

# RG31

The Parish Magazine of  
Tilehurst St Catherine  
Summer 2020 & Calcot St Birinus

This edition is available online only

**Socially distanced church**



# From the editor



I've had to take an enforced break from producing this magazine because a) I'm not allowed to enter the church building to use the printer (the building has only recently been opened, the Hall for St Catherine's pre-school and the church for private prayer, and b) Because even if we were to print the magazine we couldn't distribute it due to the lockdown.

The last printed version was therefore at the beginning of March and the April edition was only available online. I'm calling this edition (again only available online) Summer 2020. The next one won't be until September and depending how things are, may well be titled 'Autumn 2020'.

You will find the contents of this magazine quite different from my usual style because a) it is covering a three month period, and b) at this time there are no regular events, meetings or church services taking place in physical buildings, only online.

I do hope that you've been able to access our church services online, there's:

- A Sunday service at 10.00 am,
- Morning prayer weekdays 10.00 am
- Something lighthearted on Saturdays at 10.00 am with Gill and Phil

- On the first Saturday of the month at 9.00 am 'Messy church' with songs. Stories and craft.
- An occasional special event, see page 12 to read about the recent film night.

You'll find more information about how to access all these online events elsewhere in this magazine as well as on our website. On the website there's also a link to see videos of previous services.

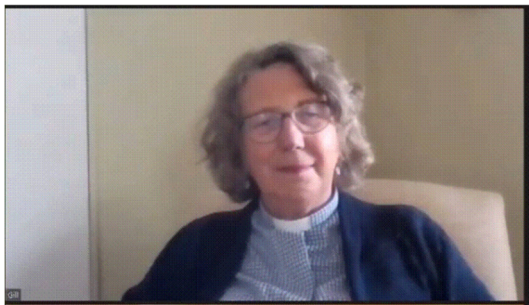
We all miss the socialising we used to enjoy after the service with tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. We've tried to re-capture that online with our 'Zoom Coffee' at 11.15 am after the Sunday service. As long as you have a device to access the internet you can join us, full instructions on how to do that are on page 7.

I am grateful to all those who have contributed to the articles in this magazine. I hope that they give you a flavour of how the church and community can function in these strange times, doing new things in new ways. I hope that the lessons that we have learnt and the new skills that we have acquired will be to the benefit of church and community long into the future.

The cover picture shows how the furniture has been re-arranged to comply with the current 'social distancing' rules and allow more than one person (probably twelve) to worship together although with no singing and no books or pieces of paper (bring your own!) and a thorough cleaning routine.

A caveat; by the time that you read this the rules may well have changed!

Tony Bartlett



# Rev Gill Rowell

## Reflections on a changing landscape

Did you know that scarlet corn poppies grow naturally in *disturbed earth*? That's why they flourish where the earth has been ripped open by bombs and gunfire. And did you also know that *fire* is necessary for the beautiful Giant Sequoia tree to survive? (Google it and see what you discover!)

We know that God works for good in the world, even in the most challenging and disturbing of times. In the words of a new song we sang recently "*You (God) are good when life is not*".

In God's economy, when we are faced with trauma and our lives are disturbed through the fire of difficulty and tragedy, grieving and dislocation, something new and very beautiful can emerge, if we allow it - bringing transformation, healing, hope.

Our church landscape has shifted in ways we couldn't ever have expected or imagined in these last few months. Because of the pandemic we have been forced to do church differently. What, I wonder, is going to flower, and what is going to die back? Have you wondered that, or have you assumed that there will be a time when church will be like it was before the lockdown was imposed? Think again. Look at the landscape.

Some truly incredible things have happened around us and changed our behaviours. Homeless people have been housed, nature has flourished, pollution has dropped, we've shopped locally and for others, for many a daily walk was an opportunity to chat to the neighbours (at a distance). Many began working from home. Families have spent weeks together, carving out special memories by cycling or walking through the countryside.

We have realised how important every person is, from those who clean our hospitals and streets to those educating our children and those searching for a vaccine. We've clapped for carers and key workers. The landscape has shifted. During the lockdown period, along with churches all over the UK, our social media presence has grown dramatically. Around 80 people regularly engage *every day* with our 10.00 am service, either on St Catherine's Facebook or our website, and many more than that on a Sunday.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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That's a change in the landscape. (It is reported that nationally 1 in 4 people have engaged in online worship during lockdown, and 1 in 3 of under 30s.)

I am sure that all of us have felt constrained and limited during lockdown, but perhaps God is doing what he does best – freeing us from what someone I know calls the “velvet rut” - those things which haven’t changed in a very long time “because it's always done that way”. It's time to think afresh, to capture what has been good and life enriching – and maybe, just maybe, to live differently – as individuals, as a community, and as a church.

What would you like to see flourish out of this time?

Joshua 1:9

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

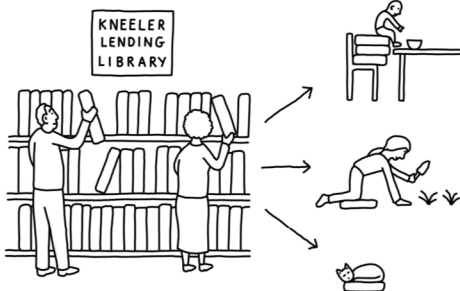
Amen.

gill

## THE KNEELERS

HOW THEY ARE BEING USED DURING THE PANDEMIC

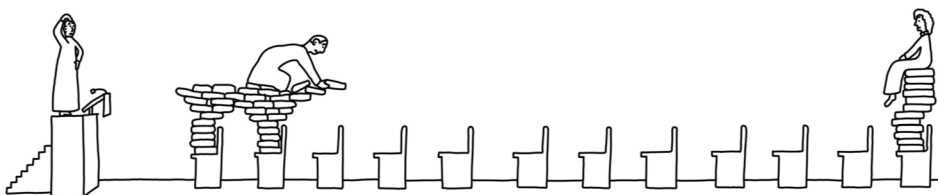
SOME WERE LENT OUT BEFORE THE START OF LOCKDOWN



A FEW WERE PILFERED  
(VERY TRICKY TO DETECT)



THE CLERGY USE THE REMAINDER FOR (SOCIALLY-DISTANCED) TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES





# Introducing Rev Phil Price



For those of you who hadn't realised, my 3 month 'loan' move to St Catherine's was converted into a permanent 'free transfer' during a video meeting mid-lockdown. As it all happened in lockdown, and I haven't really had a chance to address the whole community since it became official, I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you a little bit about why I asked to stay.

