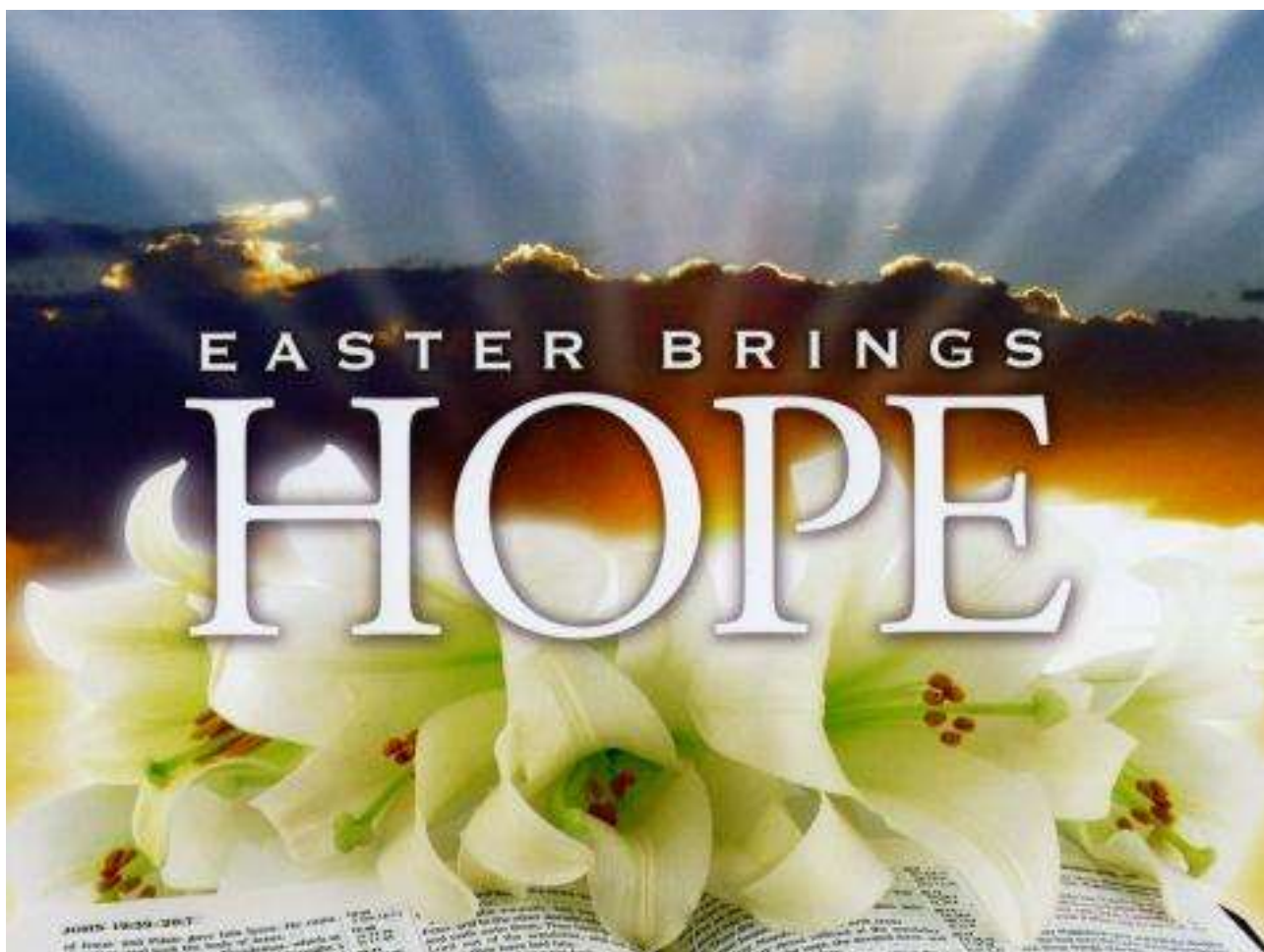


WRECCLESHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



**EASTER BLESSINGS
AND HOPE FROM US ALL AT
ST PETER'S CHURCH**

April 2020

50p each / £5 per year

St Peter's Church

St Peter's church stands at the heart of Wrecclesham offering, in Christ's name, a warm welcome, faithful witness and loving service.

Public services are not currently being held

There is a simple service on Sunday morning available via social media. Please refer to St Peter's web site for the latest news on services:-
<http://cofewrecclesham.org.uk>

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Vicar Revd Jacqueline Drake-Smith
01252 716 431
vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk

Associate Minister The Revd Sandy Cavalier
01252 591 068

Pastoral Assistants

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If anyone knows of someone who would like or might need a visit or help of any kind, please contact one of us or the Vicar.

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Parish Magazine: <https://cofewrecclesham.org.uk/news-events/parish-magazine/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchwrecclesham

This **St Peter's, Wrecclesham, Parish Magazine** is published monthly but with no issues for January or August. Each month's edition is available at the church on the table near the west door.

Please put 50 pence on the little shelf ... or ...

to have all ten editions delivered to you for £5 per year please contact:-

Harriet Ellis on 01252 714 480.

