

Inside again

Spring 2021

The second lockdown edition of Inspire magazine



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Welcome

I was delighted to put together this issue of Inspire (this time appropriately called Inside again!) Although at the time of writing we do appear to be gradually moving in the right direction, with vaccine roll out, this issue looks back on the last six months. As with the previous issue we showcase some of the creativity which has come about during lockdown, from poetry to crafts, from ice flowers to quizzes and everything between. We also feature some of last year's Christmas Tree Trail which still went ahead around town and popped up in individual windows and gardens. As well as the winning tree.

This issue also includes articles about all three of our charities chosen to benefit from our charitable giving for 2020:
Local - The bookshop Quench
National- Clean Conscience
International—New Brainstorm School
Each charity has received around £1500.

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of Inspire. Although the office has been closed it has been lovely to receive your submissions and do keep thinking about items for the next issue.

Ruth

Ruth Humphreys, Editor

March 2021

Easter Joy...

Easter joy... Revd Sally Lynch



I don't know about you, but I have found that I have been drinking more over the last year! I don't mean that my gin, wine, prosecco and beer levels have gone up massively (though they might have done a bit!), but that working even more from home has meant that I have been drinking more tea and coffee (all de-caf) than ever as I reward myself with a cuppa after each online or phone activity.

Conscious of this, I have tried to drink more water. Tap or bottle, it doesn't matter. I just want to be healthier. So, here's the question, in the photo to the left, is my glass half empty, or half full?

At our daily Zoom Morning Prayer we have one participant who it might be said deserves the nickname Eeyore, for his glass is always half empty! He readily acknowledges this and it has become a standing joke with us all. Whilst we might giggle about this, it does raise an important question about how we each see life.

It has been very easy in the last year to become 'glass half empty' people, miserable and fed up and unable to see a way ahead. We cannot deny that we have had a tough time, unable to meet together for worship for long periods of time, unable to hold our usual fellowship activities or to see and hug loved ones. Yet here at St. Luke's I don't believe that we have struggled nearly as much as many people in our country and the world. We have in many ways been blessed.

So, let's be 'glass half full' people. What blessings can we list that we have gained in the last year? For me, these include, cleaner air and quieter skies, a little more time to read, learning new skills in technology which mean I don't have to travel miles to meetings and creating different worship using images and music in new ways, and meeting many of you daily for online morning prayer.

As disciples of Jesus, we are also called to be positive and encouraging. Each year we use a passage of scripture to 'dwell' on at the start of business meetings. In the last year we have used a passage from Paul's letter to the Christians in Philippi, which includes these words:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus... (Phil. 2.1-4)

Many of us have found that these words have spoken to us in different ways over the year. Two words stand out for me – encouragement and joy.

Let's be encouraged by the good things that have come out of the pandemic, and see where God is leading us as we go forward, in his name and rooted deeply in the love that he has for us. Paul reminds his readers of the consolation that God's love brings – to everyone.

And let's be rooted too in joy. Not vague woolly happiness or ecstatic euphoria but a deep inner joy that comes from knowing that whoever we are, what ever we have done or been, whatever happens to us, God loves us and, as Paul points out in another letter (Romans 8. 38, 39) NOTHING can separate us from that love – even death.

At the start of Lent, one of my friends, out of the blue, sent me the lovely mug, pictured here, with a slip of paper popped in the top saying, 'it's been a tough winter, this is my hope for you this spring.. Joy!'

My hope for each of you, for us as church together, is that we may all know the joy that comes from loving and being loved by our amazing God.

And may we find that joy afresh this Easter – however we are able to keep it.



Lent, Holy Week and Easter... so what is it all about?

Easter was the main festival for the early church. It was often called the Christian Passover, as the first Easter happened at Passover time - Jesus was seen as the new Passover lamb, who only needed to be sacrificed once. The festival celebrated Jesus' resurrection. The name Easter was taken over from the old pagan spring festival of the goddess Eostre, to whom hares were sacrificed. During the second century a debate about the correct date of Easter arose and in Rome different congregations kept it on different days. Some churches kept close to the Jewish calendar, but this soon died out and most churches kept it closest to 14th Nisan, roughly when Jesus is believed to have died. Even today the Eastern church uses a slightly different dating.

In the second century the churches held a Christian Pascha (Passover) on one day. By the fourth century there was more careful instruction of converts to the faith and they were taught by the Bishop before they were baptised at Easter. It was at about this time that Easter became a week long celebration with special days remembering certain events in the last week of Jesus' life. Often the days leading up to Easter would be a time of fasting. Nowadays the date of Easter is worked out by the moon. It can fall any time between the 27th March and 25th April.

Lent was the time when candidates were prepared for baptism and tested by the bishop. Now it is a period of six and half weeks in which Christians can prepare themselves for Easter by thinking about their faith more deeply and learning about it. It recalls Jesus' forty days of temptation in the desert just before the start of his ministry. Often Christians give up a luxury or give some money to charity. Some also do something extra during this time. This is all to help us grow in our faith.

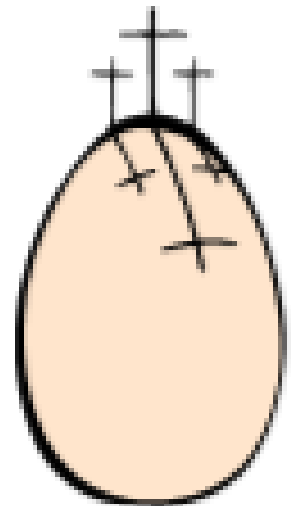
The day before Lent begins is **Shrove Tuesday**. This comes from the old Latin word 'shriven', meaning used up. All the rich foods that could not be eaten during Lent were used up in making pancakes. **Ash Wednesday** is the first day of Lent. On this day some Christians receive ashes on their foreheads at a special service of penitence. Ashes are an ancient sign of sorrow at sin, and repentance. There follow six Sundays in Lent. The fifth Sunday of lent is called **Passion Sunday**, when Christians recall Jesus' suffering.

The last week in Lent is now called **Holy Week** and is full of events leading to Jesus' death and resurrection.



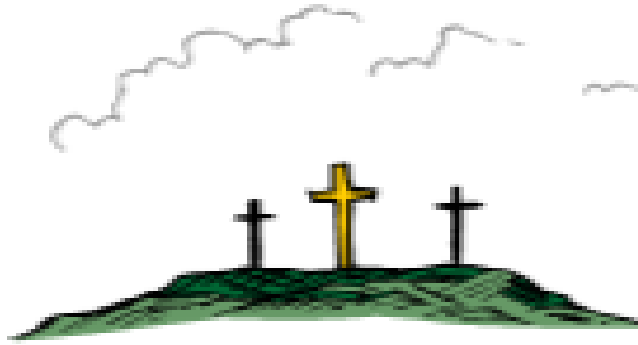
Palm Sunday recalls his triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. The people waved palm branches and so today many churches give out palm crosses. These remind us of the branches waved as to a King, but that only five days later the same crowds called for Jesus' death on the cross. At St. Luke's our service includes the blessing of palm crosses, a procession from the vicarage to the church and the reading of the Passion Gospel.

