date from 1687, and are rung for Sunday Services and on Tuesday evenings for practice. Anyone can learn – no special skills or strength needed! For information, speak to our Tower Captain Keith Wright on 01384 483191 or 07984910918.

SERVERS. The team of Servers play a key roll in the smooth running of most services at St. Mary's For more details contact Head Server John Thompson on 01384 736048.

MOTHERS' UNION. Afternoon group meets on 1st Wednesday of the month in the Church Centre at 2.00pm. Group is now run by committee, for more details contact Mary Thompson, Liz Green or Eve Hamblett. Evening Group for the working women or those unable to get to daytime meetings, Contact Helen Moren or Adele Hurst.

STICKY CHURCH. 2nd Tuesday in the month (Term Time).

MEET and GREET. For Baptism Families. 3rd Tuesday in the month
(Term Time).

CHOIR. The choir is a vital aid to the worship on Sundays and at Major Services. If you are interested in church music, you will enjoy all the choir has to offer. For more information ring Rev Giles.

CHURCH CENTRE. To hire the Church Centre please contact Margaret Penn on 01384 270806 who will provide you with all the details.

CHURCH MAGAZINE. The monthly magazine of St.Mary's & The Church of the Ascension is available in church (cost 60p) or if you would like one delivered to your home ask for details in either church.

More Room for God

Hands up to those who have thought about tidying up a cupboard, drawer, shed or the car, but just could not face the task? I think there are many of us who are still thinking about it. Well, with much time on my hands, I have finally managed to cross that job off my list. Plastic boxes labelled and rubbish thrown out, you would think my house was immaculate? It is tidy most of the time, but it is home and homes get messy sometimes. However, it's quite liberating to have a clear out, takes a weight off your shoulders, room to breathe again. I wonder if God finds himself sitting there brimming over with prayers, complaints, and worries and nowhere to turn? No, he is there waiting for us to call to have a chat, His mind clear and His door always open. God's house never seems cluttered, he always seems to have plenty of space, longing for us to say hello. So, what is our problem? Why do we often find it hard to talk to Him? Although we have sorted out our house, maybe we haven't yet made a space in our minds, or in our busy lives to focus on what is important. When life was hectic, I was told many years ago to close my eyes and find a quiet place where I would feel free. I often have this vision of me in my walled garden, on a swing, hung from a tree. My Lord sits next to me, with all ears listening, chatting away just like old friends. How lovely this sounds you might say. It is, but it sometimes takes a long walk to get there, often resulting in tired feet. But if we don't try to find room for God, how can we recharge our batteries, how can we go on doing His work without His input? Even through the tough times, the busy times, the cluttered times, we need to stop, come together and take that moment to find room for God. He is our oldest and dearest friend who understands us like no one else and He loves us. Let him join you, lean on His shoulder, take His hand and keep our eyes focused. That way we can continue with His work and share the love, peace and strength that he has to offer.

God Bless. *Karen Whitehouse*

More Room for God

On a hot sultry summer day I went to hear the famous speaker Bill Johnson. The church was crammed with enthusiastic conference addicts when the air conditioning went off duty. By the afternoon session the heat was sending me to sleep. Suddenly I heard the words, "We can have as much of God in our lives as we want, but the amount we want can be measured by how much we are willing to move out in order to make room for Him." I was awake instantly; Bill's words had stirred a memory from the past.

When we were first married, we lived in a delightful cottage by the green in a picturesque Hertfordshire village. As part of a church "outreach" programme we were asked to host a coffee and dessert evening in our home. A local Christian doctor would be invited to talk on "My faith and my job". We made a list of who we wanted to invite and then realised our tiny cottage would never hold that many. "Probably no one will want to come," we thought, but when all of our neighbours answered with a "yes" we panicked. Fortunately the weather that evening was fine, so out sofa, armchairs, dining table and sideboard, into the backyard. then we borrowed cushions from everyone we knew and sat our guests on the floor and every step of the stairs

It was one of those evenings when the presence of God just seemed to hover over the whole house, impacting everyone there. Somehow that memory seemed to illustrate for me exactly what Bill had been saying.

