

CONNECTING THE CHURCHES OF MACCLESFIELD TEAM MINISTRY

LINK

MAY 2020

FREE



Spreading the Joy in these extraordinary times...

Poems, Prayers, Karen's
Leaving Hug, Reflections,
Quizzes, Photos, Stories,
Updates & lots more...



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Welcome to Macclesfield Team Ministry

Macclesfield Team Ministry is a family of four churches located in the town and part of the Church of England. We are different communities of people seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and trying to bring wholeness and healing. This magazine tells some of the stories from the people of these communities.



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SK11 8EL

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St Barnabas
Lyme Avenue
Macclesfield
SK11 7RS

facebook.com/stbarnabaschurchmacc/



St Peter's
Windmill Street
Macclesfield
SK11 7HS

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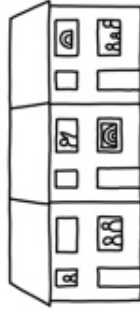
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BEATITUDES

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



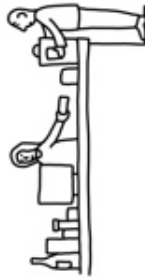
FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

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 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

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

The Word on the Street

Many of us no-doubt feel strongly that we should try to capture and hold onto whatever good thing may emerge from this current crisis. Little did we know during the 'salt and light' weekend just what an opportunity was about to be presented with for a time of 'root and branch' questioning. (albeit thanks to COVID-19).

Over the Easter period you may have noticed the series of simple displays on St. Mike's church yard railings. Our church doors may be closed but as we know 'The Word' cannot be restrained by doors. It was when we thought the doors were shut that the resurrection was revealed - ...'Then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said Peace be unto you'. John 20:26

Now is the time for our churches in Macclesfield to reveal the Word to the world. Not the familiar poster with a bought in message in the corner of a notice board but the prayerful work of the people from each of our churches. A presentation of the Gospel on our walls, fences, railings or doors following the themes and festivals normally confined to our church buildings. A motivation of the Holy Spirit to simply express the message that we have received.

We are familiar with the ministry of hospitality. We are eager to offer a coffee and a tea cake, a shelter for the homeless, a warm welcome. This is wonderful, it should come naturally, (it's also one of the 'five pillars of Islam', and consistent with Buddhism and many of the other world religions). The time has come that in our 'compassion for the crowds' we seek to offer, as only the church can, the 'Bread of Life' John 6:26 & 27.

The time has come for THE WORD ON THE STREET.

My hope is that this will meet with some interest within our team but if not, do keep safe, carry on looking out for each other and [enjoy this video - Days of Elijah - by clicking here.](#)

~ Peter Bradley



Thank you and I wish I could give you a hug!

Although we weren't together in church for my leaving service, my final week in Macclesfield has still been highly emotional and utterly overwhelming. The words 'thank you' seem inadequate for all of the kind messages, cards, e-cards and phone-calls I've received. The giant photo album of pictures and messages is beautiful and the online service was unforgettable. I'm still saddened that we couldn't be together, but one benefit of the online service is that we'll have a lasting record of that very special service. Thank you to Martin and to Sue for all their hard work behind the scenes and thank you to all who contributed. Thank you too to those who have 'relayed' or 'replayed' the service to those people who aren't online and couldn't watch the service directly.

I honestly wish I could give you all a hug! It's interesting that we've been able to adjust to some things in the lockdown, but there are some things we miss. One thing I do miss is giving and receiving hugs and some of you have told me you feel the same way. Virginia Satir (an American Family Therapist) is often quoted on the importance of hugs. She said

'We need 4 hugs a day for survival... 8 hugs a day for maintenance...[and] 12 hugs a day for growth.'

There are many scientific claims on the physiological and emotional benefits of hugs. Hugs relieve stress, reduce loneliness and encourage 'feel good' hormones which lift our mood. Hugs boost our self-esteem, our happiness and our sense of relationship and fellowship with others.