The next thing that Jesus did was to go to the Temple and to throw out the people who were trading there. Not because they were not allowed to trade there, they were; but because they were cheating people in their dealing. This was on the Sunday or Monday. The next two days were taken up with teaching and answering questions from the crowds and the Jewish leaders (trying to catch him out).



On the Thursday, now called **Maundy Thursday**, he had his last meal with his disciples, the origin of the service of Holy Communion. This may well have been the Passover meal. At this meal he also washed the feet of all his apostles, as a servant might. He told them to eat the meal whenever they met together, and to 'Love one another as I have loved you' He called this a new commandment and that is how the day got its name. The Latin word *mandatum* means 'Commandment'. Churches on this day re-enact the Last Supper, and in Rome the Pope washes the feet of twelve boys as a symbol of humility. Some churches hold services at which the priest washes people's feet, or hands. We try here to have a service in which we move around as a reminder of the variety of action in that 24 hour period.





The same evening he was arrested by the Jewish Temple soldiers and had to go through three trials (Before the Jewish council/Sanhedrin; the Roman Governor/Pilate; and the Jewish puppet King/Herod). He was crucified the next day by the Romans under pressure from the Jewish leaders. The day is now called **Good Friday**, possibly a corruption of God's Friday. All services are quiet and thoughtful. Many churches are stripped of all decoration. In many areas all the different denominations get together and have a procession of witness in the streets, followed by an open air service. In the evening the RC and Orthodox churches hold special vigils. Some churches have services from midday until 3pm. when Jesus is said to have died.

For many **Holy Saturday** is a day of quiet, thought and sorrow, others keep a special Easter Eve Vigil at which the saving stories of the Old Testament are remembered. We sometimes have a special all age service and act out those saving stories together.

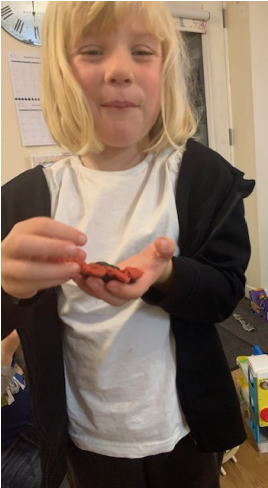
This leads up to the joyful celebrations of **Easter Sunday** when the tomb was found empty, and Jesus began a number of risen appearances to his followers. Churches light the new paschal candle from fire outside and then carry them in to church symbolise Jesus' resurrection. All churches are decorated with flowers as symbols of new life. Many have Easter gardens in them (as symbolic: Jesus rose in a garden, humans were first created in a garden...)The Easter/Paschal candle is blessed in other churches. Eggs are given as symbols of new life and in the Orthodox church races are held with brightly painted eggs. In all Christian churches the shout is proclaimed 'Christ is risen' and the people reply 'He is risen indeed'. If it were not for this event there would be no Christianity. The crucifixion would have been pointless without the resurrection.



Messy Church goes online...

With the impact of lockdown it was impossible for Messy Church to meet as usual, and so for the last year we have been zooming for an hour on the first Friday of each month. Our families book a craft pack from Revd. Sally in advance and then zoom along on the day.

We start with a story and song, have time to work on crafts at home (mmm... less mess to clear up in church, sorry, mums!) and come back together for 'show and tell', another version of the theme story, song and prayers. We sing to anyone with a birthday and wave to each other. There is always something to make to eat, or a recipe to try at home. Here are some highlights: poppies, praying hand biscuits, Easter hats, harvest flowers, lots of sheep, and more...



Ash Wednesday – A Memory By Ralph Hinchliffe

This year for the first time as far as I can remember we attended the 10.00am Ash Wednesday service at St. Luke's as most years we have attended the evening service. Due to the restrictions, we are currently under I must admit it felt rather strange to walk into church to be greeted by Sally fully robed and masked, we were ticked off the list and she handed us a little plastic bag containing a pot with ash and a tissue so that we could ash ourselves during the service and to be told to put everything back in the bag and put it in the plastic bowl at the end of the service. We sat on chairs at the back of church as requested so Sue could watch the door. As I sat on the chair looking down the aisle the cross on the High Altar was framed by the posts and top of the screen and I had a feeling of Deja - Vue but couldn't think why.

As the service progressed this feeling continued to plague me and as Sally started to give her reflection my mind wandered (sorry Sally) and I realised what it was the view reminded me of.

On Wednesday 18th February 2015 I had attended another Ash Wednesday service in the morning only this time it was not at St. Luke's but at Tabgha near the Church of the Multiplication on the north western shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was an open - air site and the view was of an altar of rock with a cross on it framed by two posts and a canopy, in place of pews we sat on tree trunks under another canopy.



This was the penultimate day of our trip to the Holy Land on what had been a very eye opening and emotional experience for me. We had arrived on Monday 10th February late in the evening, so our first full day was the Tuesday and as we visited various sites that day, I thought to myself 'why I have come here, it's not really me?'

That was until we visited The Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu on Mount Zion, this is thought to be

the site of the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas and where Jesus was brought when arrested. Under the church is an old cistern where it is said Jesus was kept overnight. We went down into this and Sally asked if someone could read Psalm 88 and I uttered the two most important words I said on the whole trip, 'I will'. As I stood in front of everyone and started to read it is exceedingly difficult for me to explain what happened as it is a very personal experience for me and changed my whole concept of the journey I was undertaking. As I read that psalm everyone seemed to disappear and I was reading to a single person in that room, I will not and cannot say anymore because even as I type this all these years later, I am welling up and my eyes fill with tears at the thought of what happened that day. Needless to say, the rest of my time in the Holy Land took on a totally different prospective.



Back to Ash Wednesday we had started the day by visiting the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, this is the place where Jesus reappeared to his disciples as described in John 21 and the reinstatement of Peter as chief among the Apostles. Sally read John 21 to us as we stood on the shoreline, this is also the site of one of her favourite statues.



From here we visited Capernaum where Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law before returning to Tabgha.

On arrival we walked past the church and down through the gardens filled with brilliant long-stemmed anemones to the lakeside and were greeted by the view shown overleaf. Instead of one priest for the service we had three, Sally, Joan Hicks and Sue Whitehouse (friend of Joan). As the altar was being prepared Sally asked me to light the candles (only two not four) saying 'Once a crucifer always a crucifer'. What I should say at this time was that there was a very stiff breeze blowing off the lake so no chance of candles, so having failed miserably in this simple task I sat down. It was wonderful to have this special service in such an iconic location which made it all the more moving and emotive.

Sue, Sally and Joan



Following the service, we returned to the church for a visit and there saw of all people Tony and Cherie Blair.

From here we proceeded to the Church of the Beatitudes, which is situated on the Mount of Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee and is believed to be the site of the Sermon on the Mount. It is also one of the most beautiful and serene places around the sea. Here we were served lunch, and didn't we get a surprise because for most of us lunch was a St. Peter's fish which is one of the ugliest fish I've seen, and it is served whole complete with head, fins and tail. For those who didn't like fish it was chicken. After lunch there was time for a walk around the beautiful gardens and a chance to look and contemplate the Beatitude which are carved into stones around the garden. Later there an opportunity to visit the church.