Reflection on Easter Hope out of Obedience

Rev Jacqueline Drake-Smith

I wonder what 'being obedient' means to you?

Jesus calls us to obedience when we follow him to the cross and we are reminded of this all during Lent and into the Holy Week journey when we remember Jesus' last days – on to the Last Supper – washing feet and the fellowship of breaking bread and drinking wine together – then into the loneliest night in the Garden of Gethsemane where we see obedience demonstrated at the highest level as Jesus utters 'May your will not mine be done.'

A Jesus call to obedience ends ultimately in death – death on the cross for him – and death to old ways and old ideas for us – a Jesus call to obedience is a call of surrender...

An Easter call of surrender is what we are experiencing today in the light of Covid19 – a Holy Week journey into the unknown as we slow down and shut down as a nation and as a world – the Maundy Thursday experience of betrayal from a world that we are supposed to belong in – the Good Friday crucifixion – the agony of metaphorically dying for things beyond our control – and the low Saturday when we have quietly given in to the sadness of loss, defeat, and hopelessness...

Humanity is being called to go out on a limb – 'no' we cry – we don't know what's going to happen we cry – I'M SCARED – we cry...

And do you know something – that's just the right answer – I'm scared – frightened – I can't do it

When Moses was called to higher things – he couldn't speak well enough..

When David was called to higher thing – he was sure he was too small and insignificant

When the boy Samuel was called to higher things – he was too young

When Mary was called she was too ordinary -

BUT – for them all in their fear and insecurities - they were all being called into the deeper presence of God –which means a deeper sense of fulfilment – and they were not alone – 'DO NOT BE AFRAID – FOR I AM WITH YOU' we hear all through the Bible... God was with them and is with us today....

I wonder whether Peter remembered that he wasn't alone when he was sitting around the fire that night he said three times – Jesus? I do not know the man....

By the time the cock crowed – he realised he had got it badly wrong. His fear – his insecurity – his sense of inadequacy – had turned the obedient yes of his heart – into the disobedient no of his head – and he wept for the betrayal – not just for his friend – but for the betraying of his own soul...

But then – the same Peter is redeemed when Jesus, having risen from the dead and with them that morning by the sea asked him if Peter loved him and gave Peter the chance to answer three times - 'I love you, I love you, I love you' response to the risen Lord on the shore one morning. It was easier to truly commit with confidence to Jesus' call to feed and take care of the people – the 'lambs' Why was that?

It was because Peter was then in the presence of the risen Lord – that unlocked that spirit of Christ within Peter - that is within us all – so that Peter could truly live out the 'your will be done' obedience as if it was Jesus himself living it for him. And if that's true of Peter, why can't it be true for us?

This living-obedience of Jesus is the way Christians are called today - *to live in obedience to God's will and call to love one another – and it took his death on the cross – the lowest point possible – to show us what true obedience to God means and the raising up of new life and new love that comes from it.*

Earth and Heaven meet on the cross of new life hope - and in obedience to God – by trying our best to do the 'your will be done next right loving thing' – no matter how scary it might seem – remembering that the spirit of the risen Lord is always with us - we too can experience the heaven-on-earth new life promise on the ground that honours all that Jesus endured for our sake. We remember the words of that wonderful hymn

'My God how wonderful thou art':

O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

And today, we join Christians everywhere as we try and live out the Easter hope of our own lives, working to bring healing and wholeness to our world.

Gardening Gossip

Action Stations

Keep hostas, delphiniums and other fleshy-leaved plants safe from the night brigade – slugs and snails – by mulching with coarse grit or slate chippings ... and spraying with garlic.

Liquid-feed strawberries weekly with a high-potash tomato fertiliser to spur robust growth and a wealth of fruits.

Lawns: Tackle moss with ferrous sulphate or Mo-Bacta before it suffocates grass.

Disturb soil regularly with a sharp push hoe to behead weeds before they become unmanageable.

Sow lettuce at ten-day intervals to ensure a succession of hearts and no gluts.

Plant of the month: Dwarf Russian almond

What a gem it is, but few of us have it. Botanically *Prunus tenella*, it's a small shrub that delights us with a bevy of bright pink flowers. A native of south-east Europe and western Russia, it was introduced to Britain in 1683. Since then, breeders have developed a form called 'Fire Hill', prized for its glowing rose-red blooms which thickly sleeve slender shoots. Indeed, it so impressed RHS judges that they honoured it with an Award of Merit in 1959. If you prefer white blooms, plump for 'Alba'.

Happiest in free-draining fertile soil in full sun, it's a joy to witness when embraced by blue grape hyacinths, such as 'Blue Spike'.

As for maintaining its good looks, shorten unruly, unwanted or damaged shoots by half, or to an acceptable length, in late summer. A stocky bush is what we want.

Up, up and away

Remember acclaimed astronaut and garden lover Tim Peak? He was so keen to see how fruit trees would react to weightlessness that he took pips from Isaac Newton's 'Flower of Kent' apple to the International Space Station. There they spent six months floating in micro-gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project between the US Space Agency, National Trust and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

When they were returned to Earth they were germinated at Wakehurst Gardens – Kew's country home. When large enough they were planted at the Eden Project, Cheshire's Jodrell Bank and Kent's National fruit collection at Brogdale.