When it comes to our faith and sharing our faith, I believe hugs have a deep spiritual and theological significance too. If you think about it, hugs are a compelling interpretation and a living embodiment of the God's commandment to us to ...

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' (Mark 12.30-31)

A hug, when it's genuine and whole-hearted, literally IS given with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (having a hug from Sallie is proof of that!). Hugs exemplify God's loving relationship with us and his command that we have a loving relationship (a fellowship) with each other. Hugs are mutual (they are shared); hugs are reciprocal (they go both ways) and hugs are deeply powerful. What I mean by 'deeply powerful' is that hugs are expressive beyond words; they touch and comfort our very souls

and they spiritually connect us to each other through enduring bonds of love, empathy, compassion and humility. All of this comes through a simple and heart-felt hug.

So, in this, my final message and my final reflection on my time as your Curate in Macclesfield is...

'THANK YOU AND I WISH I COULD GIVE YOU A HUG'.

God bless,
Karen

--

Revd Karen Brady has been appointed to be the next Vicar of St Michael and All Angels' Church, Runcorn within Chester Diocese.

Please pray for Karen; particularly as she begins her transition from Curate to Vicar and her move from Macclesfield to Runcorn.



I saw this on a friend's Instagram on Easter Monday. It makes sense to me. I'm not good with words so I like to find others who write what I can't. This poem is from Malcolm Guite entitled 'Easter 2020' shared with Antonia Rolls' wonderful image of Christ on the London Underground. Posted by the wonder that is @radicalhoneybee

~ Katy Wardle

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
 Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
 Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
 The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
 And he is up and risen, long before,
 Alive, at large, and making his strong way
 Into the world he gave his life to save,
 No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
 Of priests this day, or music from the lips
 Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
 Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
 To don his apron with a nurse: he grips

And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
 The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
 Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
 And served us in a thousand names and faces
 Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
 Of that corona which was death to him:
 Good Friday happened in a thousand places
 Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
 That they might share his Easter in their need,
 Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

Sociability to our neighbour

Love your neighbour as yourself (Lev 19:8)

“Who is my neighbour?” (Lk 10.29)



I am quite proud of building a small dry stone wall at the front of our house over the Easter period! It has been hard work bending down and moving heavy stones. My knee pads are almost worn through. A project that I expected to take a few days ended up taking most of a week.

I was lucky in having Paul Simms as a friend who lives close by. He recently had a dry stone wall taken down as part of a

much larger garden project. What started as me asking him for thirteen stones (no significance in the number) ended with me taking four car loads of stone from his shed to finish my little wall.

Whilst building it, I was blessed with the good weather we had over the Easter period. The road outside our house is open to walkers who pass by doing their daily exercise. They would see me on the pathway with stone all around me and smile. People I'd never met before, some I vaguely knew whilst others I knew well. Their comments on my progression would range from the complimentary, to one neighbour even asking “Are you still at it?! Remind me not to employ you when I want a dry stone wall built!” Whilst I know he said it in jest (I said nothing in reply), I thought jokingly “You couldn't afford my charge out rate” or as one friend more kindly put it “Artistry takes time” when I told him.