A view from the terrace of the Church of the Beatitudes

We ended the day by returning to Tiberias with a boat trip across the Sea of Galilee and even this had its special moment as halfway across the engine on the boat was stopped and as we drifted, we had a reading and prayers and as we did so the wind which had been blowing all day stopped and the waters stilled. In that moment in my mind's eye, I could see walking on the water Christ holding out his hand and calming the waters as he had done for his disciples, a fitting vision to end an incredibly special Ash Wednesday.



A view from the Sea of Galilee

Scripture Cake Brainteaser

Submitted by Dorothy Strack-Hankey

Are you ready to turn baking into a Biblical brainteaser? This fruity cake calls for ingredients by way of scriptural references. **If you get lost, the ingredients are listed on page 37.**

7 g [1 Tbls]	Amos 4:5
150 g [5 oz]	Song of Songs 2:5
150 g [5 oz]	Numbers 13:23
175 g [6 oz.]	Psalms 55:21
225 g [8 oz.]	Jeremiah 6:20
3	Jeremiah 17:11
35 g [2 Tbls]	1 Samuel 14:25
60 ml [4 Tbls]	Judges 4:19
250 g [9 oz.]	Leviticus 6:15
10 ml [2 tsp]	II Chronicles 9:9
2 g [¼ tsp]	Leviticus 2:13
60 g [2 oz]	Numbers 17:8



1. Heat oven to 320 °F./ 160° C./ Gas mark 3.
2. Prepare a large loaf tin or round 20-23 cm [8 or 9 inch] baking tin by spraying with non-stick spray or lining with baking parchment.
3. In a small bowl, put 60 ml [4 Tbls] warm water. Add first ingredient and stir briefly.
4. Add next two ingredients and stir to moisten. Set aside while making batter.
5. In a large bowl, beat the first 4 ingredients until light & fluffy; add the next ingredient & mix well.
6. In a small bowl, mix the next 3 ingredients together, and add to the first mixture blending well.
7. Take contents of first small bowl. Fold this carefully into the batter.
8. Add the last ingredient. [These may be coarsely chopped.] Stir gently to mix.
9. Transfer batter to the prepared baking tin.

Bake for 70-90 minutes or until firm in the middle when tested, or in loaf version, it will develop a crack. Cool on a rack, and remove from baking tin.

This may be eaten the same day or may be stored in tightly covered container for to 1 week.

Quench Bookshop

I wonder how you feel about going somewhere you have never been before?

Some of you may feel excited whereas others may feel quite worried about what it will be like. I know the congregation at St Luke's are very welcoming and inclusive. However, have you ever thought how difficult it must be for someone to come to St Luke's who has never been before and particularly if they have either never walked in to a church, have not been in a church for years or have only been to church for a wedding, funeral or baptism?

Quench Christian Bookshops, in Queen Street (and Wokingham), see a key part of their role as being the church on the High Street. A place where people, of all faiths and none, can easily wander in and out and engage in conversations about anything without feeling self-conscious. A place to browse if you want and a place to buy things for the church and for yourself, friends and family. Our staff can tell you of many amazing conversations over the years that have come as a result of people just coming in to the shop for a baptism present, gift or card or just coming in as they wanted to chat.

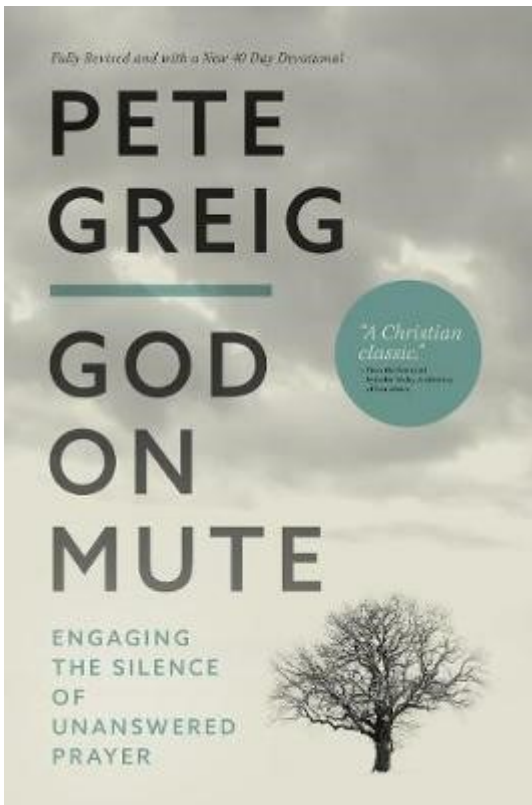
We have a large display of cards, gifts, DVDs, CDs and of course books and bibles. Not only are the latest books and music available but there is also a large selection of children's books and a second-hand books section to browse through.

We are extremely grateful to St Luke's for choosing Quench as one of your 2020 charities. You will appreciate that the last year has been very tough in sales terms. However, generous gifts like yours and support from the government with grants and the furlough scheme, means that we are optimistic that we will still be trading when the current restrictions on non-essential retail shops are eased.

At the time of writing, we hope to re-open on April 12th. However, in the mean time, you can still order items from Quench. If you wish to place an order, please email Ali on admin@quenchshops.com or give her a call on 07962869128.

See over the page for some book recommendations from Quench





If you have ever struggled with unanswered prayer, we would encourage you to read Pete Greig's book **God on Mute**, written out of his own experience of seeing his wife fight for her life.

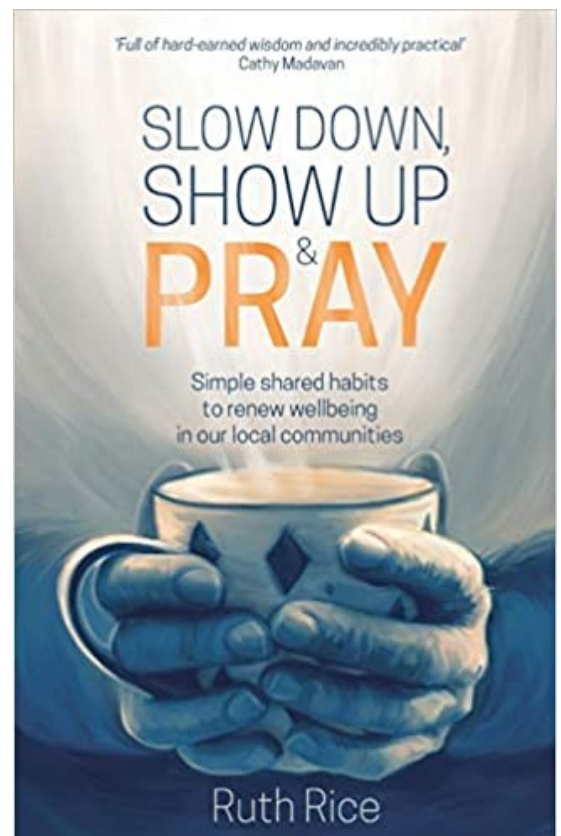
We have recently been able to hold a book launch for Ruth Rice's Book, **Slow Down, Show up and Pray**. This is a book about renewing wellbeing in our own lives and in our local communities. It is full of practical ideas both to help us as individuals as well as looking at how we can support our local communities. Maidenhead doesn't currently have a wellbeing café but maybe in the future, this is something worth exploring as we seek to serve our community.