My first experience of St Catherine's was a PCC meeting in late November. Gill wasn't there because that was the week she lost her voice, but even without Gill's presence, I came away from that meeting buzzing. When I got home afterwards Esther (my wife) asked me how it went, and I remember saying 'it was really good, but I can't fall in love with the place - I'm only there for three months'.

If you have ever been to a PCC meeting at any Church you will know that there is enormous potential for them to

become dry and dull very quickly. St Catherine's is by no means exempt from needing to vote on points of order and produce reports. However, in amongst the 'business' that all PCCs must do, that evening in November the passions at the heart of St Catherine's shone through.

It was clear from that meeting that St Catherine's has people in it who care passionately about social justice, God's creation, offering hospitality to the community and sharing the good news of Jesus.

My first Sunday at St Catherine's was December 1<sup>st</sup> and before I knew it, we'd had Christmas and I had a week off to look back on the last month. During December I got to see how those passions I saw at the PCC meeting were evident throughout the whole Church.

From the Café to Sunday services and midweek groups, St Catherine's is a place where people are in touch with the passions that God has given them and are looking for ways to express those passions in a way that brings glory to God.



The Gill and Phil double act for Tot's Praise on Friday morning in Lockdown

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

It's not always easy to work out how we can best use these God-given passions, and that is why an open mind and a willingness to experiment is vital to exploring the calling that God has given us, both as individuals and as a Church. In January and February, I saw first-hand how willing to experiment and try new things St Catherine's is.

I was so proud of the number of congregation members who turned out to support our first film night. I know that Wonder Woman isn't necessarily the film that many of you would have chosen to watch, but even so you still turned up to support a young curate having a stab at starting a community cinema.



Similarly, you have been so patient and tolerant as I have bombarded you with Blob pictures and talked about Power Rangers in sermons.

They say there is no such thing as a perfect Church, and if you ever find one for goodness sake don't join it, because it won't be perfect any more.

I am by no means claiming that St Catherine's is the perfect Church, but I do think that the heart I saw at the PCC meeting is very much like God's heart and it beats throughout all that St Catherine's does. There will always be challenges and things that need improving in any church, but if the heart is right then that is a very good place to start.

Phil



Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, the first service in St Catherine's church since 15<sup>th</sup> March

# This too shall pass



There was a time when the word ‘Zoom’ (for at least some of us) conjured up the image of an ice lolly, but there is no denying that since lockdown a new kind of Zoom has taken over our lives. There’s lots of different ways of video calling friends and family, but in the same way that ‘Sticky-backed-plastic’ became known as ‘cello tape’ in the Covid 19 age video calling is now known as ‘Zooming’.

At St Catherine’s we use Zoom to record our online services, we use Zoom for meetings and we use Zoom for our after-service coffee on a Sunday. If you’re unfamiliar with Zoom here’s all you need to know to be able to join us for coffee.

## Is it free?

There is a free version and a paid for version, but you only need the free version to join in with everything we are doing.


### What you need:


If you want to be able to see the people that you are talking to you will need

- An internet connection
- A web cam
- A PC, Laptop, Tablet or Smartphone


If you don’t have the above you can ‘dial’ into a Zoom meeting using a landline telephone (you will be able to hear but not see other people).

Join us now for a virtual coffee and chat. Here's how:




 Click on the link in the weekly notices email\*

OR

 Visit <https://tinyurl.com/cathcoffee> to join\*

OR

 Dial 0203 481 5240\*\*  
When prompted, input the Meeting ID: 830 4198 5189# and then the Password: 532260#

\*You may be prompted to download and install the Zoom app.  
\*\*Calls will be charged at your standard national rate.

### Joining a Zoom meeting:

There are 3 ways to join a Zoom meeting

1. With a Link
2. With a Meeting ID and Password
3. Dial in on a phone

In this brave new world, we may look back fondly on the days where a Zoom was an Ice lolly, but in Isaiah 43:19 God says ‘See, I am doing a new thing! Now it ‘Springs’ up; do you not perceive it?’, perhaps now we need to acknowledge that God is doing a new thing and it is ‘Zooming’ up’



Phil Price



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# Lockdown revelations

We asked a few folks to tell us what has been their Lockdown Luxury, Love, Loathe, Disappointment and Surprise – and this is what they told us. What have been yours?



## **Sonia Ludford** **Luxury**

Being able to choose if I visit a supermarket if I want to. Before Lockdown that would have seemed a very strange thing to say!

I should say I don't shop more than once a week, but I know there are many people who would just love to go outside and shop for themselves.

## **Love**

More time to do things I would like to do: a bit more gardening, cooking a few different things with what I have in the fridge and kitchen cupboards. Watching a few TV/Netflix programmes I have missed!

## **Loathe**

Seeing news items where people are showing disregard for measures designed to keep everyone safe; I know it's harder for some people but I wish they would consider others too!

## **Disappointment**

Not being able to see Fliss, my daughter, in person as she works and lives in London. Zoom calls are great but just not the same!

## **Surprise**

Maybe not really a surprise, but a real blessing to see so many different people in different situations doing their very best to help others. How many of our neighbours we have met and talked to as we have gone out for exercise each day. And the Thursday Clap for NHS and key workers which really did bring people together.



## **Anne Soley** **Luxury**

Having time to do what I want to do.

## **Love**

Talking to more people (at a distance) while out walking.

## **Loathe**

All the depressing news programmes.

*(Continued on page 10)*



# Lockdown revelations (continued)

*(Continued from page 9)*

## **Disappointment**

Not being able to hug my great grandchildren.

## **Surprise**

How far I can walk for pleasure.



## **Amy Fergusson Luxury**

Time to 'be'. Gooseberry gin. Brene Brown (her TED talks are worth a 'Google', and her podcasts are also excellent), and my new day-glow orange hoody (great for snuggling in on rainy days, with a hot chocolate and comfort TV).

## **Love**

Digging! When it has all felt a bit much, I have headed over to my modest patch on the allotment. It's been so therapeutic taking my trowel to a bit of bindweed, or planting the seeds I'd sown with my seven-year-old daughter at the beginning of all of this. My daughter has caught the 'allotment bug' too, and we have spent some really happy times together having proper, simple fun. It's been brilliant!