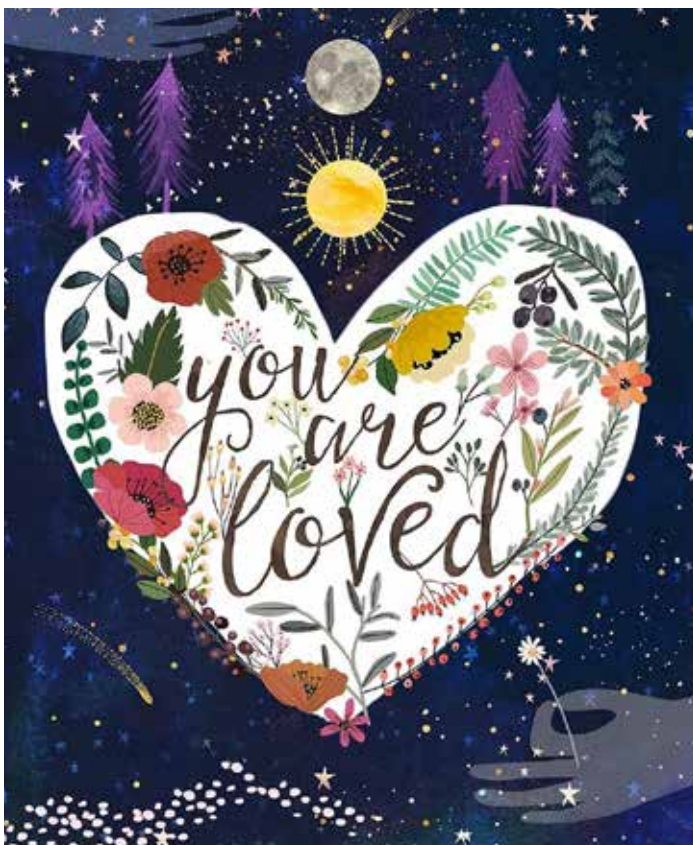
Secondly, I have been helping Hillary Halliwell's son Mark to purchase

materials to help him renovate his parent's roof. He doesn't have a computer so I've been purchasing materials and delivering them by “Click & Collecting” from a local supplier!

Throughout I have thought “Who is my neighbour?” Strangers who remarked on my work as they pass by? Mark in his requests for materials? Paul in his generosity of giving me stone to help me finish a wall or simply people I meet whilst walking Jazz our dog?

I would suggest all of the above and more! As we stand together as a community, we support the NHS staff by clapping outside our house and we support each other by merely smiling when we see one another, sometimes giving casual comments as we pass by. Our neighbours are all the people we meet!

~ David Smith



A Little bit of Encouragement...

Hold your head high because you are amazing.

Hold your head high because you are giving.

Hold your head high because you are caring.

Hold your head high because you are selfless.

Hold your head high because you are loving.

Hold your head high because you are faithful.

Hold your head high because you are understanding.

Hold your head high because you are compassionate.

Hold your head high even though you don't get it right the first time.

Hold your head high even though you have to make difficult decisions.

Hold your head high even though you're not perfect.

Hold your head high even when someone tries to bring you down.

Stand Strong,
Stand Faithful,
Stand Together.

The Joy of Reflection

There is a need for a time of reflection,
A space for yourself in the day,
When nothing demands your attention,
Keeping problems and troubles away.
For this quiet reveals very often,
your worries have gone or are solved.
Restored in the peace tensions soften,
You will find indecision resolved.
Inside you'll feel tranquil and unwind,
Relaxing your healing from within,
Refreshed in your mind you will find then,
What a state of composure you are in...

Thank you for all your kindness shown to me on the recent passing of my mother Beryl Wilcox. We look forward to meeting together again after lockdown and the joy of the summer to come,

Love and Prayers

~ Sandra Williams

Prayer for the Front Liners

Heavenly Father

Thank you for the front liners caring for, protecting and serving our communities, our families and us.

Thank you for these servant leaders, called to this work, risking their health for the safety of others.

Please protect them from harm. Give them courage and strength. Draw close Lord and let them feel your presence throughout the long hours they are working. Father please provide everything they need both for the people they are caring for and for their loved ones.

Surround them with people who are able to support them and their families as they selflessly care for others.

You said we would face troubles in this world, but please work together with our front liners Lord, to bring about the best outcome possible.

We pray in Jesus' name

Amen



Getting food to those in need during lockdown

The power of working together: St Peter's, The Hope Centre, St Barnabas and Cre8

The Hope Centre and Project Grow at Cre8 have been distributing food hampers and supporting each other during the current crisis. Cheshire East Council and Macclesfield Town Council identified that there was a need for ready meals to be distributed within Macclesfield, to the homeless in emergency accommodation and to those who had been identified as unable to cook due to lack of knowledge or lack of equipment to do so. As services we have joined forces with the Churches of St Peter's and St Barnabas of Macclesfield who have opened their doors to welcome our projects with facilities and prayer support.