Thanks again for your generous support to Quench.

The Quench trustees.

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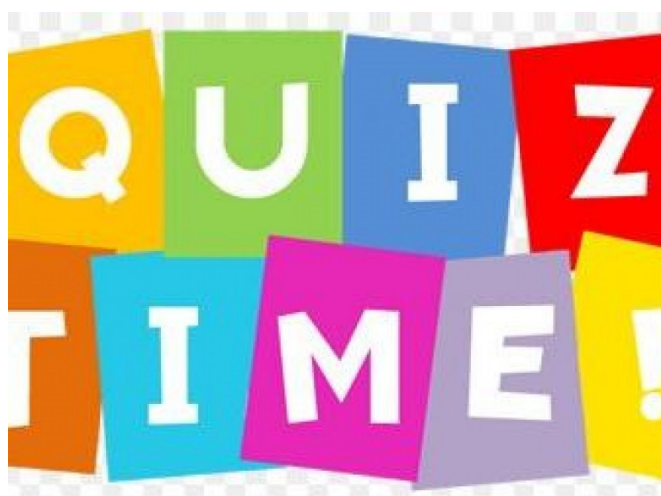
Let's Get Quizzical - by James Ellins

Quizzes were all the rage at the start of the pandemic and the St Luke's faithful seemed to have gotten the knack of Zoom (bar the occasional muted/unmuted microphone at inopportune moments) so Sally and I discussed setting up a St Luke's virtual quiz night. With social distancing in place the traditional team arrangement of 6-8 wasn't going to happen so we thought that participants could form a team with members of their household and/or another person who they could speak to over a telephone link (like phone-a-friend but without any money on the line), or brave the quiz as a team of one.

The virtual setup and smaller teams threw up a few conundrums including how to keep everyone engaged for the duration, how to make the quiz accessible to as many of the congregation as possible, and how to pitch the questions at the right level.

To keep everyone engaged we decided to go for a PowerPoint presentation with lots of pictures (even if the question didn't require one), a few video and music clips, and the occasional novelty round like nobody's favourite (except maybe Matthew and Clare Burdett's): Dingbats.

Another key decision was to limit the technological requirements to just Zoom on a device, along with a pen and paper to write down answers. Some pandemic quizzes required people to login to separate websites which brings with it the hassle of setting up even more accounts and passwords. Keeping the barrier for entry at the same height as for attending a virtual church service would hopefully give potential participants confidence that they wouldn't be spending lots of time and effort just to join the quiz before they'd even answered a question.



Perhaps the biggest challenge was the choice of questions. With smaller teams and the ages of participants likely to range from 20-somethings to 80-somethings a lot of thought had to go into how to balance the questions out so that everyone had a reasonable chance of knowing the answers. A few general principles were adopted for this: film clips were to be only from films that were considered to be well-known (e.g. Casablanca, Jurassic Park) with the same criteria applying to any musical questions ("I've heard that song, now who was it by again" was the response we hoped for). Capital cities were usually a good bet (the Abuja incident aside) and the odd maths and science question that we'd all likely have learned about whenever it was we went to school. On reflection though the questions were too Anglo-centric and could've done with being internationalised (not convinced this is a word) to make the quizzes more inclusive.

On the whole the quizzes seemed to be well received. Seeing lots of smiling familiar faces together, even on a computer screen, was a good tonic for these difficult times. In-person quizzes will return eventually but I was pleased with how well the virtual ones worked, and how well everyone engaged with them. I can't think of a good closing line so instead have a Dingbat (overleaf)

QUEEN QUEEN & FINLAND QUEEN QUEEN

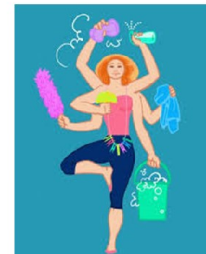
You can find the answer on page 38



Stretching



Upper arms workout



Balancing



Weight lifting

Come and get
fit while you
clean the
church



All over body workout

To sign up contact :Sally Somerville—salsomerville@gmail.com
or call 01628 783618

'My pandemic in pictures'

By Ruth Sheppard

1. I took up piano playing again and mastered the Moonlight Sonata, amongst others.
2. Ann Hockham and I saw the wild flower garden in Oaken Grove Park.
3. Missing singing so our Gaslights group had a garden tea party just before the rule of six.
4. A selection of masks I made to raise money for church funds.
5. The black Friesian horses following my brother-in-law's hearse in the village in the Chilterns, watched by all the villagers.
6. The New Forest inspired quilt I made for my sister's birthday, a place she loves.





What Louisa did next... By Lousia Ellins

In the summer 2020 issue of Inspire I stepped down as editor, as I had a feeling that there were big changes on the horizon. I was right.

At the time, I was on furlough from my bid writer job at a contract caterer in London. Hardly anyone knows what a bid writer does so let me explain. In a nutshell it's writing the set of documents, or bid, to (hopefully) secure the contract to provide a service. Working for a contract caterer, my job often involved bidding for school dinner contracts, and sometimes university catering or hospital food.

Catering and hospitality was, and is, massively impacted by COVID-19. So, it was with little surprise that I received notification of redundancy in June. But read on, as this is not the end of my story.

Before my last role came along (and it was too good to turn down) I had started a proofreading and copywriting business: Line 29 Editorial Services. I set up as a sole trader but for the last nine years my business had only existed on tax returns, which I had carried on completing each year in case I wanted to give the business another go.

Fast forward to last summer. When I wasn't trying to find ways to entertain a preschool-aged Alex, furlough gave me time to wonder if I would have a job to go back to. And so, when the news of redundancy came, I had already made up my mind to restart Line 29, and discussed it with James and other family members.



For almost a year now I've been in almost daily contact through Facebook Messenger with a group of friends from my home town of Northampton, and they were among the first to hear my news. One friend, Angie, is the CEO of a small offender rehabilitation charity called C2C Social Action, and thought I could help them. There isn't space here to go into details about C2C's work, but a significant part involves taking women through community orders. As an alternative to custody, these court-ordered sentences give women the space, support and time to address real-life causes of offending. There could be many reasons why someone commits a crime, including poverty, substance misuse, domestic violence, previous trauma, low self-esteem, unemployment and homelessness or a combination of these.

Operating in women's centres in Northamptonshire, the charity offers service users a safe space and access to a network of specialist support. Over its 17-year history C2C (which is short for Crime to Christ) has amassed so many amazing, inspirational stories of ladies who have stopped offending and have turned their lives around with the charity's help. Some have gone on to volunteer to help others or even work in mental health.

Over the last year C2C pivoted to support service users online, and opened an allotment which doubles as an outdoor meeting space and gives access to nature, fresh air and a

chance to learn new skills. But the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is changing the way that community orders are delivered, and seeking to give smaller organisations (like C2C) ownership in their local areas. But to get to that point, there was a bid to write and a contract to win. And, being the MOJ, there was a mountain of documents to digest. Luckily, I love getting stuck into the detail...