## **Loathe**

The inability to hug! I am a compulsive 'hugger', and not being able to give all the people I love the most, a great big breath-snatching squeeze, has been excruciating!

## **Disappointment**

That we have clapped for carers, adorned everything with rainbows, knighted Captain Tom, put knick-knacks in boxes outside our houses for others to use, shopped for neighbours, but haven't always been kind to ourselves. I saw a wonderful quote that said "we are in the same storm, but not in the same boat", and that spoke volumes to me. There is no right or wrong way of getting through this time - get through it however feels best, and just know we're all trying to do the same.

## **Surprise**

Making two new best mates, Brenda and Sheila.

St Catherine's put me in touch with Sheila, and I have been picking up a few bits for her from the supermarket as part of my weekly shop. Brenda is a neighbour who has been shielding.

For the 10 minutes or so that I get to chat to these two awesome and inspirational ladies in the week, we have covered everything from noteworthy literature, to Monty Don's dogs, the best pubs in Yorkshire, fine art, and how best to go about insulating your greenhouse.

Seeing them is one of the highlights of my week, which wouldn't have happened if it weren't for this situation. I can't wait to have a cuppa and a proper catch-up with them when possible!

# More Lockdown revelations



**Isaac Deacon**

## **Luxury**

Has got to be being able to stay in bed much longer!!!

## **Love**

Spending time with my family by going on long walks and completing projects with our garden.

## **Loathe**

Not being able to meet up with family and friends properly as well as not spending lots of time with my grandparents.

## **Disappointment**

The uncertainty and not being able to finish my A-levels and the fact I have technically left school now with no real sense of closure.

Another big disappointment is the fact that my driving test has been cancelled twice now and I haven't had a chance to have a good go at it yet!

## **Surprise**

How quick all the weeks are going by. This is because I thought I would be bored and everything would go so slow, but I've managed to fill all the time and working in a shop as a key worker has kept me going a lot.

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**Tony Pearce**

## **Luxury**

No responsibilities, and no worries

## **Love**

Online courses in Science Teaching and Botany.

## **Loathe**

Not seeing the Grandchildren

## **Disappointment**

Losing my free cup of Latte from Waitrose every morning.

## **Surprise**

I lost 1 stone without trying.

# Escaping Lockdown with a good film



There's something special about sitting down with friends and family and some Popcorn to watch a film. Unfortunately, Coronavirus has forced cinemas to close and meant that St Catherine's has had to put on hold our plans for regular film screenings in our Hall. But, not wanting to let the virus ruin all our fun, in May we launched the St Catherine's online Film Club.

Our first film was the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie society and it was really easy for people to join in with us. All people needed to do was:

- Watch the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
- E-mail us with their thoughts on the film.
- Tune into the St Catherine's Facebook page and watch Gill and Phil discuss the film in light of the thoughts that people had sent in.

We had an amazing response (both in terms of video views and people emailing in) which led to a really interesting and wide-ranging discussion. We discussed a many different topics including 'prejudice', 'sacrifice', 'our human need for companionship' and 'romance'.

See next page for some viewer comments and below for a short synopsis for the film. However, the best way get a feel for the film club is to watch the film (which is currently

streaming on Amazon Prime and widely available on DVD) and then head over to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/St.Catherines.Tilehurst/videos/1158963521105134/>) to see Gill and Phil discussing the film.

Our online Film Club is a monthly activity so do keep checking our Facebook page. For June's Film Club we watched *Philomena*. Look out for a write up on that in the next edition of RG31

## **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (taken from IMDB)**

A correspondence begins between Juliet Ashton (Lily James) and members of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, with them sharing their experiences of Nazi-occupied Guernsey Island. When an idea for a book catches Juliet, she goes to visit the island, making life-long friends and taking life changing steps along the way. This book is told by way of letters, and as the reader, you become enchanted by the writers of them and the love Juliet comes to feel for each of the Islanders; Dawsey Adams (Michiel Huisman), Amelia Maugery (Dame Penelope Wilton), Isola Pribbey (Katherine Parkinson), Eben Ramsey (Sir Tom Courtenay), Kit (Florence Keen), and Elizabeth McKenna (Jessica Brown Findlay).



*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)



I thought that the hardship suffered during the German Occupation was really well portrayed – the lack of food, the evacuation of the children, the dreadful treatment of the German slaves and so on. They say a picture is worth 1000 words and for example, the sight of Dawsey sitting down to eat one potato on a plate really brought the situation home- Jean



When she [Juliet] leaves her lodgings because the landlady has been snooping through her things she picks up the bible and says " this book is filled with love and you overlook all of it in favour of judgement and petty meanness". Something that would be good for all of us to remember - Hillary

Loved it! Everything a film should have - sadness, joy, subtlety and information. Great performance from Penelope Wilton especially. I vaguely knew that the Channel Islands were occupied but it's by connecting to individual stories that the facts stick in one's mind - Rosemary



I watched the whole of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society with my eyes full of tears (not only sad tears); for Elizabeth (what a strong woman, always ready to help others ,to stand for what is right), Juliet (so sensitive, going deeper, beyond the surface) and Dawsey (the hero, looking after his dear friend's child) - Ella



## A Final Thought

There are so many themes in this film, but the power of books and by extension the power of Words is a key one. Genesis Chapter one tells us that God created the world simply by speaking. What words are currently having an influence in your life? What words should be influencing your life?

## Coronavirus Test & Trace



## Contact tracers will never

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product of any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account, for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts, ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- disclose any of your personal or medical information to your contacts nor provide medical advice on the treatment of any potential Coronavirus symptoms
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, Smartphone or tablet to anyone else nor ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS

## Contact tracers will

- call you from 0300 013 5000
- send you text messages from 'NHS'
- ask you to sign into the NHS test and trace contact-tracing website
- ask for your full name and date of birth to confirm your identity, and postcode to offer support while self-isolating
- ask about the Coronavirus symptoms you have been experiencing
- ask you to provide the name, telephone number and/or email address of anyone you have had close contact with in the 2 days prior to your symptoms starting
- ask if anyone you have been in contact with is under 18 or lives outside of England

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## Who's right for which job?

Does your company struggle with the problem of properly fitting people to jobs? Here is a handy way to decide....

Take the prospective employees you are trying to place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing.