We have been able to fulfil the demand of 150 meals per week with the support and encouragement received by St Peter's congregation and the use of the kitchen, and St Barnabas for use of the church hall for this essential community service. We have now increased the use of the kitchen, with the support of St Peter's, to 5 days a week to meet the increase in demand.

Project Grow has been delivering the ready meals in 'Betty' the refrigerated van every evening.



"These projects are brilliant and shows what can be achieved when everyone works together to demonstrate the power of God's Love to those in need"- Bob Boland Chairman of The Hope Centre.

As joint services we have not only been distributing weekly essentials but we completed a massive early morning Easter egg drop on the Moss estate delivering joy and happiness.

The Egg drop was not only enjoyed by the recipients but by those delivering them, people shouting 'Happy Easter' across the Moss Rose Estate to their neighbours as they collected their surprise Easter egg off the doorstep is something we will always remember.



ST PETER'S CHURCH
BUILDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



I took this photo this evening, Wednesday 29th of April, on my phone from our balcony, St Michael's Church tower in view. ~ *Garrie Naden*

English Wildflowers

This poem is taken from a book called 'A Nature Poem for Every Day of the Year'. I think it perfect for right now although written for later in the month.

Forget the Latin names; The English ones
Are gracious and specific. Hedge-rows are
Quickening fast with vetch and cow-parsley.
And fast along the lawns the daisies rise
For chains or the murdering lawn mower.

Look everywhere, there is all botany
Laid beneath the rising corn,
Infesting hay fields. Look the buttercup
Stares at the sun and seems to take a share
Of wealthy light. It glows beneath our chins.

Slim shepherd's purse is lost in dandelions,
Scabious will show a little later. See,
The dog-rose in the hedge. It dies at once
When you pluck it. Forget-me-nots disclose
Points of pure blue, the sovereign blue of the sky.
And then there are then herbs.
Counting this floral beauty I grow warm

With patriotism. These are my own flowers,
Springing to pleasant life in my own nation.
The times are never too dark for
An Eden Spring, this flower rich creation

~ Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001)

....

Shepherd's purse is considered a weed in my garden and it's a continual warfare to keep it at bay. Usually the little blighter does its stuff and spreads its seed around. However there is another side to this tiny pest.

This common plant/ weed(!) has been used over the centuries as a food. It gets its name from the seed pods or purses that contain seeds or 'coins'. These tiny seeds were used as an ingredient for bread, roasted, then turned into flour.

So get growing!!

~ *Jenny Wild*

Professional Telephone Listening Service

The Hope Centre
Registered Charity 1140845

07958181927

10am - 4pm every day



**READY TO
LISTEN!**



A Walk through the Seasons

During this enforced lockdown along with many other people I have taken the opportunity of clearing out at home many cupboards and drawers and I came across a piece of paper with a poem written on it by Marian Bullock. Marian was a member of the St Michael's congregation for many years and sadly died last year after suffering with dementia. She left us with a lot of memories through her amazing paintings and writings. A real privilege to have known her and a cherished friend to so many people. ~ Vicky Darlington

A Walk Through the Seasons by Marian Bullock

This day the lanes were covered white, the trees stood out in filigree
We left our footprints in the snow, and dreamed of "what is to be"

When winter appears to have taken its toll, and its seemingly still above ground
When all of the flowers of yesteryear, are no longer to be found

It's then we take to walk the lanes, in turn throughout the seasons
And all of the joy that nature gives, is good and plenty reason

In taking account of things we see, we certainly have good measure
For the scent of the witch-hazel in full flower, is surely a memory to treasure

Though winds blow and trees tested, snowdrops stand brave above leaves
And it all works together to give a glance of the tapestry that it weaves

It can't be mistaken that spring is here, when daffodils leave a golden thread
In waysides all along the lanes and beauty is there at every tread.