Kew's Dr Anne Visscher said: "We are delighted to be part of such an

exciting project and hopeful that the trees will mature and engage visitors with their history of Newton, space travel and science.”

Well deserved

Leading garden centre chain Squires has received a top accolade – the prestigious Worrall Cup – for community tree planting.

Awarded to the company for the ‘Love where you live’ campaign, 300 silver birches will be donated to green spaces throughout the South East, including Hickley’s Corner.

Escape route

In these troubled times one thing is certain – your garden provides fresh air no matter how grey the skies. Without doubt, the mental and physical benefits of gardening are limitless. Through growing and feeding them we enhance our mental well-being and switch off dire thoughts. Exercise is a natural mood booster and being with plants salves the soul. If you are confined to a room or two and yearn for the great outdoors, try a little simulation: raise basil and other herbs on a warm, light windowsill to pep up daily dishes.

Not another nasty!

Afraid so. Dubbed *Xylella fastidiosa*, it’s a fungus that can decimate more than 500 plant species, including lavender, rosemary and flowering cherry. Killing millions of trees, including olives, in Europe, it hasn’t yet, thankfully, invaded the UK.

Moral of the story: never bring home plants from abroad without ensuring they are healthy and have been checked by an expert.

Words of wisdom

A novelist and prodigious letter writer, Fanny Burney – 1752-1840 – loved gardening. She was also keeper of robes for Charlotte Mecklenburg, wife of George III who founded Kew Gardens. But she struggled to convince her aristocratic French husband, General d’Arbly, that she knew how to plan beds and borders.

“When the Captain’s gardeners favour our grounds with a visit, they commonly make known all has been done wrong. Seeds are sowing in some parts when plants ought to be reaping, and plants are running to seed while they are not yet at maturity. Our garden, therefore, is not quite the most profitable thing in the world.”

Happy Gardening

John Negus

Psalm for a Broken Planet

by Naomi Parkin-Tyrie

This poem is the result of prayerful reflection on the harm that we as human beings have caused to our world, God's precious creation. It speaks of the love that God has for all forms of life on this Earth and God's sadness at the destruction of many natural habitats. The words come from my heart and I hope that you will take inspiration from them to do all you can to protect and restore our environment.

God our Mother

Cries for her child

The Earth:

Where were you when

I gave this planet birth?

Where were you when

I laboured, sweated, bled?

Where were you when

I pushed the world from my womb

And cradled it and cherished it

And gave my holy milk to suckle it?

Did you hear me say:

'Here, take my treasure

And do as you will with it.'?

No.

I trusted you to love the Earth

As I did, and you betrayed me.

'This world is fallen,' you said.

'This world is sinful,' you said.

'We must master it, dominate it,

Pen it in and domesticate it.

Only then will it be pure.'

But I say: You fools!

You fear judgement and the wrath
of God

But the fiery pit you fear is *now*:

It is the burning forests

The hungry incinerators

The scorched lake bed.

And Paradise?

It's in your hand

A tiny seed.

Will you plant

And water it?

Watch it grow?

Or will you keep it

Dry and shrivelled

In your pocket

For a future day

That may never come?

And our Mother's Son

Laments:

There was a green hill

Far away

Beyond the city wall

It's not green now

The tree they hung me on

Was the last tree

The green hill

Is brown now

Burnt and scorched

No resurrection.

And the people of Earth

Cry out:

Lamb of God

Who taketh away

The sins of the world

Have mercy upon us!

But the Son replies:

I am the lamb

In the slaughterhouse

I am the lamb

In the metal ship

Bound for foreign shores

Crammed in

Bleating

Starving

Sinking

Dying

What can *I* do for you?

And the people cry:

Lamb of God

Who taketh away

The sins of the world

Have mercy upon us!

For we have entered the Garden

And cut down the Tree

Of Knowledge

Without tasting its fruit.

And we have poisoned the spring

Whence flowed the Water

Of Life

Without tasting its sweetness.

And the Son replies:

Touch the wounds

In my hands

In my feet

They are the wounds

Of our Sister Earth

They are the coal pits

Black and deep

They are the trenches

That used to be trees

They are the holes

Which consume

Your waste

Your greed

Your apathy

Touch the scars

Of the world

Believe in them

Blessed are they

Who feel the pain

Of the Earth

And yet believe

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Readings for April 2020 – Year A

5th April – Palm Sunday (Red)

Litany of the Palms: 21.1-11

Litany of the Passion: *Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-16; Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 26.14 - 27.66*

HOLY WEEK

Please see website for information.

