

All Saints Thornton Hough Newsletter

April 5th 2020



Welcome to the first edition of our occasional newsletter!

As we all follow the strict rules which have been placed on people's personal movement to limit the spread of coronavirus and observe "social distancing", we are no longer able to meet in person either for worship or at social gatherings.

We are using the church website and our contact list to keep in touch with those who use email but recognise that not everyone uses the Internet. We therefore decided to occasionally produce a short newsletter which we shall publish both on-line and send by post. The Church of England has told us that we must not deliver materials by hand because of the risk of spreading infection, though we can use the post.

In the newsletter Rev'd Vicky has provided material to help with our thoughts and prayers for Holy Week and Easter. Do use this and if you have the opportunity, share it with others.

At the time of writing it is unclear if we will produce a copy of *The Magazine* for June -July because of the distribution restrictions but at least we hope to produce more occasional newsletters.

We would welcome contributions for future newsletters from everyone.

**Send your contribution for future newsletters to
editor@allsaintsth.org.uk or to
Newsletter, 6 St Stephen's Close, Heswall. CH60 3TA**

A churchwarden's tail?



Hello, this is a photo of my "full of life" exercise companion. I borrow her each day from my wonderful neighbours to take me for my walk. She then has a play in our garden before going home. Goodness knows where the ball cock came from but it's definitely not going to work anymore!

I am just reminded of a cartoon I saw recently which showed a collie dog crouched on top of the high kitchen cupboards saying, "I'm definitely not going for another walk with any more members of this family!"

I hope everyone is finding something to occupy them in these difficult times. I hear the manufacture of jigsaws has gone into overdrive.

On hearing that early signs of the Covid 19 virus are the loss of smell and taste my husband has asked to be tested with a plate of bacon and eggs. That should do the trick. Keep safe and well and smelling the flowers, or bacon and eggs!

Patsy Baker

Now the green blade riseth

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

John Macleod Campbell Crum

Singing at a distance

My all time and forever favourite piece of music is "The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from the Italian Opera "Nabucco" by Giuseppe Verdi, composed in 1841 and first performed in La Scala, Milan. The opera is based on parts of four books in the Old Testament:- 2 Kings, Jeremiah, Lamentations and Daniel.

I heard "Nabucco", and many other operas, played frequently by my Grandfather during my first five years of life! Imagine my delight to have just been sent this link, <https://youtu.be/JTVXEGIS3LE>, by my family to this performance of "The Chorus" where all the parts have been performed and recorded *separately* on mobile phones, without the singers seeing or hearing one another, and then brought together by technicians.

Attempting to lift the spirits of the Italian people at this dreadful time, they have dedicated it to the medical personnel, nurses, civil defence, researchers and everyone giving their life in the fight against Covid-19.

Maureen Thompson

Life in lockdown

The first week the sun shone, and it felt rather like the school holidays when I was a teacher- no need to do the Italian homework yet, no need to get up early for cots2tots...

Iain and I tackled the vegetable patch with vigour, discovering potatoes and beetroot we didn't know were there and I searched for a beetroot soup recipe to use them up. I even found Jerusalem artichokes I had decided to experiment with, and which had actually grown. I am still not sure quite what to do with them, but I am sure Google will help!

It was wonderful to see the garden springing into life--the anemone nemorosa my friend Kate gave me, the viburnum my Mum grew from a cutting over twenty years ago, the enormous camellia we brought from our garden in Kent nearly forty years ago, plants purchased from gardens we have visited. A garden is so full of memories and joy. I discovered things re-emerging that I thought were long gone- the erythroniums and the fritillaries, self-seeded anemone blanda and cyclamen. Seeds are now growing in the greenhouse, the ground is ready to plant and I am looking forward to a new season in the garden.

The second week the sun stopped shining, a cold wind blew, and the lack of freedom seemed much more onerous. Long telephone calls to friends and family helped. I even called my cousin who I only see once a year at Christmas to check up on him.

We ventured out for walks, discovering nearby footpaths we had only driven past and not noticed, watched the farmer ploughing and saw the hedgerows springing into life. In the house dust is (gradually!) being banished, cupboards are being cleaned and sorted, cooking is becoming more creative using up what is found at the back of the cupboards and in the depths of the freezer rather than going to the supermarket. Breaking out of one routine and into another has some advantages.

The paint we bought to freshen the kitchen and tidying my study still need to be tackled but there is always next week!



Sue Stinson

Easter Word Search

All the words in this word search are associated with the Easter story. There 18 words to find.

M	V	R	P	N	S	J	P	B	B
A	T	E	Y	I	E	T	O	M	B
R	H	G	I	S	L	D	O	A	X
Y	O	G	U	L	K	A	R	L	G
P	R	S	S	O	R	C	T	A	S
E	N	A	M	E	S	H	T	E	G
T	S	E	I	R	P	H	G	I	H
E	S	A	B	B	A	R	A	B	O
R	O	B	E	S	A	D	U	J	Y
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	S	J

Wirral Libraries - online



Wirral Libraries are presently closed until further notice because of measures introduced to limit the spread of Coronavirus. If you use the libraries' electronic books and read them on your tablet, phone or computer you can still borrow

books "as usual".