There is a wildflower meadow we encounter on our way, where we pause to look at flowers
And where the "nomen" casts its shadows, across the moving hours

As the heat of the day increases, the butterflies start to appear
They flutter about from flower to flower, it's then we know summer is here

In sunshine or rain, day in and day out, from humblest flowers to the choice
All are equal without doubt and every bird and tree and flower is reason to rejoice

As flowers of summer begin to fade and seed returns to the earth
Then the trees show off their colour and berries display their worth

The dry stone walls cry out to be seen, now covered with lichen and mosses
There is always something to follow on, even though winter approaches

As the days get shorter and shorter, a stillness fills the air
Nature seems to say to us, time to rest and repair.



Guess the Total : £ : S : d. (Difficult for the young ones!)

1. Poorly fish
2. Pig
3. Singer
4. Sun, Star, Venus
5. Girls name
6. Boys name
7. Leather worker
8. Tiara
9. Bicycle

Answers on page 20

FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. But the greatest of these is LOVE. An Easter sign outside St Barnabas.



Lotti is a young person from Cre8 and as part of the weekly #cre8challenge set by the Cre8 Youthworkers, she wrote this wonderful poem about her experiences and reflections during this time. Lotti, you are awesome and we thank you for this. And if you're on social media, follow Cre8 and join in our challenges which range from drawings, craft, poems, sports, toilet roll kicking and loads more. All are welcome.

**It started off as a normal year,
but now all of a sudden corona's here.
You have to stay inside all day,
so no more of getting your own way.
Then Boris caught this deadly virus,
i know we're all going to get it this is ridiculous.
The NHS are saving many lives at risk of their own,
and for this they all deserve their own special throne.
We are now on lockdown due to this,
and family who's lives were taken we will miss.
We work at home trapped like were in prison,
but we have to as the cases have risen.
I hope the virus goes away so we can live life like we used to,
for now we just have to be strong and put up with what many people are
going through.
Written by Lotti Bradley-Short <3**

St. Michael's Church had a quiz night in 1993 (attributed Mark Langham Lynne & Paul Spedding and Linda Johnston). Using famous English & Scottish football teams (past & present – each only named once), fill in the missing words:

The sun shone the day we set sail for Hong Kong and the on board an ancient wooden ship which had a riddled with holes. The was made up of the Scots, Welsh and others of a race. The cabin boy was a pleasant lad and one of his duties was to the boiler. He won our by practicing his all alone as if he had been sent to On the whole, the was good for the family and the rest did my as well because she had not had a holiday too long.

Just outside a and without further delay we for the which was the residence of the Hawaiian monarchy. The island greeted us with a friendly (as was the custom) and immediately took us to visit a which had just been built. On the way through the which was looked after by the dressed in green. Their job was to keep the fierce under control.

They were paid in for doing so, which they used to for safe keeping. All was not well on the land because we noticed it's only factory had a the Later we returned to the ship to have tea to have cake, buns and some which had been stored in the cold store before setting sail back home.

Cre8: A response to Covid-19: Food Partnership

Cre8 Macclesfield, the award-winning young-people's and community charity based on the Moss Rose Estate, has been running a membership-based grocery redistributing surplus food since May 2019 funded by the National Lottery. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, grants from Cheshire Community Foundation and Macclesfield Town Council and the support of Cheshire East Council and Healthbox are making it possible to enhance this surplus food offering with other essential items for a wider range of local people in need.

Cre8 Macclesfield, supported by Hope in NE Cheshire, the local Churches working together, is now co-ordinating the Hope COVID-19 Food Partnership based at St Barnabas' Church. This is bringing together other providers of surplus food in the area including The Core Community Hub (Upton Priory), The Hope Centre, Silklife Food Bank, Calvary Church, Cheshire Streetwise, Hope Central and FareShare Greater Manchester.