In a matter of days from Angie's suggestion that we work together, she had agreement from the chair and board of trustees, we settled on a pricing structure and I had my first client. It was a fairly steep learning curve to move into a completely new area: with the work being both familiar (writing) and unfamiliar (the subject matter) all at once. That said, editing Phyllis Sigsworth's memoirs in early 2020 did prove a good introduction to the world of criminal justice.

Six months on, while we wait for the result of the MOJ bid, there is still plenty to do.

I've had a chance to test my theory that writing bids and applying for grants use the same skills; after winning around £90,000 of grant funding for C2C so far it turns out that they do.

So, what are these skills? Well, they include answering a set of very specific questions and keeping in mind the need to show how the organisation meets the requirements of the potential client (bids) or funding body (grants). There's usually a word (or character) count to meet, which makes you think about what you want to say in the available words.

And C2C's patron is none other than the Rt Revd. Andrew Proud, who officially opened the St Luke's fellowship area when he was the Bishop of Reading. He now lives in Northamptonshire.



The Rt Rev Andrew Proud (centre) joins C2C staff at the allotment. L-R: Angie, Andrew, Sophie (outdoor learning support worker)
Credit: Julie Parsons

With around 8,000 UK organisations actively awarding grant funding at any given time, I started to think there might be an opportunity to help other

small charitable organisations find funding. Everyone has heard of BBC Children in Need, The National Lottery and Comic Relief, but there are small trusts up and down the country, willing to use their funding for good causes who reflect their particular interests. COVID-19 has had an impact and competition is stiffer than ever, but there is money available if a charity can make a compelling case for why they should receive it.

I think it's fair to say that many small charitable organisations, like C2C (or most churches), probably won't have the expertise on board to tackle tricky and often time-consuming grant applications. There's no guarantee of success, but there is great potential to win funding that can do a lot of good for the charity's beneficiaries. I've just got my second client – a community interest company (social enterprise) in the technology industry – so hopefully I'm onto something.

And with every new challenge, my comfort zone expands a little more, which is as exciting as it is scary. I still love proofreading and I've just joined the Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading. I always proofread James' quizzes, which is why I never join in.

With homeschooling now adding a new challenge, I find myself busier than ever. For all the rubbish that coronavirus has thrown at us, I'm grateful for the opportunity to reset my career and I'm excited about the future. I was ready for a new challenge, but I would never have been brave enough to leave a secure job to branch out on my own.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, my new website will be live at www.line29.co.uk

You can find out more about C2C at www.c2csocialaction.com

Lockdown Creativity

Whilst most people closed their doors and turned up the heating to keep out the cold, we decided to make the most of the weather to make these beautiful ice discs! We have some plastic plates which we filled with water, then we placed in some leaves and flowers from our garden, and some string to hang them, and then we left them outside overnight to freeze. In the morning, because it had been so cold, the discs were frozen and we took them out to hang them up around our close to share them with our neighbours.

Scarlett (10) and Isla (8)



Poetry Corner

Because I Love Him So.
By G .A. Studdart Kennedy
(chosen by Ruth Sheppard)

She could not follow where he went,
She could but watch Him go,
And bless Him, though her heart was rent
Because she loved Him so.

She stood once at a cottage door
To watch His figure grow
Distant and dim, heart-sore, heart-sore
Because she loved Him so.

She had to turn from Calvary,
Turn when He bade her go,
Leaving her heart nailed to the tree,
Because she loved Him so.

Mother of Jesus, Holy One,
My sorrow thou dost know;
Bless thou my son, my little son,
Because I love him so.



MEMORY OF SIGHT

Whenever did the present time turn into
yesterday

And yesterday so soon become the past
What happened to the buttercups

That gave such pure delight

Now I look I cannot see a buttercup in
sight

Likewise with the birdsong

So moving and divine

Wherever did it go to

That filled this heart of mine.

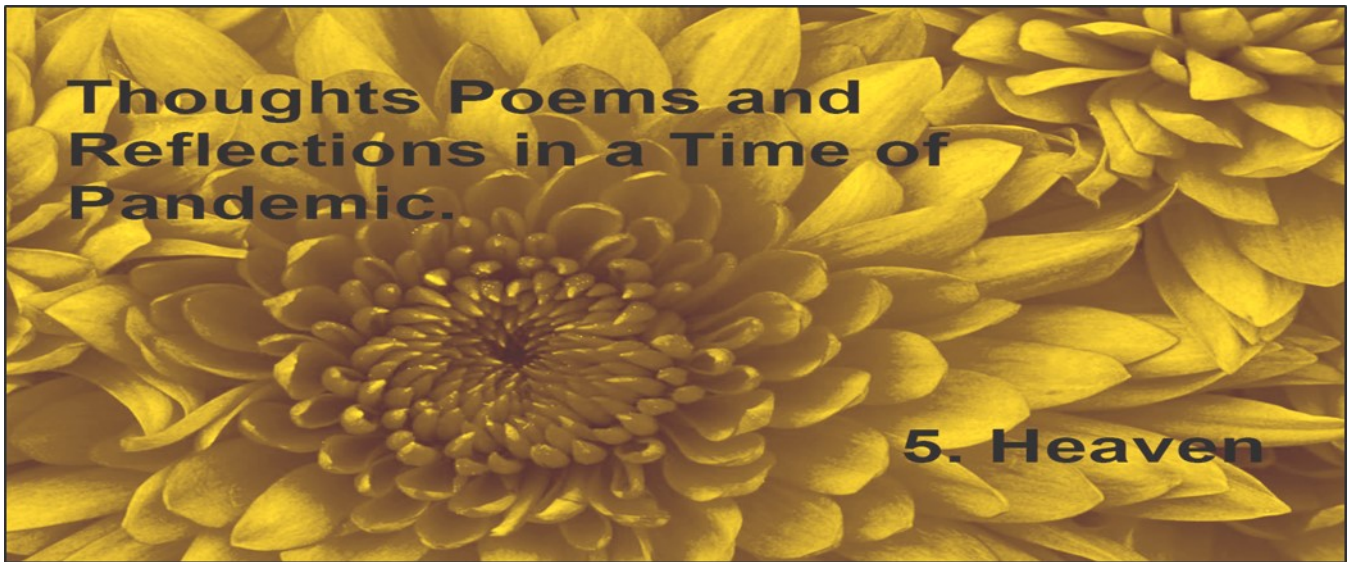
Treasure every moment

Be it morning, noon or night

and know that deep within you

lies the memory of sight

(Ann Hockham
Written during lock down)



By Ian Gilchrist

At the time of writing the news is dominated by two things, the rapidly increasing number of deaths from the Corona Virus Pandemic and the disruption it creates. The social isolation forces us in on ourselves and makes us face up to our personal thoughts, fears, and challenges that we might otherwise have hidden away. In these *“Thoughts, Poems and Reflections in a time of Pandemic”*. I describe some of these, and how through facing them we may find fulfilment in the lives we seek.

The three previous poems are ones which describe trauma and despair, yet most religious beliefs promise salvation and an after-life, in which images of heaven are described. This may vary from the Christian perceptions of a place of Glory in the presence of God to the enlightenment or Nirvana in the Buddhist tradition where the self is absorbed into enlightenment, so there is no personification of God. Or in Hinduism, where multitudes of Gods represent a deeper presence in all religions: which is of a God and Heaven greater than any physical representation that cannot be otherwise expressed.

