

WEDNESDAY WORDS FOR JUNE 17th

Good evening dear friends,

Sending love and prayers to everyone– and that you are staying safe...

NOTICES

- ALPHA ONLINE COURSE WILL NOW BE HELD ON **TUESDAY EVENINGS** – NINE SESSIONS BEGINNING TUESDAY 14TH JULY, 8-9.15pm – please contact Jacqueline to sign up – more information to follow
- WRECCLESHAM VILLAGE FETE HAS BEEN POSTPONED

PAUSE AND PONDER...

Here is something from the Bible Reading Fellowship in the midst of the reopening of our churches I thought you might be interested in reading/taking part....

As we begin to think about the time we will be opening our St Peter's Church doors once again – and what that might look like in a post-lockdown world still in the midst of pandemic and social distancing rules (at least until March 2020) – this article by Professor Leslie Francis is thought-provoking in the questions that it invites us to think about in the wake of the coronavirus crisis and what 'church' might mean to people and its significance in their lives

At the end of the article, we are invited to take a survey called 'Coronavirus, Church and You.'

What shall we tell the children?

What do these stones mean?

Joshua said to the Israelites, 'When your children ask you in time to come, "What do these stones mean?" then you shall let them know.' Joshua 4:6–7

So what shall we say to our children about those stones that built the churches and cathedrals that stood empty and locked-up throughout the Covid-19 great lockdown?

Iconic significance

Shall we start by pointing to the iconic significance of those buildings, built by people of faith to give enduring expression of their faith? Shall we speak in the past tense of generations of people who used to believe that those stones speak aloud of God?

Or shall we believe that such faith is still sustainable in the post-pandemic world? Shall we see such buildings as having in themselves power both to sustain and to rekindle faith?

Open doors?

Shall we draw the distinction between those churches and cathedrals that stand with unlocked and open doors inviting all to cross the threshold, and those churches for which the members hold the key?

Or has the great lock-up ended forever that attractive vision of open doors and generous hospitality?

Sacred spaces

Shall we discuss the carefully constructed sacred space situated on the common ground of churches and cathedrals? Shall we speak of the open door towards the back of the nave where the font stands to welcome new entrants (infants, young people and adults) to the family of the baptised? Shall we speak of the altar where the priest presides over the ministry of the sacrament? Shall we speak of the lectern and the pulpit from which the ministry of the word is proclaimed? Shall we let these stones speak of the rhythm of the church's year?

Or has the great lock-up taught us that we prefer the archbishop to preside from his kitchen table and the dean to lead the daily offices from the deanery garden, with the flowing fountain and the disappearing cat?

Steeped in prayer

Shall we explain how these churches and cathedrals are the natural habitat from which the clergy conduct their professional work? Shall we explain that here is stored the holy water for baptism, the sacred vessels for the eucharistic feast, the white robes of joy to embrace the bride and groom, and the purple pall to stand in solidarity among those who mourn? Shall we explain that the clergy come here to say their daily prayers precisely where their predecessors prayed? Shall we imagine the very stones to be steeped in the prayers of the ages?

Or has the great lock-up taught us that such continuity with the past is broken now for good?

Has the great lock-up domesticated the faith?

Social capital

Shall we explain how within these sacred walls lives are changed, the quality of life improved and the quality of society enhanced? Shall we let these stones speak of the ways in which within these walls bonding social capital is accrued to build the mental well-being and resilience of participants? Shall we let these stones speak of the ways in which such bonding social capital overflows into bridging social capital as the participants go out through the open doors to feed the hungry at food banks and to campaign for social justice and for social inclusion?

Or has the great lock-up privatised the faith and domesticated it within painful isolation?

What do you think?

In order to discover how people today are providing answers to these profound questions, I have designed an online survey, [‘Coronavirus, Church and You’](#).

So far around 7,000 clergy and lay people have responded. The survey is open and active until the end of June. Do please take part and invite others to do so as well.

[Take the survey](#) (it’s probably about twenty minutes)

Prayers:

Please pray for those on our hearts and prayer list who are poorly – whether through the virus or in other ways. We continue to pray for those on our prayer list. We pray for those who have asked us to pray for them, so we pray for Paul Smith as he prepares to begin his treatment – we pray for his strength and healing and trust God is with him as we will be with them in prayer. We also pray for Barbara Lambert who is currently very poorly – Barbara comes along to St Peter’s a couple of times a month, and is also part of the Alpha community.