Through the generous donations of TK Maxx, Aldi, FareShare Greater Manchester, Weston Park Care Home and Marks and Spencer a conservative estimate(!) of 500 Easter Eggs were shared throughout the area over the Easter weekend; the volunteers were inundated with thanks and smiling faces!

The Hope COVID-19 Food Partnership is also grateful to the many other retailers including the Co-operatives, Sainsburys, Tesco and Waitrose for their generous support and commitment.

Cre8 is thankful for all our funders, to mention a few, Oliver Valves, Love Music Trust, Youth Music, and The Rank Foundation who are all

continuing to fund our projects, we are able to deliver in new and innovative ways using on-line platforms, and continue to support our local community.

Key to Cre8's operations is Betty the Boxer, a refrigerated vehicle which makes it possible each week to collect surplus food in pallet-loads from FareShare in Greater Manchester. This is sorted for delivery during the following week. FareShare Greater Manchester is able to supply a greater range of food than can be sourced locally, including much-needed chilled and frozen food.

Ameera Fletcher, the Director of

Cre8 Macclesfield writes, 'During this difficult time, we are so grateful to be able to come together as individual charities throughout the Macclesfield area to provide a unified service for the benefit of those in need in our communities through the Hope COVID-19 Food Partnership, chaired by Pip Mosscrop, Co-ordinator of Hope in NE Cheshire. Sharing information and resources, we are organising the food deliveries to make the most of the surplus food to people who would otherwise be struggling.'

Ameera Fletcher, Director, Cre8.
07939 555567 ameera.fletcher@cre8macclesfield.org



To make us smile...

~ David Smith

The following questions were set in last year's GCSE examination in Swindon, Wiltshire. These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds)

Q. Name the four seasons

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink

A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists

Q. How is dew formed

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire

Q. What causes the tides in the oceans

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on

A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election

Q. What are steroids

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs

Q. What happens to your body as you age

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes

A. Premature death

Q. What is artificial insemination

A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour

A. Keep it in the cow

Q. How are the main parts of the body categorised (eg the abdomen)

A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A,E,I,O and U

Q. What is the fibula

A. A small lie

Q. What does 'varicose' mean

A. Nearby

Q. What is the most common form of birth control

A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome

Q. What is a seizure

A. A Roman Emperor

Q. What is a terminal illness

A. When you are sick at the airport

Q. Give an example of a fungus. What is a characteristic feature

A. Mushrooms. They always grow in damp places and they look like umbrellas

Q. Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to show you understand its meaning

A. Hands that judicious can be soft as your face

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight

Q. What is a turbine

A. Something an Arab or Shreik wears on his head

Diocesan News

The May edition of the Chester diocesan news can be found here:

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1588345922.pdf>

with a piece on our Ministry Team!

Just Wild

Our Wild Lent group has morphed into a 'Just Wild' collection of people, photos, stories, musings, reflections and prayers. We share what's around us, how we are connecting with the small beauties in God's world and the worries on our heart. Here are some of reflections from different members of our group from Eastertide...

On Easter Saturday we shared our reflections as the sun went down. We lit fires in our gardens, sat with candles or even slept outside under the stars.

Our Blessing that night was taken from the Celtic Wheel of the Year by Tess Ward...

May the shiny light of God's own face,
And the gazy love of the Daystar
grace,

Rise over the hill in the morning, keep
us from the endless night,
And shed in us a hope that will never
go down, till heavens peace on earth
has come.



And then on Easter Sunday as we woke we shared clips of the birds singing, the sun rising up and setting the sky alight, our own little voices singing sweetly, and evidence of the Easter bunny leaving treats.

Throughout the day we shared our Easter Joy; beautiful flowers, buzzing bees, Easter wreaths and stunning blossom trees.

Easter morning taken from Celtic Wheel of the Year...

Blessed be you risen with the sun
for arriving soft-foot in the garden
unawares,
and suprising us with friendly news
that hope has sprung, the dead
season's gone.

Let me rise with a joyful heart this
day.