HEAVEN

Is heaven a place when observed from afar
The Palace of God in His Might and His Power
A place where the righteous sing out His Praise
To God in His Glory, and where no humour strays?
You show me a place where my feet must feel sore
From standing and singing God's praise evermore
Then sometimes I'd tire of the bright golden light
And instead wish to see the stars of the night.

But these views of heaven are not ones of mine
For my thoughts see heaven a place outside time
Where eternity soars free in its own place apart
To observe the time passing like lines on a chart
Extracting from life all the times which we've set
When all the best moments of life have been met
And revealing in these the whole Godhead of joy
With each moment the fountain of love I enjoy.

Eternity is not now, in the future or past
For eternity is where every moment shall last
And the heaven I sense is piled high to the brim
With the passion of love and of care and concern
Overflowing with people whose delight I perceive
Through love which I give and the love I receive
And joining those people whose rapture I share
Are all those I love who will always be there.

Heaven is not here, in the earth or the sky
And you will never find heaven however you try
For heaven finds you from the cries of the heart
Then growing through gladness its praises impart
For whatever our suffering our weakness or strife
When we share all we are with the others in life
We rebuild ourselves in the love and the grace
At one with creation that gives us our place.

Then heaven is never a goal we'll achieve
It comes only from faith and the will to believe
But could heaven be true or is it solely in mind?
It is only through death such an answer we'll find
And should heaven be false we will never detect
For we'd have nothing left to confirm it's correct
But the heaven that comes in our heavenly birth
Is true to the heaven we make here on earth

21 September 1996

An extract from

<http://www.com.tgdr.co.uk/articles/001c-PandemicThoughts.pdf>

CleanConscience by Gwen Powell

CleanConscience is a unique charity that has worked alongside London hotels and toiletry manufacturers since 2015, to ensure that the maximum amount of partially used hotel soap and toiletries are recovered, re-purposed and redistributed to those who would need it most in the South East of England, Greater London, and in Sierra Leone.

The process we use to re-purpose the soap and toiletries provides an opportunity for severely marginalised individuals with learning difficulties and others with mental health challenges to engage, and experience a sociable, productive day with the CleanConscience team, and it is often the highlight of their week.

With the COVID lockdown our hotel partners all closed and may remain closed until the Spring of 2021, or even remain closed until 2022.

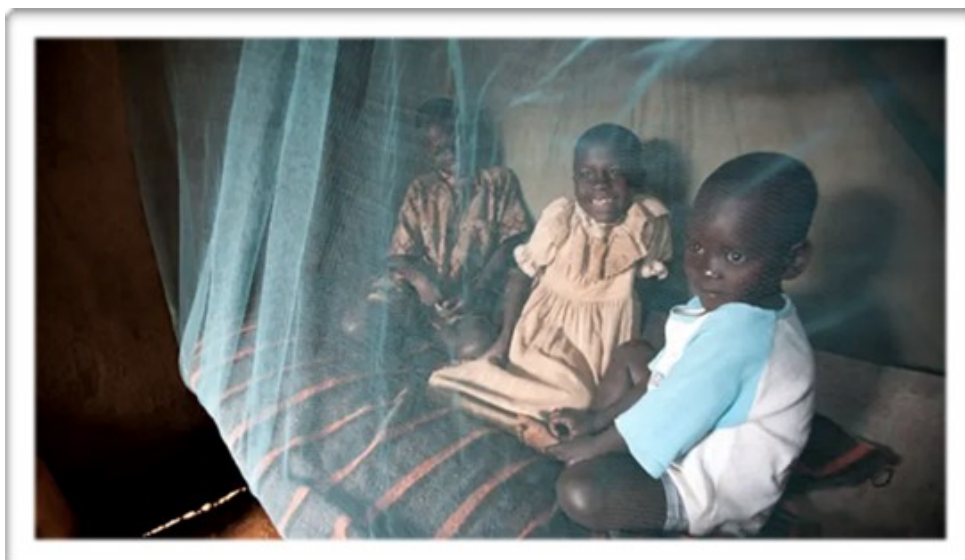
We, like many resilient SME (Small Medium Enterprises), have had to diversify and we are now offering a textile, and other unwanted household items, recycling service to the local community in our immediate vicinity.

The best quality items are offered in exchange for a nominal donation back to the local community, and the rest of the clothes, shoes and bags are collected by a textile recycling company raising some much needed funds for CleanConscience.

We also recover and redistribute / upcycle / recycle other challenging waste streams from the hospitality industry; for instance when a hotel is being refurbished we can take care of mattresses, textiles, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), furniture, mirrors, framed pictures, etc.

Any items salvaged are donated to other charities we support or offered back to the public in exchange for a donation.

Due to being a grassroots organisation, working closely with many other grassroots organisations, we are well placed to act as a 'matchmaker' between businesses and smaller less 'mobile' charities, and we thrive on solving any challenge that is presented to us.



We currently work with 33 other community organisations and registered charities.

These are some of the other community groups and charities we've supported, over the last five years, and continue to support whenever we can:

- The Brett Foundation (Maidenhead),
- The Baby Bank (Maidenhead),
- Alexander Devine Children's Hospice (Maidenhead),
- Thames Valley Hospice (Maidenhead),
- Thames Valley Adventure Playground (Maidenhead),
- Manor Green School (Maidenhead),
- Wexham Park Hospital (Slough),
- The DASH Charity (Slough),
- Sadaka (Reading),
- North Paddington FoodBank (London),
- The Mulberry School
- The Kori Women's Development Project (Sierra Leone)



All the net curtains salvaged are donated to the Kori Women's Development Project and repurposed as mosquito nets, which are then distributed FOC to clinics and maternity wards in the Kori Chiefdom, a rural low income province of Sierra Leone.

238 coffee trays became blackboards for the children of Taiama, where paper and pens are scarce and very expensive for Girls (Tower Hamlets),



New Brainstorm School By Ruth Humphreys

New Brainstorm School is based in Kampala and was founded in 2010 by the headmaster Nickolas Kintu. Before he set up the school Nickolas was a street seller, selling juices and other items along the street. While working he saw the children on the street and was inspired to set up a school to help them. The first class had just eight children. The school has now expanded to over 200 pupils who are recognisable by their bright yellow shirts. The majority of children who attend the school are orphans or come from families who are unable to fund their education. Nickolas chose to call it New Brainstorm from the idea of something new, a new way of thinking.

The first school buildings were built from papyrus and reed, after many year the buildings were built in wood in a swampy area, over the time the school has been moved and built and rebuilt.

In 2013 Lisa Peters, a teacher from Cookham Rise School visited New Brainstorm School while volunteering with the charity Empower a Child. On her return to the UK Lisa set up a penpal scheme with the children of New Brainstorm and the pupils Cookham Rise School. When in 2016 they heard that the local authorities in Kampala intended to close New Brainstorm school due safety fears, the pupils of Cookham Rise decided they want to do something to help fundraise and keep the NBS open.

Over time this has included a range of fundraising projects including sponsored silences, fetes and plays. And last year the NBS team completed the London Marathon for New Brainstorm!