ST PETER’S BRING AND SHARE FOR JULY – CALL FOR NEW OFFERINGS –
BY Monday 29th June please - for our next service on Sunday 5th July

BE INSPIRED...

One of the blessings during these challenging times have been the way some families have been able to spend time together doing things that they never had time to do before.

Mat Shaw and daughter Savanna began to feel the tensions of teenage years and lockdown etc 😊 Then Savanna asked her Dad to sing with her as she wanted to record a song for her friends – and here it is.... It has gone viral on social media and they are now a household name and inspiration for how lovely things and deeper relationships can come out of challenging circumstances...

Here it is - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqFCbtRz1Z0> Enjoy – once you have heard this particular song, if you stay online there are some others too.... 😊

ANOTHER Immersive Meditation from Lee Abbey – WATCHFUL.... (4 mins)

WE ARE INVITED : Take a moment to join us as we go behind the crosses, and walk around the hill along the cliff path besides the sea which brings us to upper Jenny’s.

The scripture will help us in our meditation and reflection....

<https://youtu.be/13kzcBtithY>

Psalm 121

A song of ascents

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains –
where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot slip –
he who watches over you will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD watches over you –
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all harm –
he will watch over your life;
- 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.

Reflection:

The Lord is your Maker. Be aware of the care and attention He has put into all He has made.

God sees every detail of what is happening to you. He is attentive and watchful. Turn to Him for all the help you need right now.

What does it feel like to be seen, to be heard and loved by God?

..... And a prayer in the Celtic tradition – By Martyn Paine

*Keeper of my steps,
Keeper of my senses,
Keeper of my soul,
Keep me as the apple of your eye;
Keep me in your perfect peace;
Keep me in my coming in and my going out;
For you are the strong Keep
Within the walls of my life.
Amen*

BOOK SLOT: HAVE YOU A BOOK YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND IN THIS SLOT – let me know and I will share it with everyone... **COME ON EVERYONE – FICTION OR FACT!** 😊

NOTICE HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? 😊 **A note from THE TWO JOHNS – BIRCH AND NEGUS**

There are many parishioners with lovely gardens. You will have been spending a fair amount of time in the gardens during the 'Close down' and they are probably looking better than they have ever been!

It would be nice to capture the best of these **in photographs** that we could use both in the magazine and/or to display in the Leverton Hall when we get back to using it.

The two Johns are going to coordinate this – AND PLEASE NOTE this is not a competition!

We would like to see as many of you as possible taking part. We would welcome pictures across the range, Single blooms, Flower beds or General views of your garden.

In order to contain the collection to a reasonable level we suggest that you restrict your contributions to no more than 5 pictures from any one family.

Please send your pictures – as jpeg's if possible - to John Birch. They can however be actual printed photographs that can be converted to a digital form. John's email is Whpj1@btinternet.com

[Previous....](#)

DEVOTIONAL

- **PRAY AS YOU GO** - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/> - this is a very well known resource run by the Jesuits – daily reflective worship of about 10 minutes – and there is a host of at-home retreats and studies and prayer tools – comes highly recommended

[THE BIBLE COURSE – TUESDAYS @ 8PM ON ZOOM](#) – (excellent, EXCELLENT course thus far! 😊)

- If you are thinking about whether to join in or not – please come along because it is such an accessible and interesting course run by the Bible Society – light yet really informative – and well-led by Paul...
- Paul can send you past information if you would like – or you could simply come along on Tuesday at 8pm for just over the hour.

These times are a marvellous opportunity to come along to a small group course without having to trek out of an evening – you can be in your slippers, in your sitting room, cosy and comfy with a cuppa! 😊 Plus there is something special about being with your friends on a course where you can socialise and enrich our faith journeys.

A prayer for the world in this worrying time...

God of compassion,

We pray for us all at this unsettling and worrying time.

Keep everyone safe and protected and give leaders wisdom to know the best way to move into the easing of this lockdown.

We entrust those who have sadly died to your loving care;
we pray for those who mourn.

Be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone
on the cross, but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings and love
Jacqueline

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video Daddy Daughter Duet - The Prayer



Preview YouTube video Watchful - Immersive Meditation 