Monday - Wednesday

8 – 8.45pm

Monday - Wednesday

Holy Week Reflection and Compline

These might be available as podcast or live-streamed

Please check website

Maundy Thursday readings

*Exodus 12.1-4(5-10)11-14; Ps 116.1,10-17;
1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17,31b-35*

Good Friday

Please see website

12 April - Easter Day (White or Gold)

*Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24;
1 Colossians 3.1-4; Matthew 28.1-10*



19th April – Easter 2 (White)

*Acts 2.14a,22-32; Psalm 16;
1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31*

26th April – Easter 3 (White)

*Acts 2.14a,36-41; Psalm 116.1-3,10-17;
1 Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35*

3rd May – Easter 4 (White)

*Acts 2.42-47; Psalm 23;
1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10*

St. Peter's Church and Coronavirus

We are following Government and Church of England guidelines during the Coronavirus, Covid-19 outbreak and therefore we are sorry to say that all services have been put on hold until further notice. However that does not mean that we have closed down - far from it!

- For those who have computers, tablets or smartphones we are providing links on our website at <https://cofewrecclesham.org.uk> that we hope you will find helpful, including links to streamed services and devotional materials.
- If you need help or can offer help then please telephone our vicar, Revd Jacqueline on 07806 775974 or 01252 716431

Things change daily and therefore so will the information and help you need or can offer.

We hope that by keeping in touch in these ways you will feel connected in some way despite being isolated in one way or another.

Further – if you have any suggestions to add to our list, please email Paul Smith on PJS1269@gmail.com

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

15th March Evie Winter

PCC Minutes

The draft minutes of the most recent PCC meeting can now be read on the PCC notice-board in church.

Along with the sub-committee minutes and reports referred to in the PCC minutes, they can also be found on the church website.

This article has been updated. Further restrictions have caused the complete closure of St Peter's church. - Ed.

St Peter's Church – Closed for Public Worship

As you might already know by now, the Church of England has advised that with immediate effect no public worship services are to take place. Prayers will continue to be said by myself and Sandy on behalf of everyone – and I know there are others who will also be praying daily – and furthermore, no doubt we will all be praying for each other - and the wider world as we grapple with these unprecedented times.

There are resources for prayer and spiritual nourishment on the website and we are also going to have a go at streaming some live and recorded services. Furthermore, in this time of isolation, you might want to 'step out' and sign up to our 'St Peter's Church, Wrecclesham' Facebook page where you will find regular postings. (See bottom of page 3)

This is a situation which has never happened in the history of the Church of England but, amidst the obvious loss it presents, as we are unable to gather and support one another physically, we can deepen our heartfelt connection through our prayers for one another – and also pick up the phone or write an email and encourage one another.

If you are self-isolating, or staying at home then PLEASE do not hesitate to be in touch with me if you need someone to shop/walk a dog/talk to – I am here and there are others who will be more than happy to help.

Likewise, if you are able to help those who are unable to get out and about, PLEASE be in touch and I am sure there will be someone who will appreciate a helping hand.

We take each day at a time, remembering that we are never alone and that we will get through this together.

Blessings

Rev Jacqueline

GOD our Father

Teresa Deeson

When I used to think of God as my father I was trapped behind the image of my own parents and my relationship with them, particularly my father. It was only when they died that suddenly at 41 years of age I felt like an orphan – no parents. I sunk into my grief for a time and then realised that I do still have my father. The one who created me and gave me life. The parents that I had known and now lost were my guardians. I was the gift given to them, but I had been created by God. I belonged not to my parents but to my creator. I had taken the first step in recognising God as my father.

I have always had difficulties seeing God as my father. He seemed too powerful, important and distant. Rather like a Chief Executive might seem to a shop floor worker. It was hard to really *know* Him; and therefore hard to be close to Him. I realised that I had now to start finding a way to build my relationship with God to really feel that He was my father.

I am a parent of three children. I love them dearly, but like most parents of young children, they drive me mad at times. I find it hard to deal with their moods, their constant fighting and their strong personalities. And as for their slow (if at times non-existent) spiritual growth – it pains me that they can't see what I see.

Then one day when I was having a particularly difficult time with them, I was praying hard to God to help me deal with them. An internal voice came to me. It said:-

“I have these difficulties with my children too. They fight, show disrespect and lead shallow lives. But I love them. I give them My love no matter what. They fight and fight against Me and each other, yet no matter what, I love them and this is what you should do to your children”

It was then that I realised that, yes, I am God's child. When I have fought against Him, been disrespectful, put my priorities in front of His, He still loved me. If I look now at how I behaved towards God at times, I realise that it isn't much different to how my children behave. I look at the World and see all of humanity as God's children and see His response towards all those who hate, hurt and don't care – He loves us all, all the time, no matter what. But like any parent, He wants what is best for us. He wants us to see how He cares for us.

Now that I see myself as a child of God, I think “What do I expect of my children as a parent?” I expect respect for myself and others, that they accept the love I have for them for what is – unconditional love – and that they show gratitude and think less of themselves and more of others. Not much to ask. Not much for God to ask of me, nor for me to give to Him.