- If they have taken the table apart in that time, put them in Engineering.
- If they are counting the cracks in the floor, assign them to Finance.
- If they are screaming and waving their arms, send them to Manufacturing.
- If they are talking to the chairs, Personnel is a good place for them.
- If they are sleeping, they are Management material.
- If they are writing up the experience, send them to Technical Publications.
- If they don't even look up when you enter the room, assign them to Security.
- If they try to tell you it's not as bad as it looks, send them to Marketing.
- And if they've left early, put them in Sales.



# Partnership for Missional Church

## Progress in Lockdown

As we entered our 3rd PMC year, our planned activities came to a sudden halt when lockdown began in March – no more Calcot Cuppa, an abrupt end to our learning together about the spiritual practices through Gill's Lent Course etc. And future plans have been thrown somewhat into disarray – or maybe God is reorienting us?

Slowly we are coming to terms with the implications of Covid-19 and reflecting on where God is taking us. The last few months have been an opportunity to more closely connect with individuals in our immediate communities.

One of the other churches in our PMC cluster felt that, when we began the PMC process, the expectation had been that we were opening the church door to bring more people in, but had discovered that the church door is for us to walk out into the community, taking our treasure with us. But now the church door is firmly shut and we have to stay in the community!

Many have stories of meeting people who live only a few doors away, and developing friendships (- and wondering how we never noticed them before!); developing regular small street gatherings; undertaking and receiving small acts of kindness. Things like ringing someone's doorbell for a chat, picking up prescriptions and doing shopping for those who can't get out.

As restrictions are eased, we pray for an ongoing growing awareness of who God is bringing us into contact with – continuing the practice of asking ourselves "Who have I noticed and met today?".

The 19<sup>th</sup> June PMC cluster took the shape of Zoom sessions with breakout groups. A chance for the churches to encourage one another.

It was the first time that many of us had engaged in "Dwelling in the Word" since lockdown (a new passage for Year 3 – Acts 6). This raised the question of what is stopping us from doing this now, either on Zoom, or outside in small socially distancing groups during the summer?

And we wondered if we could all take more time to knock on people's doors just for a brief chat on the doorstep - perhaps making contact with those previously involved in mid week groups like Calcot Cuppa and Tuesday Get Together and Friday Friends.

Over the last months we have been reminded we are fragile clay jars (2 Cor. 4 v7). But we hold God's treasure. We pray that we will notice where God is taking us as we continue to live with Covid-19, and maintain awareness of those everyday questions, perhaps even sharing some of our answers to encourage one another :

- Whose hospitality have I received today?
- What's God saying to me in the Bible today?
- Who have I noticed and met today?
- What have I noticed God doing today and who can I tell?
- What have I tried to say no to, so I can say yes?
- What's God up to here?

PMC Steering Group: Chris Addison, Jo Day, Caroline Heron, Sonia Ludford, Val Poore, Gill Rowell, Richard Yates

# Lockdown - a positive story

Whilst Lockdown has had a negative effect on so many aspects of our lives, one positive is that being forced to find new ways of communicating and staying connected with the outside world has opened up opportunities to reconnect with people.

Speaking to Dave Evans over the phone on a Friday morning, it was really uplifting to see how God has used technology and a lot of co-incidences (or God-incidences as I like to call them) to bring Dave into our regular online worshipping community at St Catherine's.

Of course, Dave is not new to St Catherine's he has a connection with St Catherine's that goes all the way back to the early 1990s when his daughter, Sian, was married in the Church.

Dave was Born in Wales, and brought up in the non-conformist tradition. He met Barbara at Bishopsgate Evangelical Church in Englefield Green, Surrey (where her father had previously been the minister). So, when they went to three Sunday services at St Catherine's to hear Sian's banns read, they didn't expect to become part of this 'Anglican' Church. However, much to their surprise, after the wedding, they kept worshipping at St Catherine's. Dave found himself on the welcoming rota (when he remembered) and he was our representative on Denary Synod. He was even allowed to play the organ in services when the choir mistress was on holiday.

When their grandchildren came along Dave and Barbara moved to a different Church that was near the home of their



grand-children so they could take them to Sunday School. However, it is clear that the friendships that they built up during his time at St Catherine's continued to be important to him.

He tells me about visiting a service at Cornwell Community Church a few years after he had left St Catherine's. At coffee before the service Sheila Ward, who was sat in the front row, realised without looking, said David you are here. Dave was surprised that she recognised him so quickly after all these years and she explained that 'I recognised your voice'. Richard Yates was preaching that Sunday and during the sermon Dave could hear God saying to him 'I know you by name, and I know your voice!'

Dave tells me that he had been keen to return to St Catherine's and used to drive up to the church 'just for a look' whenever Barbara had a hair appointment, but getting to a service at 9.15 am on a Sunday just wasn't possible.

*(Continued on page 17)*

*Prayer from The Mothers Union Oxford*

## A Prayer in Lockdown

Ever present God  
be with us in our isolation  
be close to us in our distancing  
be healing in our sickness  
be joy in our sadness  
be light in our darkness  
be wisdom in our confusion  
be all that is familiar when all is  
unfamiliar  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world  
for Jesus' sake  
Amen

Although we have been unable to meet during lockdown be assured of our prayers and please get in contact if we can be of support in anyway.  
As soon as we have details of when we can meet together again we will be in touch.

Hilary Smee

### Mothers' Union Prayer Chain—Prayer in Emergencies

**A call to one of the following numbers will start a chain of prayer straight away**

Valerie Forrow ☎ 0118 942 9319  
Hilary Smee ☎ 0118 941 2895  
Evelyn Bartlett ☎ 0118 967 8659  
Jo Day ☎ 0118 942 1481  
Lorraine Roberts ☎ 0118 942 6189  
Shirley Horsnell ☎ 07872 315 506

*(Continued from page 16)*

Then came lockdown and a chance encounter with an old friend from St Catherine's in the Co-op. He asked her if St Catherine's was doing anything online during lockdown and she put him in touch with Tony who started to include him in the weekly notices email.

Now Dave and Barbara join us regularly for Morning prayer in the week and for our 10.00 am Sunday services.

They also join us for our Zoom coffee after the service where they enjoy seeing the faces of old and new friends.

The thing Dave remembers about his first Zoom coffee morning is hearing Jo Day say 'David Evans is back!'.