A Reflection shared with our group... Just Wild in lockdown. April 2020.

So, we are allowed to go out for exercise and I choose to walk around the local area. The weather has been beautiful and it is springtime so the birds are busy and all things natural are springing into new life. We have time to stop and wonder at the wildness of our world.

Today on my walk I was startled by two flashes of yellow in the sunshine. I stopped in my tracks and looked up – two bullfinches in the cherry tree above my head. I stood and watched them for ages. They were just going about their business but they gave me such pleasure. I also spotted wild violets, periwinkles, celandine and wild euphorbia. Tiny unnoticed flowers so common in our country lanes. Today I just enjoyed the moment. Tomorrow I will think about the road to Emmaus.

God of living things, Thank you. Amen

we *need* you.

The LINK magazine

The Link is published monthly except for Summer (July & August) and Christmas (December & January) and is a wonderful way of sharing stories, reflections, inspiration, prayers, events, updates, quizzes, drawings, artwork, photographs, poems and even children's comic strips! It's a way for us to connect with each other across our team and communities.

If you have anything you'd like us to include, please send to linkteammagazine@gmail.com. The deadline each month is the Wednesday before the end of the month, but don't worry if you're a little late, we'll include in the following month if appropriate.

Thankyou to everyone who has contributed so far and continues to send in articles. We look forward to next month!

Katy & the Link Team x



The two new little helpers in the Church Office enjoying some downtime after a ruff day. Apparently the boss is a real tyrant!



Quiz answers from pages 13 & 14

Guess the Total : £ : S : d. (Difficult for the young ones!)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Poorly fish | Six Squid |
| 2. Pig | Guinea |
| 3. Singer | Tenor |
| 4. Sun, Star, Venus | Three Farthings |
| 5. Girls name | Penny |
| 6. Boys name | Bob |
| 7. Leather worker | Tanner |
| 8. Tiara | Crown |
| 9. Bicycle | Penny Farthing |

Answers : David Smith

St. Michael's Church had a quiz night in 1993 (attributed Mark Langan, Lynne & Paul Spedding and Linda Johnstone). Using famous English & Scottish football teams (past & present – each only named once), fill in the missing words:

The sun shone BRIGHTON the day we set sail for Hong Kong and the ORIENT on board an ancient wooden ship which had a HULL riddled with holes. The CREWE was made up of the Scots, Welsh and others of a CELTIC race. The cabin boy was a pleasant lad and one of his duties was to STOKE the boiler. He won our HEARTS by practicing his READING all alone as if he had been sent to COVENTRY. On the whole, the AYR was good for the family and the rest did my MOTHERWELL as well because she had not had a holiday FORFAR too long.

Just outside a NEWPORT and without further delay we PRESTON for the CRYSTAL PALACE which was the residence of the Hawaiian monarchy. The QUEEN OF THE SOUTH island greeted us with a friendly ALOA / TOTTENHAM (as was the custom) and immediately took us to visit a NEWCASTLE which had just been built. On the way through the QUEENS PARK which was looked after by the QUEENS PARK RANGERS dressed in LINCOLN green. Their job was to keep the fierce WOLVES under control.

They were paid in STERLING for doing so, which they used to BURY for safe keeping. All was not well on the land because we noticed it's only factory had a BRECHIN the MILLWALL.

Later we returned to the ship to have tea to have CHELSEA cake, CHELSEA buns and some OLGHAM which had been stored in the cold store before setting sail back home.

Finding Hope after Covid-19

Andy Atkins, A Rocha UK CEO, comments on the unique opportunity approaching.

This is a tumultuous time few of us would have predicted six months ago. The world economy is in turmoil not because of international armed conflict, a trade war, an oil-price rise or a financial crash, but a microscopic organism, the coronavirus. As a result, it is also a period of great anxiety for many readers, serious hardship for some and deep mourning for any who have lost family members or friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Yet, in the midst of the current darkness there are some chinks of light.