If you aren't registered for this service, you can register online from your home. There are two steps to getting up and reading: you must register to use the library and then you need to set up the reading app on your tablet, phone or computer.

To register with the library service you should use a web browser on a tablet, phone or computer and go to the web page www.wirral.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives. Click on the link *You can join the library online and* and follow through the pages to register to use the online library. Take a note of your registration details when you have completed registration.

Next download the reading app on your device: it is called *Libby, by OverDrive*. The first time you start the app you will need to tell it you are using Wirral Libraries and provide the registration details you got from the first step.

Once the app is set up you can find books by searching through the virtual library. The books you borrow are downloaded on to your tablet or phone and can be read or listened to using the app.

If you want further details of how to register and use the online library drop us an email message and we can send you further information.

Copies of Rev' Vicky's meditations and reflections for Holy Week and Easter are include with newsletters send by post. Others will receive these via email.

Holy Week – a quick guide

On **Palm Sunday** we remember when Christ entered



Jerusalem as Messiah: the people spread palms before him and shouted "Hosanna" as he entered the city. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week when we remember the events leading up to Jesus' suffering and death on the cross and his glorious resurrection from the dead.

Maundy Thursday contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) and the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.



On **Good Friday** we commemorate Jesus' death on the cross, his dying for the sins of all. It is a very solemn day but we know that by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God saved the world.



On **Easter Day** We celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead and his victory over death and sin. We rejoice that by his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.



Keeping in touch online

We are using our contact list to send interested people regular updates about All Saints by email. You can join this contact list by following the link from the home page of the website or you can send a request to join the list to office@allsaintsth.org.uk. This list is operated in accordance with our Data Privacy policy.



During the coronavirus outbreak, Wirral Foodbank is continuing to support people with emergency food but are running a reduced service due to the

measures in place to slow the spread of Covid-19. Wirral Foodbank has agreed with other charities and third sector /social food groups to centralise its food operations with Wirral Council, who have set up a single Emergency Food Hub. Donations of food are needed. You can donate food at the following stores: Tesco (Heswall, Rock Ferry and Bidston), Asda (Birkenhead, Bromborough, Liscard and Arrowe Park), Sainsbury's (Upton and Greasby) and the Coop in Greasby.

The following items are needed urgently: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, tinned fruit, custard, squash, coffee, jam, sugar, sponge puddings, washing up liquid, shampoo, hot chocolate. You can also donate money online via the foodbank website wirral.foodbank.org.uk.

Hot cross buns

The Church of England likes to set the distinctive baked goods, perhaps not unsurprisingly, in a Christian context. They are historically eaten on Good Friday, and the symbolism is evident.



"You have got the bread, as per the communion, you have got the spices that represent the spices Jesus was wrapped in in the tomb, and you have got the cross. They are

fairly full of Christian symbolism," says a Church of England spokesman.

They may go back to Roman or Saxon times and it is possible that a 12th century monk first incised a cross on a bun. The Oxford English Dictionary's first reference to hot cross buns is from 1733. It's in the form of the ditty: "*Good Friday comes this Month, the old woman runs, With one or two a Penny hot cross Bunns*".

Whatever the origin of the hot cross bun let's try to enjoy them this Easter and remember their Christian symbolism.

Word search answers

BARABBAS	CROSS	EGGS
GARDEN	GETHSEMANE	HIGHPRIEST
JESUS	JUDAS	LAMB
LOTS	MARY	PETER
PILATE	ROBES	SOLDIERS
THORNS	TOMB	VEIL

First Light

(Mark 16: 1-8)

They must do what they can
now the Sabbath is over.

Back to work.

Their oils are sharp and pungent,
Stripping dawn's thin grey curtain.

Their steps, directed, urgent,
to soothe the scarred body,
move the lovely limbs

lying wound up and wounded
in the dank dark of a borrowed grave.

How? How? the doves cry,
an echo of their anxious words,
the weight of the stone
wedged between them and their love.

Pounding hearts:

as the oils glow like slow amber pools,
spices tease their nostrils.

Tick, tick. Birds shrill the alarm.

Breath snags on a barb.

Surprise? Confusion? Hope? Jealousy?

Has someone come ahead of them
to offer the rituals which are theirs?

Has someone stolen the precious freight
from this stony barque?

Who is this man in white?

What is his news?

Not here.

Their eyes trace the outline of the tomb.

Not here.

Not there, where they laid him,

Escaped, unbound, fetterless.

The sun rinses the mouth of the tomb,

A widening 'O' of light.

The spices fall to the ground.

Oil finds a new course.

The earth gleams and is fragrant.

They turn and feet flutter a fleeting path
like sparrows' feathers.

Breath unravels in rags,
muscles shriek with exertion.

The burden of their news
lurches and sways and batters them
mad-eyed with joyous fear.

Teeth chatter riddling messages.
But who would believe these harpies
who say they have seen an angel?

Better to roll the stone back again,
be safe, familiar, silent.

Let the men

wrap the words like oilcloth round the carpenter's
tools,

stitch up the fishing nets
and not

dare to believe

in the terrifying mystery
who comes in majesty

to greet them.

Vicky Barrett, Easter 2018.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.'

Mark 16:5, 6



He is risen