David Evans is back and it is such a joy to have him and Barbara worshipping with us again.

Phil Price



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# How do they do that?

If you've watched one of our Sunday morning services on Facebook, you will have appreciated how much work goes into producing it. There's readings, a sermon, prayers and songs all introduced and linked together by the service leader. Initially this was done 'live' at 10.00 am on a Sunday morning but it has proved easier (and safer - at least we know that everything works!) to record the service at a 'Zoom' meeting with all those taking part on a Friday evening.

The songs will have been worked on and recorded some time before, with each musician, singer (and sometimes our younger members showing the actions) recording their part separately before being 'stitched together' to produce a video.

Stuart and David run the recording session on Fridays, they have the skills (and equipment) to combine the various pieces of video and slides into the complete service.

Stuart's computing set-up has rapidly expanded since we started live-streaming our services on Facebook. This new task has been used as an excuse to purchase many new gadgets & gizmos from Amazon.



Stuart now has 2 screens on his main PC; one for the Zoom meeting and one for PowerPoint to provide the liturgy. Then an additional screen on his laptop to set-up Facebook streaming and monitor & answer Facebook comments.

A phone is also used to monitor what everyone sees on Facebook to ensure that it is all being broadcast correctly.

Various lights are also positioned to try and evenly illuminate his face if he's being recorded that week; necessary as he's positioned right next to a window, hence the curtains are closed to soften the light.

The microphone, boom arm and mini-mixing desk is not only used to help our service broadcasts, but also record the sections of music that you see edited into the morning service. These music 'performances' are the combination of many musicians efforts combined & edited together separately.



David has a similar set-up in his 'log cabin' (glorified shed) at the back of his garden. If you are still curious, visit:

<https://www.tlcb.uk/the-log-cabin/>

*(Continued on page 19)*

# Pre-school in the Pandemic



When we closed our doors in March, by instruction of the government, I was convinced it would be just for a few weeks and then we would be back to normal, but listening to some reports I knew I would have to prepare for the likelihood that we may not return until the new academic year.

There was a lot of worry about how a small charity pre-school would survive the lack of income while supporting our

dedicated and loyal staff, and information about the governments support changed every time we put a plan in place, but we have been blessed with support and made necessary adjustments with the future of the pre-school always in mind.

We are also very fortunate to be part of an amazing community, that even

*(Continued on page 20)*

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The 'Log Cabin' is where he works from between Mon - Fri for his 'day job'. However, he also uses his work setup to record our live-streamed church services on Friday evenings.

David uses the left hand screen to show the running order and perform additional tasks.

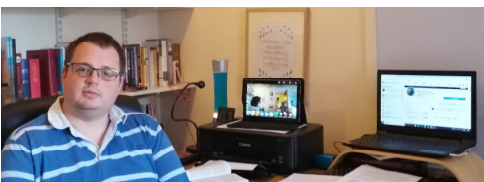
The middle screen runs the Zoom call which is then recorded and controlled using OBS software running on the laptop screen on the right hand side.

Lexi edits the recordings on the family PC, adding music videos, any liturgy and prayers, together with the slides of the notices that appear in the ten minute 'count-down'. Then the completed service can be uploaded to Facebook ready to be viewed on Sunday morning.



This is mine, now upgraded from my laptop propped up on a box, when we started the online services, to a webcam on my PC and a decent microphone.

Tony Bartlett



This is Phil's set-up





*(Continued from page 19)*

during these times were able to come together and raise £1,000 through our sponsored toddle event and thank them all for this continued support.

During the lockdown we supported families by sending out activities and I held Facebook and Zoom story times as regularly as possible. This was always met with positive feedback, and it was lovely to be able to interact with the children on Zoom.

It is always difficult to make decisions that affect other people, so when the updates started to talk about the return of children to education and early years it was important to consider all the information and then to begin working on how we could return under the government guidelines.

I was honest with the families of the pre-school and told them I thought the 1<sup>st</sup> June was a little too early, but I wanted to consider their opinions and needs.

After careful consultation with staff, parents and the PCC, I was able to put a plan for re-opening in place. I assessed the risks to everyone involved and the PCC worked with me to ensure we were able to meet the guidelines for health and safety.

I made potential plans for how we could run the room to keep young children who are naturally drawn to each other as distanced as possible and plan an adjusted curriculum.

There was a lot of apprehension and anxiety on the 1<sup>st</sup> June as staff met at Pre-school to prepare for the children's return.

We set up four workstations that would each be used by a group of four children and cared for by one member of staff.

We were able to set each workstation up to have a range of toys and activities that were exclusively used by that group allowing interaction between them and maintaining distance from the other groups.

We welcomed back our eldest children, ready for the transition to school, and all returned with a smile on their face adapting to the new way of doing things very quickly.

We have all benefitted from the reduced numbers and preparing the children for their move to school, working on usual summer term skills such as phonics.


We now move on to planning for the return of all our younger children, and the start of new children, in September, having to adjust all over again.

But we have proved we are capable of change, adapting to meet needs out of our control, and with the support of our community and the church we are very hopeful for the future.

Becky Weller  
Pre-school Manager

## Editor's note

St Catherine's Pre-School is a registered charity 1006732, Ofsted Inspected with a team of qualified staff, established over 50 years and meets in St Catherine's Hall, Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst, RG31 5LN

For more information  07745 909 348  
[www.stcatherinespreschool.co.uk](http://www.stcatherinespreschool.co.uk)

## **Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!**



The Rectory,  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manager”, manglers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers - that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won’t be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them ‘Do not take home’ as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction ‘Take this sheet home for reference’ would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

# Tilehurst Triangle WI



Our last report was written shortly after lockdown began and we had just started a weekly newsletter.

Newsletter number 11 has just been published!

Very sadly our oldest WI member, Alma has died. Alma will be greatly missed by us. She was a talented lady in many areas and was a great crafts woman. Alma loved to join in with our activities

and below are a few photos of this remarkable lady. Happy memories of Alma at Tilehurst Triangle WI: Knit and Natter, Alma with her daughter Madeline at Howard Birchmore's painting workshop, Alma enjoying our summer garden party and ceramic painting alongside her granddaughter Amy.

*(Continued on page 23)*



# St Catherine's Gardening Club



I must admit that when I last wrote, in March, I had no idea that we would be in "lock down" a few days later!