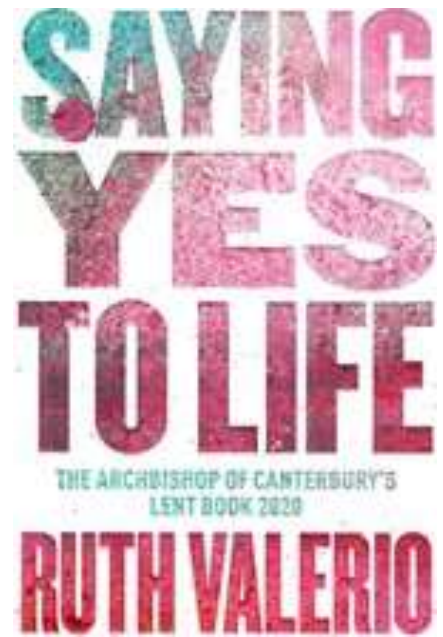
Saying Yes to Life

during the Coronavirus/Covid-19 outbreak

Like many Churches we have been discussing Ruth Valerio's "Saying Yes to Life" as part of our Lent Studies. Like many people everywhere, this study group meets online, using a Skype Group.

The Archbishop of Canterbury summarised Ruth's book as follows:

"Saying Yes to Life lifts our focus from natural, everyday concerns to issues that are having an impact on millions of lives around the world. As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what he has created: to share in God's joy and ingenuity in making a difference for good. Ruth Valerio imaginatively draws on the Days of Creation (Genesis 1) as she relates themes of light, water, land, the seasons, other creatures, humankind, Sabbath rest and resurrection hope to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern.



Foundational to Saying Yes to Life is what it means to be human and, in particular, to be a follower of Jesus. Voices from around the world are heard throughout, and each chapter ends with discussion questions and a prayer to aid action and contemplation"

Our discussions this week felt particularly poignant and Ruth's insights remarkably prescient as we looked at the way our environment affects the rhythms of our life and at how the pressures of the society that we have constructed disrupt those rhythms to our detriment. The pause forced on us by having to respond to the coronavirus outbreak has seemed to heighten our awareness of how divorced we have become from our God given natural environment and the global improvements in air quality as a result of this pause highlight the damage we have been inflicting on creation. Whilst no-one welcomes this outbreak it has given us a Sabbath pause in which to re-examine our priorities and responsibilities to the planet and to one another. Let us hope that we will emerge from it more enlightened and responsible people

Paul Smith

Coronavirus: A prayer for healing



Jesus Christ,
you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of this coronavirus. May we experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love in this time of uncertainty, fear and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace, comfort and strength. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us. **Amen**

The 'C' Crisis – and our place in it...

Dear friends - Just a little caveat to this reflection I wanted to share with you. It is just that - and is devoid of facts and figures. This is not an academic piece of writing but a personal reflection on today's situation as I see it. I have kept the referencing simple (i.e. none) so we can reflect on the bigger picture through the lens of spiritual healing and restoration and transformation ...

I am writing to you during the week when everything about our handling of the Coronavirus pandemic stepped up to another level.

Businesses, churches and schools closing for now, theatres and the leisure industry redundant for now, and shopping for provisions increasingly becoming a mission in itself – no longer a question of ‘what shall we have for dinner – but ‘what is there available for dinner!’

People over seventy or ‘at risk’ have been asked to stay in, the rest of us being asked to ‘social-distance’ and those potentially carrying the virus are self-isolating.

Indeed today, I can now say that I personally know of someone who is being treated for the virus as we speak (and we pray for them and for others who are also suffering through illness and even sadly, those who have died – and prayers for their devastated families...)

This is now global – the whole world has been brought to its knees. There is no longer room to exempt one community because of their wealth or status, because actually, as we can see from the numbers that are updated daily, it is not working out like that. Coronavirus is no respecter of worldly status. It is a leveller – and it is probably the only thing – since the ‘pestilences’ in one shape or form of the Old-Testament world – that has brought the entire world to bear. If you look at the global daily figures, we are truly talking about every country of the world – *every* country...

So what is this saying to us here in Wrecclesham. What is this all saying to you personally?

In those ‘3 O’clock in the morning’ moments – when everything has been stripped bare of your day – when nobody needs you because everyone is asleep – and when your busy world that keeps you distracted from taking a good, hard look at the state of play of your life and your life’s happiness-and-fulfilment situation has climbed off the treadmill for a few hours –

what is it that you see? What are you honestly confronted with when you weigh it all up?

Are you happy? Are you fulfilled? Do you experience moments of the peace that passes understanding within yourself - without any props or persons to aid and abet? Or are you just too frightened to look because you know deep down that the heart-song spark of joy is simply no longer as bright as it once was in your life, no matter what you do to ignite it, the light is dim and fast-fading?

When I was brought to my knees in the dark (literally and spiritually), these are the same questions I was confronted with, and when I had no choice but to take a good, hard look at myself – because my world at that time was also brought to a sharp halt – what I saw made me weep for the person I had become and for the innocence that had been lost – not through my ‘own deliberate fault’ as the Book of Common Prayer says – but through years of creating a world that I didn’t really enjoy because I had been making compromising life-choices as I tried to alleviate my inner insecurity, fears of the unknown, and the utter unhappiness that closed in when there were no ‘happy-making’ moments in my life that could sustain the smile. I was simply – lost.....