... let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects faith.
Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT

Jennifer Rees Larcombe -God Moments 2016

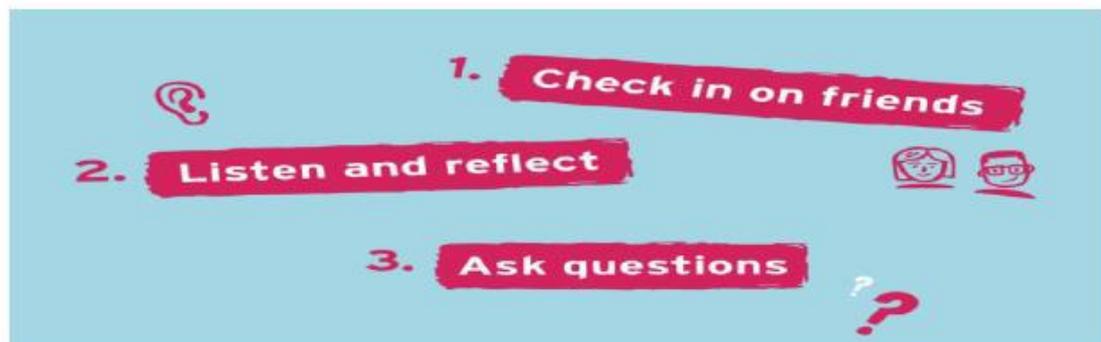
COVID-19 AND MENTAL HEALTH



It is important to be as kind and patient as possible with other people this autumn. Covid-19 has turned many millions of lives upside-down, and the resulting distress, anxiety, fear, grief and economic meltdown means that now widespread mental illness is inevitable. So says the new president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Dr Adrian James warns of 'multiple layers' to the fallout from the pandemic, both for people with pre-existing mental health conditions and also for those who have never suffered before. NHS front-line staff will need support, while those who have had a serious case of Covid-19 may suffer anything from post-traumatic stress disorder to a full-blown psychosis.

Dr James says: "There will be very significant mental illness consequences of Covid, and we need to be ready."



'What a lovely surprise recently when I came home on leave from a long stay in hospital and found a beautiful flower arrangement from all at St. Mary's waiting for me.



Thank you all, especially those who prayed, sent kind wishes and cards and, of course, those who kept Graham happy with a good supply of homemade cake and marmalade!

It's been an overwhelming and emotional time for me being poorly long before Lockdown started way back in March, then in hospital for over two months with no visitors allowed in to visit!

Thank you and God bless you all. Jan Follos.'



What Goes on at The Church of the Ascension

SUNDAY WORSHIP Check the notice outside church for weekly details. We are on Facebook (check “@jigsawchurch” page) our website is www.cofasc.co.uk

JIGSAW Relaxed family sessions Sunday during term time at 11am in Church – come for coffee, squash and biscuits from 10.30am in the Church Hall.

BIBLE STUDY Monday evenings, contact Bill Hazelton 01384 250366
Tuesday evenings, contact Geoff Cane 01384 835829

CHURCH CLUB Primary age children’s craft/games/story session, alternate Tuesdays after school, in term-time, contact Sheila Freeman on 01384 357921. Permission slips in the School Office.

MOTHERS’ UNION

1st Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm in the Church Hall. Any changes will be announced on the news sheet. Contact Jane Lamb on 01384 274604

CHOIR Contact Debbie Filgate on 01384 287711

HALL BOOKING Available for private parties etc, contact Sheila Freeman on 01384 357921.

FLOWER ARRANGING For festivals and special events. If you would like to join the team contact Jane Lamb on 01384 274604

SOCIAL EVENTS We aim to offer social events throughout the year, including poetry and film evenings, meals out, theatre trips etc. Contact Jean Blakemore on 01384 270828 for current details

**October 2020
Issue of CONTACT**

**Copy deadline date for October
issue of CONTACT
is Thursday 17th September**

If your copy is ready, please don't wait for the deadline date send it **NOW**.

Please email your copy to Colin or Jenny or hand in a hard copy at church.

Please use **Microsoft Word Only**.

colincorbett123@btinternet.com

jennystewart1@hotmail.co.uk

**ANY COPY RECEIVED AFTER THE
DEADLINE DATE WILL
UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE
INCLUDED IN THE OCTOBER
EDITION**

**Release Date Sunday
4th October 2020**



Of course, Vicar, you are most welcome to some harvest milk. Would you like 4% fat, 3.5% fat, 1% fat, pre-treated, post-treated homogenised, whole, skimmed, semi-skimmed or flavoured...?

**CONTACT
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"But did they plough the fields and scatter at a safe distance?"

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