It was so disheartening recently, when we returned to our church garden almost 3 months later, to see weeds everywhere. The very wet late winter and glorious hot early spring had caused them to do very well indeed.

All the hard work we had put in to get the garden in good shape for Tilehurst Garden Festival was undone!

The dry ground was cracking in places, and the small leaved pieris, which we

had planted next to the gas box on the corner of the church hall, was in a desperate state.



Thanks to Chris' helpful arrangement of the hoses we were able to leave a hose gently running into the ground under it for about 10 minutes to help it to recover. The clematis along the back fence also needed watering, as they were very dry and one had died.

Weeding has taken priority since then, and there is still much more to do, but we are making progress. Betty's azaleas

*(Continued on page 24)*

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*(Continued from page 22)*

Now fortnightly, members are still sharing what they are doing, including tips, recipes, book and film recommendations and other items of interest. One member has made this beautiful machine embroidered version of Tilehurst Triangle WI logo.



We also have a weekly Zoom meet up, to give members who wish to, the chance to chat and catch up.

As well as time to chat, we have had quizzes including a medical quiz which was very interesting! Recently, we have had an online version of 'Would I Lie to You?' which proved fun.

Who would have thought that some of our members could be so convincing at telling mistruths! Future zoom meetings are planned to include 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' and 'Who am I?'

Zoom has also been used to continue 'Book Club'. We have also had a committee meeting via Zoom with another planned. The committee minutes are recorded to reflect and document this unprecedented time for the future.

Keep safe everyone.

Tilehurst Triangle WI

(Continued from page 23)

had flowered and thankfully Gill had kept them watered. But the contents of the troughs and tubs were very dead!

We rescued the bulbs to use again next year and distributed the used compost onto the clematis bed. Jo decided to take the empty containers home as any new planting would require more regular watering than was possible just now.

Hopefully we will be able to fill them with something colourful in the autumn. Our roses are flowering now – there is nothing quite so beautiful as a rose in bloom. I stand in awe as I gaze at such an example of God’s amazing creation.

Our very generous neighbour, Darren, had noticed how well the grass was

growing, and had driven round on his “ride on” lawn mower and cut all the lawns for us. What a very kind gesture!! We are greatly blessed to have him helping us.

I hope you have found comfort and reassurance in the beauty of God’s creation as we go through these difficult days. It has been an exceptionally wonderful spring, and, for once, we have actually had time to stand and stare. Have you found yourself just soaking it all in, and saying “Thankyou” to God, for all his blessings?

Jo Day

*“I think this is what hooks one to gardening: it is the closest one can come to being present at creation.”*

Phyllis Theroux

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## What have I missed most during lockdown?

It's a good question, because it is about the things that make us tick. When I examined my list, I found obvious things - going to church, live sport on TV, meeting up with friends for a coffee or a beer.

But as I thought more deeply about it, I realised that what I missed most was TOUCH. For nearly four months I have not touched another human being!

That is an astonishing deprivation. When a baby is born, its first experiences are all of touch. The strong hands of the midwife, mother’s excited and loving embrace, tiny hands reaching out to feel mummy’s face. We touch our way into life.

And then it goes on. Holding hands with friends, being hugged by grandma,



your first serious kiss, and perhaps a last tearful one at the end of a much-loved life.

We greet each other with a holy kiss, the Bible says. And why not?

Sight, smell, hearing and touch. Four senses. And I think lockdown has taught me that the greatest of these is touch!

Canon David Winter



# A Father's advice to his children

As I've said, as a tiny child I felt despairing, angry, and upset. I hated. Hate's like a disease. I imagined setting off bombs etc. as a crazy "revenge"! Things improved. I'd probably be in deep trouble now if I hadn't been helped by a few good people (who forgave my bad behaviour!).

I see that troubles can make some folk do bad things, like the recent stabbings in the Forbury Gardens. Important! We don't always want to understand them. It can be easier to hate them. That could be part of our problem.

That slogan: "Black Lives Matter"! I see it as: "ALL lives matter!" But struggling angry folk just might MISREAD it as: "Whites, you did bad! Get stuffed!"

The trouble with serious fighting (in all its' varied forms) is that it leaves LONG-LASTING ECHOES OF HATE.

There are few real wins. It's natural to compete in a light-hearted way. But war and real hate-driven fighting is different - that's another deadly disease.

"Pascal's Wager" asked if it was a good bet to bow to the Church's authority, in case hellish punishments were real? My wager'd be a bit different.

Even critics who reject our doctrines might agree that war is usually a no-win, and it might pay us to follow the commandment to love one's neighbour as oneself. Even when it was hard, or faith was wobbly.

Everyone's faith gets challenged. But even at the worst of times, most of our practical Christian teachings seem to

remain pretty wise - as if they came from a wise Father! And they could even be the only way to save our world?

Phil French



## Keep your distance!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!

## Body parts

A doctor in our village surgery often plays a game with his younger patients to put them at ease, and to test their knowledge of body parts. And so it was that one day, while pointing to my young son's ear, the doctor asked him solemnly, "And so this is your nose?" Alarmed, my son glanced over to me and said softly: "Mum, I think we'd better find a new doctor!"

Your home is where you feel the most comfortable and the happiest. It's the place you know the best. Why would you move away from the place you love if you are faced with needing some extra care and support when you age? If you want to stay living comfortably at home, we can help you make that choice an informed one.



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- ✓ Companionship
- ✓ Personal care
- ✓ Dementia care



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# Recipes from Karen our Café manager

Sadly during the current restrictions Café Siena is unable to open so we're unable to enjoy all the delicious food that Karen and her team prepare. We hope that as easing continues there might be a way to open the café in some way but at the time of writing we have no idea when that might be.

In the meantime here are a couple of easy recipes for us to enjoy, put together by Karen, so we can enjoy our own Café Siena lockdown lunch!



## Soufflé Omelette

This recipe elevates the humble omelette to new heights. I have used two cheeses and fresh parsley, but adapt the recipe to your own taste or whatever you have in the fridge.

The addition of ham or sliced tomatoes would make a more substantial meal, or serve with a side salad.

### Serves 1

3 large eggs

10z/25g Cheddar grated

10z/25g parmesan grated

Knob of butter

Chopped fresh chives/parsley, or a pinch of dried mixed herbs

Separate the eggs into different bowls, and add salt and pepper to the yolks and whisk.