And that – I believe – is where we are right now with all that is going on. The world – and so many of us in it – are simply lost.

We are on a treadmill of frantic fulfilment-seeking – and we are falling off. We are working harder and harder to pay for the things we need to fix us. And the trouble with that is we then spend so many hours away from home and family and nature and natural joy-making experiences – because we are working harder and harder to pay for those ‘must haves’ that we now don’t have time to enjoy and bask in because we are working too much. And there you have it - Catch 22! The consumerism and materialistic world has won. We are claimed and sucked into a world-view and lifestyle that we’re not supposed to be living out – because that is not what we were made for....

I believe that as human beings – beautifully and wonderfully made in the eyes of God (Psalm 139) – we are *creatures* created to enjoy the beauty and colour of the *created* world that was created out of love for us by our beloved *creator*. And furthermore, because we were created by the creator – who is as loving as anything or anyone can get – we too were given the capacity to love and be loved – simply because that is how we were made

to ‘tick’. It is the deepest essence of who we are – loving human beings – living in a world that is to be enjoyed with other people who are to be enjoyed and respected by us as we should be by them. We are created to live in community with each other, sharing that respectful and reciprocated love between each other.

And what is there not to love about that harmonious way of life? Well – it seems like there is plenty not to love about it, because for one reason or another – we turned away from it and generally, it’s not happening. We fell from the ‘perch of love’ – and we lost our way. And because we lost our way – the world and its created natural order has lost its way – we have all been led astray - ‘like lost sheep, we have turned, every one, to his own way’ (Isaiah 53:6)

And now – because of the degeneration of the natural world – the breakdown and distortion of the eco-systems that guide the way we all systematically connect and depend on each other and the planet’s natural resources and our vulnerability to that – we have now come a cropper with a virus that is holding every single space of living habitat and human in the world to ransom.

Are we beaten? Yes – but are we defeated? Definitely not!

How dark it is before the dawn! The amazing spiritual paradox of the created natural order is that when we are weak – when we hold our hands up and say ‘that’s it – we’re beaten’ – it is then that we find ourselves to be the winners. Because it is at that *precise ‘surrender’ moment* that the healing grace of the world can then take hold and fill the vacuum left within us and our society – the moment when we let go of the reins, admit our powerlessness, and when we say ‘we’ve gone wrong somewhere and we need help to sort it out...’

And I believe that is what has happened to the world today. We have surrendered to this Coronavirus – and in surrendering, albeit somewhat battered and bewildered, we have been given the grace to be bold and courageous and to work together to take the radical and tough steps needed to learn about – alleviate - and ultimately beat down this invasive virus that is causing untold personal and social and economic suffering to so many.

And here we are today, 20th March, with at least twelve weeks of game-changing and life-changing slow-time on our hands to – by imposed default – get back to a gentler, simpler, steadier and more authentic way of

living life as human beings. We have been given permission to get off the proverbial treadmill of life that has been destroying our innate sense of fulfilment and happiness and also the planet in the process.

We have been saved...

I know it is hard to see amidst the immediate personal and global wellbeing, economic and social devastation, but compassion and kindness and sharing and caring is lived out at its best in times like these and is the crux of all authentic spiritual healing. You only have to look at the community groups that are being set up to 'love our neighbours' and to help one another get through it so that we can all rise up and breathe clean air again – literally.....

But of course, what of the Covid-19 chaos of the supermarket loo-roll and shopping-spree fiasco – not much 'loving thy neighbour' going on there you might be saying to yourself...

Well, it is only when we begin to understand that this kind of behaviour is all part of the consumerism/materialism false sense of security-hypnotism, and that actually we can share around and have enough for ourselves, even if it doesn't look like it – that we can begin to truly care for each other.

The call to sharing and caring differs depending on what side of the fence you are on – or rather, what side of the shopping trolley you are on! It is only when we realise that we don't have to be so selfish as to grab everything to hand for fear of running out – and when we can stop judging and realise that the grabbing behaviour stems from actually being really frightened and insecure - that the compromise and compassion of healing love can kick in and we can begin to meet in the middle and actually stop thinking of only ourselves and try and help one another get over our weak spots.

Sickness that you can see on the outside is easy to sympathise with – but sickness of the soul is another matter. It is hidden and invisible – and secret... But it is still a sickness and we have to learn – in the spirit of love – to sympathise with that too...

And that is where our faith comes in. Jesus gave but two commandments: To love God and to love our neighbour in the widest sense. And it is by following those two commandments that we can sort out all the rest – and come to our senses. It is then that we can return to authentically and appropriately giving respect and consideration to others in our community and to truly live out what it means to 'love your neighbour' with a sharing

and caring attitude for one another AND for the planet that was created in the first place to accommodate that overflow of God's original and abundant love, expressed through us towards each other through the power of the Spirit in the name of Jesus.

With all the care and collaboration and considering of one another that is beginning to shine through, it seems as if we are finally being brought back to our collective senses and we can rise to this challenge in solidarity together. There is no one to blame and everyone to help.