In 2018 our church school, St Luke's became involved in fundraising for Brainstorm after a chance meeting with Lisa Peters. St Luke's School has held fundraising days to collect money for new stationery and sports equipment for New Brainstorm, as well as collecting good quality second hand trainers.

Brainstorm School has been chosen by St Luke's Church as one of our charities for this year.

You can find out more about New Brainstorm School at

https://www.st-lukesprimary.com/website/new_brainstorm_school_1/368720



Churches in the life of an Octogenerian- part 2

By Enid Barber

We were excited about going to Cyprus, but the mood changed when we arrived at the airport through to being dropped at a hotel in Limasol and told that we had three days to find somewhere to live! The place where we finally settled was near the by-pass in the Greek area about 50 yards from the local church. Those bells seemed very loud at 6 am. We witnessed a number of funerals. Before leaving the house a pitcher of water was broken on the doorstep, and unless the family were reasonably wealthy, the coffin was put in the back of an estate car and raced off with the back open and artificial flowers blowing out on the road.

We enjoyed visiting historic ruins, churches and monasteries. At one monastery a kindly monk invited us all in and gave us a guided tour, including the individual cells. When we returned over ten years later, the gates were locked and I, as a woman was not allowed anywhere near.

Trying to find an English speaking church. Those on the forces bases were some distance away. Eventually I found a church in the town. The usual stone building in a large bare earth area. I tried taking our two children with me several times until the day the baby was sick on my lap. I made a hast retreat outside. No sign of a tap anywhere. After a while a man came out and asked if I was alright. I never went again. The number of beggars hanging around after the service was quite intimidating too. My main memories of church in Cyprus is those noisy bells nearby. They didn't ring, they clanged!

After our return we found ourselves in Humberston, Lincs. It was at the church here that I first heard of 'Young Wives'. What a lovely group of ladies-I found something special there. They had some very inspiring speakers. The children enjoyed the schools and the Sunday school activities. The sad part of our stay there was losing our nineteen day old baby, two days before the Aberfan disaster. It was so difficult trying to explain all this to our two young children. The baby's ashes are in the churchyard there. Our family doctor was a member of the same congregation and was very supportive.



St Peters– Humberston



St Michaels and All Angels, Bassingham

Bassingham-back to where we started our married life together

The church here was about 100 yards down the road, with bells. Beautiful chimes every 1/4 quarter of the hour. They didn't bother us at all, they helped everyone. It was a joy to hear 'real' bell ringers as well. Sunday morning they started to ring a quarter to the hour, then slowed down then three minutes before the service started, speeded up again. We all knew exactly how long we had to get to church in time. For a while our youngest came in the pram with me to church while the youngsters met elsewhere.

No problems, until the Patronal Festival, where members of nearby churches joined us and the church was full. A man I did not recognise told me to take the pram outside. After a brief discussion I was allowed to stay.

The day we moved into Bassingham and the Vicar called in to welcome us. The next day the Curate called too. They covered several churches. When the time came for us to move on the on the Vicar a told us he had been offered the living at St Luke's church, Maidenhead, but had declined. He loved the countryside and thought he would not be able to cope with suburbia. Strange. We were glad our children had the experience of country life for a few years, new friends, only cows or pigs plodding along the road occasionally, the vet and his visitors across the road, four buses a day to Lincoln or Newark for the excellent markets and a friendly church.

Next and final time - Maidenhead!

The Greenway Tree

by Sally Somerville

Throughout that glorious Spring and Summer of 2020, I walked in the early morning in the fields bordering the Cricket club. I watched the wheat and barley from the first slender green shoots, no more than a mist across the ground, to the full-on biscuit brown of harvest time. It was truly a lifeline and not just for me but a whole bunch of other walkers, cyclists and joggers with or without any accompanying hound. I thanked, in my head and heart, those who had made this walk possible.

Then came the Christmas Tree trail. Ann Darracott and I had a chat and she suggested that for 2020 the Civic Society could put their tree on The Greenway. She did all the important arrangements. Mr Prior gave permission and she ordered the banner. Brian Darracott gave technical support alongside Bob Dulson from The Civic Society. I had the fun. I went off to buy the tree at Braywick Nurseries, where Mike Mason was waiting with some suitable candidates. There was serious discussion as to the best one for the job. I had a daring visit to the greengrocer in Bourne End and bought some sturdy silver baubles.

There was a cup of tea taken at the end of November in the open garage at the Darracotts' where we agreed the details and set a time to meet for setting up.

It was not a sunny day but it seemed to give cheer to those passing to see a Christmas Tree being placed there. It was rather different from making soup and being in that wonderful atmosphere of our Church filled with trees, but it was not in any way unrewarding.

We hope we fulfilled all our objectives, in contributing to the charitable giving for the St Luke's Festival for the church and the Air Ambulance and celebrated:

The Greenway – a lifeline in lockdown



Although the tree, placed at the junction of Green Way East and West, has gone, the banner The Green Way –a lifeline in lockdown is still there and will stay until the end of the pandemic

Left: Revd Sally Lynch and Bob Dulson

Christmas Tree Trail

A very small selection of the Christmas Tree Trail



The Good Shepherd's Noah's Ark Shiny Tree

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green has always enjoyed being involved with St. Luke's Christmas Tree Festival, so when we received word that we would still be able to take part in 2020 we were thrilled. It made sense to have the tree in St. Chads Road – not too far from Cox Green Community Centre where our church is based.

Our Children's Ministry Team put their heads together to come up with ideas. The theme being rainbows, they looked at bible stories that they could work around: Noah's Ark was the obvious choice. We call our Children's groups 'Shine' so that would have to be in there somewhere too!

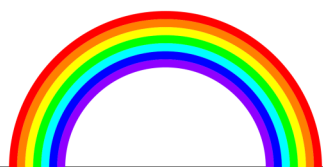
The children were all sent rainbow pictures to colour in. They were then cut & laminated to protect them from the weather. The team sourced animals to go on the tree, and the children also contributed with their toy animals. A corkboard was placed outside so that passers-by could read all about Noah and God, and about the Christmas Tree Trail. The children also contributed with words of hope for this year. The Churchwarden had the idea that we could put up a decorated shower curtain to attract people's attention, which it certainly did!

We even had inflatable animals around the tree including flamingos! The tree was decorated with shiny tinsel, and was replenished when things got windswept or damaged by the rain.

To advertise the tree, the Children's Ministry Team, congregation, parents and the children told all of their friends to do the trail, and it was shared on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

We are pleased that the Christmas Tree Trail was a success, and during such uncertain times could bring some Christmas cheer to the community. Thank You to all involved in organising it, we look forward to joining in again.

Children's Ministry Team, Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green



**Congratulations to the
Good Shepherd Noah's Ark Shiny
Tree for being voted the very best in
the trail.**



Christmas Tree Trail Bridle Close

1. A Jolly Family
Christmas
2. Andrew Granger
3. Festive Cheer
4. Hope
5. Anna and Olly Pegram
6. Here stands Bridle
Close
7. Cox Family



Rainbow Community Collage

During the year there have been many community projects inspired by lockdown, one such one was the rainbow banner entitled 'Together' created by over 30 households in Bridle Road.