Put a medium sized frying pan (approx. 7 inches/18cm) on a low heat and turn on the grill.

Whisk the eggs whites until stiff, then gently fold in the yolks, cheese, and herbs.

Turn up the heat under the frying pan and add the butter. When it is foaming tip in the omelette mixture.

Shake the pan to even out the mixture and cook for a minute or two (when you gently lift the edges you want the underneath to be a light golden brown colour).

Then transfer to the grill and cook for 45-60 seconds, or until the top is lightly golden too. Serve, and enjoy!



## Frozen Yogurt with Lemon and Passion Fruit Curd

This simple desert is lovely on a hot sunny day. The curd would also be nice in a sponge cake with fresh cream! The

*(Continued on page 28)*

(Continued from page 27)

curd will keep in a sealed jar for about a month.

## Serves 6

### Yogurt Ingredients

500g full fat Greek yogurt

50ml clear honey

100g crème fraîche

Juice and zest of 1 lemon

### Curd Ingredients

Juice and zest of 3 lemons

200g caster sugar – (may need to adjust amount depending on the size of the lemons)

120g unsalted butter

3 medium eggs, plus 1 extra yolk

6 passion fruit (juice strained from the seeds)

Beat the yoghurt ingredients together, then put in a Tupperware container and freeze. After 1-2 hours scoop into a food

processor and blend until smooth. Alternatively give a good mash with a fork.

Return the mixture to the freezer and then repeat this process once more. Leave in the freezer until required.

For the curd, heat in a saucepan the lemon juice and zest, sugar, and butter. Once melted remove from the heat and add the eggs and passion fruit juice and beat with a balloon whisk. Return the curd to the heat and whisk constantly until slightly thickened. Pour into a bowl or jar. The curd will continue to thicken as it cools.

Remove the yogurt from the freezer 15-20 minutes before serving. Scoop into bowls with the curd spooned over, and maybe a few raspberries or a sprig of mint to decorate.

# BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE  
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE  
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE  
UNEMPLOYED AND THE  
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF  
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE  
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE  
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE  
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY  
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL  
WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE  
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL  
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL  
WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS,  
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE  
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US  
AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF  
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE  
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND  
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF  
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE  
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE  
GOD DESPITE THE  
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE  
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN  
STEADFAST AND  
CONSTANT IN  
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH  
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,  
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING  
PRESENCE IN A HURTING  
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO  
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE  
PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING  
ALONE WITH THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND  
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO  
ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF  
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY  
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE  
BEREAVED,



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS  
ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY  
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO  
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR  
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY-WE PRAY-  
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS:  
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO  
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE  
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND  
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

# The story behind ... JUST AS I AM

The hymn 'Just As I Am' must be one of the most famous in the world. It has been sung by tens of millions of Christians at Billy Graham Crusades the world over, just for starters! Yet it was not written by a professional who was 'aiming' at a specific market, as many songs seem to be written today. Instead, it was written by an artist in Victorian times.

Her name was Charlotte Elliott, and she was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: did she have peace with God? Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business.

But after he left, his question haunted her. Did she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So, she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: "Come just as you are." The words were a revelation to Charlotte. She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was - and He would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

14 years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had

been between her and Jesus that day. They ran:

*Just as I am - without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am - and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
spot, -O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am - though toss'd about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
-O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am - poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
-O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am - Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
-O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am - Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
-O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am - of that free love  
The breadth, length, depth, and height to  
prove  
Here for a season, then above,  
-O Lamb of God, I come*

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world, as they responded to the Gospel presented at many great Billy Graham crusades, and made their way forward to do just as the hymn describes - to come to Jesus Christ, despite sin and fear and doubts, to come 'just as I am.'

Rev'd Peter Crumpler



# From the 'Parish Pump'

## Pandemic 'transforms the Church into Netflix'

The Covid-19 pandemic has "propelled the Church into the contemporary world," says a new report from CPAS, an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with UK and Irish churches.

'Everyone Welcome Online' looks at the lockdown's impact on churches and concludes, "Last month we were the Odeon, today we are Netflix."

"In the 1950s, the Odeon was okay, but then along came consumer choice, individualism and crowded complex lifestyles. Then came TV film channels, and now Netflix, Prime and others, where you can watch whatever you want, whenever you want, wherever you are on whatever you've got."

The authors, Bob Jackson and George Fisher, say "The Government has shut our 'Odeons' down, so in response we have stumbled into 'Homespun Netflix' and it's looking promising".

"Most churches going online have discovered that far more people are accessing their services than ever came to the building. What seemed initially to be a devastating blow to churches may actually generate growth."

Bishop of Sheffield Pete Wilcox described the 26-page report as "An astonishingly thorough and perceptive overview of online church."

The authors, who devised the popular 'Everybody Welcome' course published by Church House Publishing, include feedback from churches experiencing

increased numbers of people logging in for online services, both live and recorded.

One church reported "We've had a huge number of hits, many more than the number of people in church on a Sunday, connecting with people who would not come to a regular service."

The report analyses who is responding and detects groups ranging from friends and family of church members, to the housebound with links to the church, people linked by christenings, weddings or funerals, people who have moved away, occasional churchgoers and people who have found the church through a denominational or diocesan link.

The authors encourage churches to make contact with people who are 'dropping in' to the services, suggesting "Contact as many people as you can to say hello and how nice it was to see them connect with the church, and ask how they are and how the church can help them."

People are finding it easier to access church online because they can join in the services without feeling concerned about 'doing the wrong thing' – like standing or sitting at the 'wrong' time – they don't have to enter a strange building and meet new people and they can access the services at a time that suits them.

One church reported: "One previously non-churchgoer said that online she felt comfortable, fully part of the service and

*(Continued on page 31)*

*(Continued from page 30)*

so more welcomed than if she had been in the building unsure of how to behave.”

The report’s authors are keen to hear from churches about their experiences during lockdown and ask people to contact them at:

[allarewelcome2020@gmail.com](mailto:allarewelcome2020@gmail.com)

The ‘Everyone Welcome Online’ report can be accessed free at: <https://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/understanding-christian-leadership/everyone-welcome-online/everybody-welcome-online/#.Xs-E7UBFxPY>

## **Remembering the man who founded Barnardo’s**

It was 175 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1845, that Thomas Barnardo, the humanitarian and philanthropist, was born in Dublin. He founded Barnardo’s, a charity which continues to care for vulnerable children and young people.