We now have the opportunity to be saved from the treadmill and to be set free to become once again who we are supposed to be in the world, in community and in ourselves.

I would like to close with some encouraging words spoken by the wise Evelyn, played by Dame Judi Dench in the film 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.' She said this: "It will be alright in the end, and if it isn't alright, then it isn't the end."

I pray that our shared ending to this worrying and challenging time will indeed be alright, and that with a new sense of being and loving in the world we will be free to live in a peace, hope and kindness more meaningful than we ever did before...

Easter-hope blessings and Love,
Rev Jacqueline

St Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger,
Amen.



Watch this (Play) Space!

An exciting new 'Wilding Wrecclesham' project is set to bring nature and play together at the Beldham Road recreation ground which borders Greenfield Road. Spurred on by the urgent need for more trees and wildlife habitats alongside children and families needing a healthy and appealing play space with some shade, planting up the grassed areas outside the fenced play equipment makes an ideal solution.



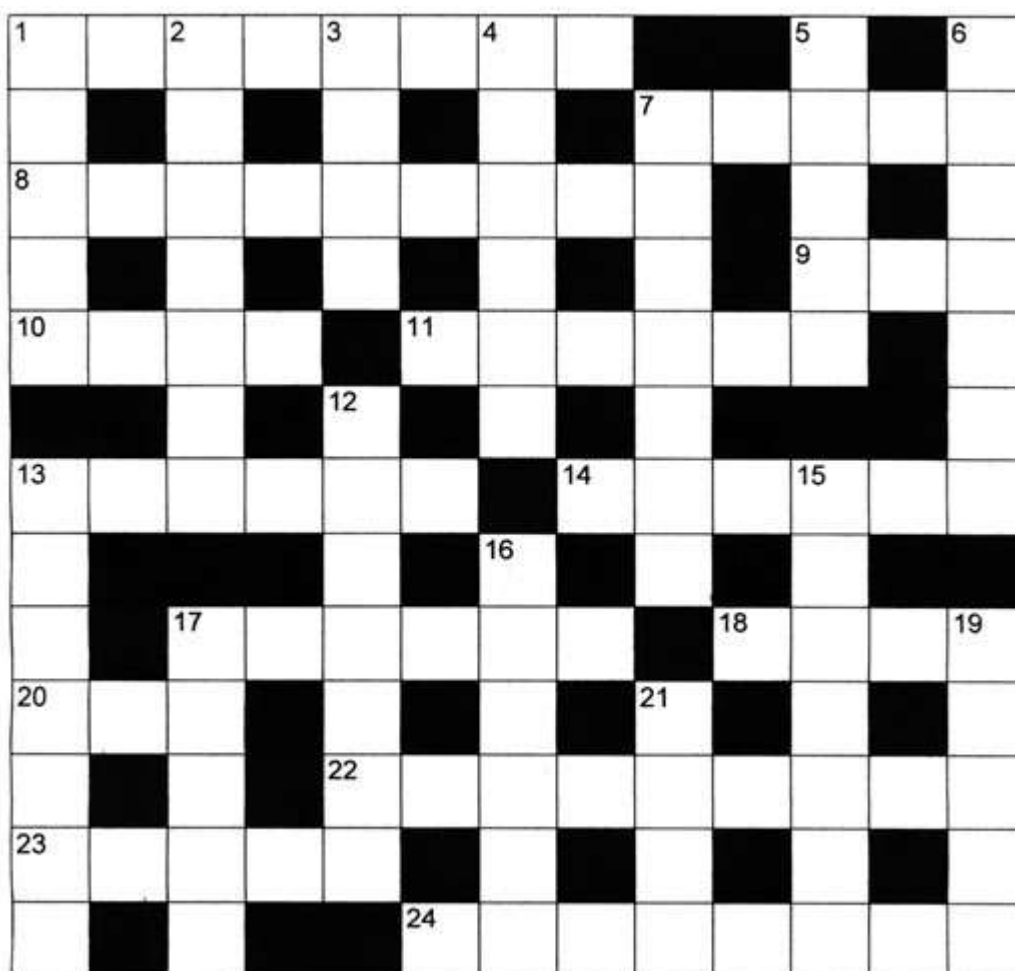
The idea for this community project arose from a conversation between members of St Peter's Eco Group, members of A Rocha UK's EcoChurch, and is being designed and led by local volunteers who are pleased to have support and approval from Waverley Borough Council. Native trees and flowers will feature predominantly. From modest beginnings with planting fruit trees and sowing flower seeds this spring, further tree planting will follow in the autumn. Your help is warmly welcomed from planning to planting and nurturing, especially from anybody that lives nearby including children! You don't have to have skills to get involved, just some enthusiasm. Parents among you may like to bring your own ideas to the project. While we get off the ground please join chat on Wilding Wrecclesham facebook group or email:-

peppy.dadd@thewalnut.org.uk (Facebook is in the process of being set up – so keep checking for its launch!)

Covid-19 will stop group activity on site for the foreseeable future but won't stop this getting started. We want to get you taking part as soon as is feasible to enjoy making this happen together

St Peter's Eco Group

If anyone is interested in joining in with St Peter's Eco Group – a group working with and for local community - please email:- stevenknowles1@gmail.com for more information.