Claire Freear writes about her experience:

The project came about after I set up a WhatsApp group for our street, during the first lockdown. We started having conversations on the group about what we could do as a community during that time. A neighbour suggested creating the giant piece of artwork between us, I think it is something he'd done as a team-building activity at work. Everyone

loved the idea, and another neighbour volunteered to draw the picture for us as she is an artist. Once the drawing was complete, she replicated it onto 36 postcards, which we handed out to everyone taking part, along with an A1 sheet of paper. As I'd set up the WhatsApp group, I had most people's contact details so I volunteered to communicate with everyone and help to make it happen. It was very much a team effort however, with Ian Styles coming up with the original idea and providing all the materials we'd need; Charlotte Martin drew the picture with the help of her granddaughter and Dave and Sarah Scarborough were instrumental in bringing the final picture together by taking photos of all the completed pieces of art.



It was really enjoyable taking part, my children did most of it between them. It was helpful for them to have an art project to focus on during that time, and lovely for it to be a part of something bigger, that we did as a community. They love walking past the sign we have now and pointing out who did all the different sections.

For our piece, we used mainly paint, felt tips, and paper stuck as a collage. People were free to use whatever materials they liked, so we had a great variety of different materials used. One lady used fabrics for her piece of the rainbow and sewed it all together!

It's a project that we're proud to have been involved in, because it was a focal point for us to become a much closer community than we were before. Many of us have made new friends as a result of this, and we have a community spirit in our road now that didn't exist before.

We also decided to try use it to raise funds for a local charity who we collectively agreed we wanted to support - Alexander Devine Children's Hospice. We've had postcards printed of the artwork, so if anyone would like postcards they can email bridleroadsl6@gmail.com, it's a suggested donation of £5 for 20 cards and donations can be made at :

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/bridleroad>.

All the money goes direct to the Hospice.

From the Registers

Since the last issue of Inspire

We welcomed into God's family by baptism:

Kevin Obwianu

We celebrated the marriage of:

Edward Galvin and Agnese Golste

We commended into God's care at their funerals:

Brian Webb

Alec Judd

Janet Seaman

Yvonne Lewis

Janet Trinkwon

Wayne Smith

Patricia Walker

Roy Goff

Trevor Tilbury

Stanley Swansborough

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory



Who's who

and how to contact us

All numbers prefixed with Maidenhead 01628... unless otherwise stated

Ministry Team



Vicar
Revd Sally Lynch
783033



Associate Priest
Revd Canon
Terrie Robinson
634017



Associate Curate
Revd Phyl Sopp
781390

Churchwardens

John Salter 634439

Sue Hinchliffe 784724

Assistant churchwardens

Michael Masango 789978

Johanna Raffan 680913

Flowers

Rita Salter 634439

Electoral Roll Officer

Ann Burdett 631486

Gift Aid Secretary

Kim Rumble

07973 294082

Director of Music

Adam Went

01753 643974

PCC Secretary

Ralph Hinchliffe 784724

PCC Treasurer

Richard Burdett 631486

Parish administrator

Ruth Humphreys 622733

Parish Office open Tuesday and

**Wednesday mornings 9.00am-
11.30am**

Write to us at:

The Vicarage
26 Norfolk Road
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 7AX

St Luke's is part of

Inclusive Church

Find out more at

www.inclusive-church.org.uk



Like St Luke's Church,
Maidenhead
on Facebook



THE ELECTORAL ROLL

REASONS TO JOIN IT

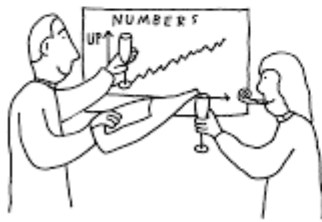
① YOU WILL DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE ON THE P.C.C. AND DEANERY SYNOD



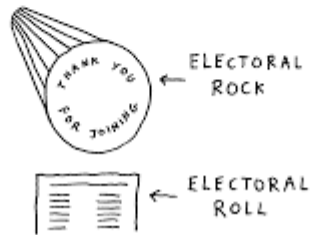
② YOU CAN PLAY A FULL PART IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



③ IT WILL BOOST THE MORALE OF THE CLERGY



④ THERE MAY BE A THANK YOU PRESENT – SEASIDE CONFECTIONARY PERHAPS



⑤ YOUR NAME WILL BE EXHIBITED IN CHURCH FOR 14 DAYS



CartoonChurch.com

Are you on this Church's Electoral Roll?

Although the cartoon above by Dave Walker is tongue on cheek, it does highlight the importance of being on the church electoral roll. It gives you a say in the direction of ministry in the church.

To qualify to join the roll you should:

- be over 16
- be baptised
- Live in the parish (Revd. Sally has a list of streets in the parish)
- Have attended worship here for 6 months
- Fill in a standard form (available from Revd. Sally or the Office)
- and send it to our Electoral Roll Officer—Ann Burdett (ann@aremba.com, or post to the church)

Quiz answers

Scripture Cake—page 12

Amos 4:5 Dry yeast; Song of Songs 2:5 Raisins; Numbers 13:23 Figs; Psalms 55:21

Butter; Jeremiah 6:20 Sugar; Jeremiah 17:11 Eggs; 1 Samuel 14:25 Honey; Judges 4:19 Milk;

Leviticus 6:15 Flour; 2 Chronicles 9:9 Spices [1 tsp cinnamon, ½ tsp. nutmeg & ½ tsp. allspice];

Leviticus 2:13 Salt; Numbers 17:8 Almonds

Dingbat— page 16 For Queen and Country

Coming up...

National Day of Reflection: Tuesday 23rd March

On this anniversary of the first lockdown, the church will be open from 10 am - 4pm. Drop in to:

Light a candle
Add names of loved ones to remembrance books
Pray

Donate to Easter flowers Spend time with God Give thanks

Online Passion Play

Sunday 21st March, 6pm

Tuesday 30th, 3pm

With our friends at All Saints and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
Join us to reflect on the Passion in a different way - from the comfort of your armchair. Link available via our weekly email.



CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR on Saturday 27th March

Palm Sunday: 28th March

8.00 am, service of Holy Communion in church (with usual Covid security - distancing, masks etc)

10.00 am, Zoomed service with shared reading of the Passion

6.00 pm, Zoomed **Stations of the Cross, led by Fr. Jeremy.**

Monday - Thursday of Holy Week

Church open for an hour daily for private prayer (times TBC) 9pm, daily, Zoomed Night Prayer

Maundy Thursday: 1st April,



7.30 pm, Holy Communion in church and zoomed (sadly no foot washing).

Watch until 10 pm. For those who wish to stay.

Prayer Stations in the front church garden, drop by to see

Reflective videos on our website, use at any time



Good Friday, 2nd April

1.30 - 3.00 pm At the foot of the Cross,
a service of reflection, music, reading and silence



Easter Day, 4th April

10.00 am, in church and zoomed Holy Communion, with
Blessing of the Easter garden and lighting of the
Paschal candle

NB: in-church places **MUST** be booked: sally514@btinternet.com

Messy Church: Messy Easter

Friday 9th April, 4-5pm
Zoom code and craft pack from
Rev. Sally