The son of a furrier, he worked as a clerk until converted to evangelical Christianity in 1862. He moved to London, intending to study medicine and become a missionary in China. He never qualified as a doctor – despite being known as Dr Barnardo – and soon decided that his real calling was to help poor children living on the streets of London, where one in five children died before their fifth birthday.

He opened his first home for boys in 1870 and soon vowed never to turn a child away. Most Victorians saw poverty as shameful, associating it with poor morals and laziness, but Barnardo refused to discriminate. He made sure boys were trained and found them apprenticeships.

When Barnardo died in 1905, he left 96 homes caring for more than 8,500 vulnerable children, including those with learning difficulties. Because he believed that children should ideally grow up in a family setting, in 1887 he introduced an early form of fostering – boarding out children to host families.

## **The reasons for going to church**

Strange times we are living through. The future consequences of Coronavirus are going to be challenging, to say the least. How will our churches fare when our buildings are allowed to re-open?

One could say that the reasons for churchgoing can be put into three slots, ‘Culture’, ‘Faith’ and ‘Community’. Many churchgoers would probably recognise in themselves elements of more than one.

Culture is for those who feel comfortable in church. They like the history, the language, the buildings, the liturgy and the music, which have probably been a part of their lives since they were children. All hold comforting memories.

Faith is a link with the meaning of life and its eternal promise, somewhere to seek guidance through worship and sacrament, and on which to lean in times of trouble. A belief in the words of Jesus that they are not on their own, even if sometimes it feels like it in this world.

Community is for those who like coming to church or being associated with it as a flying buttress (a phrase of Winston Churchill, who described himself as someone who supports the church from

*(Continued on page 32)*

The Hebrew verb for test comes from a word that means 'to take a keen look at, to look, to choose'. Dismiss the notion that God does not see your struggle. On the contrary, He is fully engaged. He sees the needs of tomorrow and, accordingly, uses your circumstances to create the test of today.

Does He not have the authority to do so? He is the potter; we are the clay. He is the shepherd; we are the sheep, He is the gardener; we are the branches. He is the teacher; we are the students. Trust His training. You'll get through this. And remember, all tests are temporary. They are limited in duration.

The Bible says, 'In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials' (1 Peter NIV). And here's something else to keep in mind: you can't shorten your testing period, but you can definitely lengthen it by being proud and stubborn, resisting what God wants to teach you. God won't deny you that choice, but neither will He protect you from the consequences of that choice.

You wouldn't be the first student who had to repeat a year in school, and you won't be the last. You can go to church on Sunday and pay lip service to God's Word; you can reject the principles of truth and seek the easy way out. But it doesn't work. 'Good understanding gains favour, but the way of the unfaithful is hard' (Proverbs 13:15 NKJV). Do it God's way, for that's the best way. Always!

*This thought is taken from 'The Word for Today', Daily Bible reading notes produced quarterly by UCB (United Christian Broadcasters Ltd) PO Box 255, Stoke on Trent, ST4 8YY. If you would like to receive these free (although UCB do welcome donations) notes or those aimed at Secondary School age, call UCB on 01782 911 000*

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*(Continued from page 31)*

the outside). They don't have to have a commitment to the faith of the Church but are sympathetic and don't mind being with those who do.

It is likely that the 'old normality' will not be the 'new normality' and this provokes a few thoughts:

- How many people, now out of the habit of regular community worship, will wish to return to it?
- How many people on the periphery of church life, will come back to it, at least in the short term?

- How many of those who have had a regular commitment to the church, for example by serving at the altar or in its refectories, singing in choirs, doing flowers, ringing bells and polishing brasses will feel that this is a good time to make a break and do something different?

As church people, we must consider where we go from here. The Church, everywhere in the infected world, will need to know our answer to its call. To thrive, it needs us back.

Terry Warburton

# Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) 2020



The belt of truth.. The breastplate of righteousness.. The shoes of the gospel.. The shield of faith.. The helmet of salvation.. The sword of the Spirit

So from visors, scrubs, masks and gloves we pray that Father would wrap us in His Armour of power, hope ..and love.



## We need God's PPE now more than ever.

Ephesians 6:14-18

*"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit ...."*

Lorraine Roberts

In these days of the Pandemic Covid 19, a deadly virus, the Health & Safety Executive has deemed it necessary to design and implement a new form of PPE in order to physically protect ourselves and others.

My daughter has to wear this daily in order to treat dental patients. How hot and uncomfortable it looks. This is a man made, new endeavour to keep 'the enemy' at bay.

This new 'suit of armour' reminded me of putting on the full **Armour of God** for Spiritual protection.

In these unprecedented times, that would be protection against fear, worry, anxiety, loneliness, finances, death and loss...not to say possibly even faith.

A . B .

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"In the late 1800s, William Raven left Birmingham with the Army. He married and settled in Reading. Were his reasons financial, or to escape from something he'd rather forget?"

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*The Thurleys, Three Mile Cross, c. 1918*

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# Who's Who in the Parish



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St Catherine's Hall bookings (Hall is currently closed apart from Pre-School)

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Cornwell Centre bookings (All Parish Council Halls are currently closed)

Tilehurst Parish Council ☎ 0118 941 8833 ✉ bookings@tilehurstpc.co.uk

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**Cover Picture** *When you go to church this is what you'll find* Photo Stuart Poore

# The Anglican Parish of Tilehurst St Catherine & Calcot St Birinus

## ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

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[www.stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk](http://www.stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk)

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**Churches continue to be alive and active, but our buildings had to close and will look very different when they re-open. Our online content pictured below continues.**



Morning Prayer with Gill or Phil - Monday - Friday 10.00 am



Sunday Service - Sunday 10.00 am

Each week you'll see and hear different people leading, preaching, reading and leading prayers.

Our singers and musicians add a variety of hymns and songs.

To watch the live-streams of these services on Facebook go to [www.facebook.com/st.catherines.tilehurst/](https://www.facebook.com/st.catherines.tilehurst/) (you do not need an account to view - if asked to login or join, you can click 'Not Now').

Once shown on Facebook, all our videos can be found again on our Web Site [www.stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk](http://www.stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk)

For initial enquiries regarding baptisms and weddings, please telephone ☎ 0118 942 7786