We Christians, who care for creation, must hold both terrible and good before God. Many people are experiencing a sense of neighbourly care and community, that they have not known previously. A generation who have never given a thought to God's book of 'works' in nature, are amazed at the birdsong – now they can hear it above our usual motor traffic. Urban air pollution, which in a normal year kills 40,000 people in the UK alone, has plummeted, making the basic act of breathing much easier for hundreds of thousands of people.

While some will say 'this is no time to talk about the environment' others are waking up to its importance for them individually like never before. Scientists too are making the connection between environmental and public health at the big picture

level: they warn that pandemics, caused by pathogens 'jumping' from animals to humans (believed to be the origin of Covid-19 itself) will increase in frequency if we continue to destroy wild animal habitat.

While Covid-19 has postponed COP26 it has not cancelled the existential threat of catastrophic climate disruption, itself a growing contributor to habitat destruction.

Christians and churches are called to usher in more of God's Kingdom, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. We do this in the way we respond now, to the pain of the current situation, and in the way we discern future opportunities for good, work for and pray them into being.

A unique opportunity is approaching. The eye-watering expenditure and radical actions by governments in response to Covid-19 shows what is possible. Further gigantic sums will be borrowed and spent on rebooting the economy post Covid. The fundamental question facing society is not whether we rebuild the economy, but in what form? Will the government waste taxpayers money and more years we just cannot afford, to go back to dirty 'business as usual'? Or will they invest in moving fast-forwards to a green and fairer – low carbon, low pollution, high nature, high health – economy?

Christians and churches, as citizens and institutions, through our actions and our voice, have a critical role to play in making the latter happen. Nothing will replace the loss of those who are grieving loved ones. But

converting the evil of Covid-19 into a powerful impetus for establishing an economy which respects God's creation will at least make life safer for future generations and nature.

NB A Rocha is an ecumenical Christian charity working to help and encourage Christians to care for God's creation. It administers the Eco-church programme, to help churches to demonstrate the 5th Mark of Mission in all aspects of their church lives. St. Michael's has achieved the Bronze Eco-church award, and is soon to apply for the Silver. Is your church an Eco-church? If you would like to know more or would like to join with us in discussing some of the important issues raised by Andy Atkins in his article, please get in touch with David Mayers.

Sharkdog and Tacorgi!

Part 2 The Final Battle

They kept going very cautiously because something could jump out from behind the kelp at any moment.

They got to the Rig and got ready to battle.

"Hey Nigel grab my lead I put on I'm about to let loose the second biggest fart which will take us up top Quick!" Bowser yelped.



Nigel got a little worried for a moment. "Careful not to be too loud they could hear us". He said.

"Oh Sorry" whispered Bowser.

Nigel instantly prepared the ride up holding onto the lead tightly.

Bowser let it rip.

They rocketed up to the top and they landed safely on the rig.



"Ah you two" Meowceles exclaimed "I was expecting you.. So what do you want a piece of cake or a piece of me?"

"We want a piece of cake after a piece of you!" both dogs shouted.

"OK, OK" Meowceles said in disbelief.



Nigel got out his supersonic harpoon gun and shouted "Draw!"

Bang the tranquilizer harpoon went straight into the feline's thigh.

"You think that'll stop me"

Meowceles said while taking out the harpoon and dropping it on the floor.

As Nigel breathed in a mouthful of smog, because the rig furnaces were pumping at full blast.



The muscley cat suddenly realised...

"I've only got a couple of seconds" he gasped "Oh no..." were his last words as he slumped to the floor, a big furry useless mess, stunned by the tranquiliser gun.

"Get in" Bowser yelped.



So the victory was theirs, they delivered Meowceles into a jail cell, and returned the rig back to Tntina the rightful owner and leader of the Rig.

The rig could then continue back to work, pumping oil out to everybody that needed it.

"Now let's party and go and eat Tacos at my house," shouted Nigel"

"Yeah" agreed his friend Bowser - let's get to the CAKE!!!

The End!