CROSSWORD 198

CLUES ACROSS

- 1.Church of Rome (8)
- 7.Church table (5)
- 8.Things left out (9)
- 9.Non-clergy (3)
- 10.Attack (4)
- 11.Sort of Creed (6)
- 13.Picture house (6)
- 14.Bishops' hats (6)
- 17.Canticle (2,4)
- 18.Tints (4)

- 20.Irish rebel force (1,1,1)
- 22.Control (5,4)
- 23.Old comedy group (5)
- 24.Possibly (8)

CLUES DOWN

- 1.Singers (5)
- 2.Teaching (7)
- 3.Kiln (4)
- 4.In a mode of speech (6)

- 5.A priest wears it (5)
- 6.Colouring sticks (7)
- 7.Rigidly austere (7)
- 12.Mozart's middle name (7)
- 13.Containers (7)
- 15.Edible plant (7)
- 16.Lithe (6)
- 17.Forbidden (5)
- 19.Grass-like plant (5)

Send your completed solutions to Christopher Ellis, 18 Upper Old Park Lane, Farnham, GU9 0AT, or email to cellis27@btinternet.com by 15th April 2020. In the next magazine we will publish the names of all those who have submitted correct solutions together with the correct answers.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 197

ACROSS: 1.Cherub 4.Hymns 8.Units 9.Orbison 10.Cathars 11.Esau 12.Tic 14.Bell 15.Acts 18.Eye 21.Inre 23.Pharaoh 25.Relieve 26.Orbit 27.Cured 28 .Abbess
DOWN: 1.Church 2.Epistle 3.Unstable 4.Hebe 5.Moses 6.Sinful 7.Worst 13.Catacomb 16.Trouble 17.Citric 19.Epees 20.Photos 22.Ruler 24.Deed

Crossword Solvers

Three correct answers to March's crossword were received –
from Peter & Cheryl Bowden, Ian & Pat Lapworth
and Jill & Philip Yates - well done! –
particularly as 'pharaoh' was spelt wrong –
many apologies!

Feel free to send your answers in by email if you prefer –
cellis27@btinternet.com

Some useful contact numbers...

Farnham Citizens' Advice Bureau – South Street – 0844 8487969
10-3 Mon, Tues, Wed, 12-4 Thur, 10-1 Fri.

Farnham Volunteer Centre – Vernon House, West Street – 01252 725961
10-1 Tues to Fri. 24hr answer service.

Care Farnham – 01252 716655 – neighbourly help for people in need.

ASSIST – 01252 717710.

Crossword Scribble Patch

And finally...

This piece first appeared in May 2006

Your reporter was fortunate enough to be invited to the Maundy Thursday service at Guildford Cathedral and arrived early in order to get a good seat. He therefore had plenty of opportunity to observe the gradual ceremonial build-up over some fifty minutes before the Queen's arrival. A lot of Extremely Important People processed past escorted by Vergers, Mace-Bearers, Servers, 'Crosses and Lights' (crucifixes and candles), Wandsmen, Chaplains, Children of the Royal Almonry and Yeomen of the Guard. Ever dutiful, your reporter mentally recorded some random thoughts while being entertained by this colourful spectacle and later during the ceremony itself.

- The Yeomen of the Guard are very big men. Are height and breadth a qualification? Shouldn't they have left their vicious-looking pikes in the cloakroom?
- Hierarchy, honours, etc. are ways of buying the allegiance and cooperation of people who might otherwise run amok. The same goes for mayoral chains which bind their wearers into the system. This was first realised by King John in 1215 and we have never looked back.
- My firm ambition now is to become High Sheriff of Surrey; he has the most delightful fancy dress.
- The whole ceremony was an inspiring mix of worship and Gilbert and Sullivan. Only the English could do it.
- Complex indeed is the inter-relationship between Church and State but should the spiritual be married to the material? Which gives me an excuse to use my favourite word and profess myself a disestablishmentarian.
- The Queen is amazing. Her charm and grace are enchanting and she doesn't look a year over sixty. Is it homeopathy? Or long and close association with corgis? Or perhaps that her Church prays for her regularly Sunday by Sunday?

How wonderful that 160 public-spirited people should be so honoured! I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Christopher Ellis

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The Samaritans



- ❖ Guildford Samaritans answer 20,000 calls from the suicidal or despairing every year.
- ❖ We are the only organisation available 24 hours a day, every day of the year
- ❖ If you have a few spare hours each week, and would like to help us, please ring 01483-505555

Wrecclesham Community Group

Co-ordinating help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Are you isolating?

Please call us for any help you might need including:
food collection, prescriptions, putting bins out, dog
walking or just a friendly phone call.

Tel: 01252 71 64 31

Can you help?

Or if you'd like to volunteer some time to help others –
even if you're stuck at home, please contact us using the
number above or any of the details below.

07806 77 59 74

vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk

facebook.com/wreccleshamresidentsassociation



The two cathedrals pictured here last month were

Wells
and
Litchfield