May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15: 13 [NIV]
Mothers Union
Aim: To support MU members in serving their communities
Achieved:
- Members supported with bedding and kitchen utensils
- Training of 25 MU trainers from all over the Diocese.
- Successful Revolving Goat Loan project.
Challenges:
- To extend the MU support across Kivu diocese
- To work through the Gisenyi MU to help the most needy parts of the diocese

Butaka Parish Church
Aim: To provide a church in Butaka
Achieved:
- Building completed
- Worshipping community in church
Challenges:
- Fund windows, doors and flooring

Groupe Scolaire Secondary School
- Continuing to support needy students in Shyira

Primary Schools
Aim:
- To support school ministry by providing equipment, school materials and evangelistic outreach.

How YOU can help
See our website: http://www.shyiratrust.org.uk
Email us for further information: shyira-06@shyiratrust.org.uk
Donations may be sent to: Shyira Trust, Secretary: Ken Davies
53 Stapleton Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 2YT
Donate online: https://www.give.net/shyiratrust
Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/shyiratrust

Registered Charity Number 1118979
Dear Friends

What a difference a day makes! Or a week, or a month.... or even an hour in our current situation. Apologies - you will now be singing that song all day! But it’s true. Just before writing this I glanced through last month’s magazine on St Luke’s website. It seemed to have been produced in a different universe! It was all about activities, services, meetings (meetings - remember them?); it all seems a lifetime away. We are all trying to get used to the “new normal”, staying at home, only going out when absolutely necessary, and missing our friends and family. There’s only so much you can get from FaceTime.

And of course, as I write this, by the time you read it, everything could have changed again. Only yesterday my situation changed again as I received one of the dreaded letters from the NHS, advising me as a vulnerable person to remain at home at all times for the foreseeable future. No more Tesco, no more walk or cycle rides for exercise. My world just got smaller. (Hugh wants to know how sick one has to be to be excused shopping duties...)

So how are you coping with your own situation? There are several options. Some people are making the most of time at home and leave from work. Gardens have never looked so beautiful. Houses have never been so clean! Books to read, knitting to finish, and so much time to do it. Others, however, are finding it hard to settle in, trying to find ways around the restrictions, and some even defy the guidelines to break out of their isolation. Over 600 illegal parties in Greater Manchester last weekend - what part of “stay at home” did they not understand?

So what would be the best way to respond to the lockdown? And I’m assuming that as you read this we will still be in that state. Nothing much looks to be changing for the better from where I'm standing. Should we rail impatiently against the restrictions, or accept graciously? In the Bible we have a perfect example of someone who has a real understanding of our plight. The apostle Paul spent many years in various states of confinement, from house arrest in Rome at the end of Acts to being chained in a dark dungeon at the end of his life. He knew what it was like to be locked down, to be held back from doing the things you want to do, and the suffering that goes with imprisonment.

In retrospect, and from our point of view, Paul’s imprisonment was a good thing. Practically, a good part of the New Testament came as a result of Paul’s enforced inactivity. His letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon and the second letter to Timothy were all written while he was in prison. Had Paul been rushing about the Roman Empire, he might not have had the time to write these, and we might not have had the benefit of his teaching and experience. Perhaps being confined helped him to focus and put into words the truths he held dear.

________________________________________

Editor: Margaret Cooke (e-mail: macooke29@gmail.com)
Illustrator: Joan MacDonald
St. Luke’s Facebook Page: facebook.com/StLukesChurchFormby
But we also have his example of how to deal with unexpected circumstances. From what I can see, Paul never complained about his situation. Of course he often struggled with his position, and it’s hard to read the end of 2 Timothy without picking up the heartbreaking loneliness he was feeling as his life was drawing to its end. But he never blamed anyone, least of all God, for putting him in prison and for stopping him from continuing his missionary travels. On the contrary, he took every opportunity to continue the mission right where he was. It was while he was imprisoned in Philippi that the jailer himself came to Christ, with all his household, and who knows how many more through them? As Paul later wrote to the church in Philippi, “Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.”
Philippians 1:12-14 NIVUK

So lockdown need not necessarily be a bad thing. How will you use the time? Can we find ways of continuing our mission in this moment? We have certain advantages over Paul. Poor Timothy had to travel 400 miles each way to deliver each of Paul’s letters to the Thessalonians. We at least have phones and the internet! Will we emerge after our confinement richer or poorer for the experience? Can we use the time positively to grow our relationship with Christ and to further the gospel? Once again our verse for the year speaks into our situation:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 15:13 NIVUK

Every blessing
Anne Dixon

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REVD ROY BAKER IS CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST AT HOME DURING THE LOCKDOWN AND NATURALLY DID SO ON EASTER SUNDAY

‘The House of Bishops have again said that even in these difficult times the Eucharist should be celebrated in the parishes. So again on Sunday 4th I celebrated at home with Barbara being the congregation. Our prayers were for you all at St Luke’s with prayers especially for the Wardens and the good news about Steve Ginn (who has volunteered to take on Andrea’s role). Our prayers for him especially. For our A.P.C.M. (whenever that is held) and for those who need our prayers following the names that Phillip sends us. If anyone wants prayers please let me know and I will include them each Sunday at 10.am until the ban is lifted.

Love and prayers to you all. Roy’
TEAROOM – in her bulletin on Sunday April 5th Jean wrote “At this difficult time I thought you might like to know of one trauma you have all managed to miss. Today was the day that Gwyneth and I had in our diaries to be at both services and ‘cajole’ you into volunteering for the Tea Room. The thought of the Tea Room opening always brings mixed feelings, - somewhere between ‘Aaargh!!’ and ‘It will be fun’. It would be lovely to think that we could manage a few weeks in the late summer.”

DATES AND NOTES

Thanks to Steve Ginn who has agreed to help Peter Griffin until we can hold the APCM. We thank Andrea for her service as Churchwarden for the past two years. (note Andrea remains Churchwarden until the Annual Church Meeting)

STEVE GINN – PUTTING A FACE TO THE NAME

Steve Ginn has volunteered to assist Peter Griffin in his role as Church Warden until we can physically meet for our Annual Parish Church Meeting after ‘lockdown’ and elect new Church Wardens.

Steve has lived in Formby since 1997, having moved here with his work in the insurance sector. He is married to Carol, a primary school teacher and they have three grown up sons who flew the nest some years ago.

Steve became an elected member of the PCC in 2019 and is usually to be found at our 8.30am Sunday Service. He is a trustee of the Dove Centre in Formby and his interests include playing ‘walking football’.

Articles in the rest of this issue:-

Page 4 + 5 – Revd. Roy Baker’s article on “The God of the Shut Door”
Page 6 - Colin Trollope’s “Meditation”
Page 7, 8 and 9 - Ken Davies on HOPE.
Page 10 and 11 – John Philips (Formby Civic Society) on Liverpool 100 years ago.
Page 16 and 17 – PCC Notes
Page 20 David Moore on “Love and Soft Toys”

Parish Pump Articles

Page 20 – Holy Days
Page 21 – Crossword
Page 22 – Wordsearch - Page 23 - News
Page 24- Crossword Answers and Book Reviews
Page 25 – Mouse Makes
Sorry – you will need to print out pages 21, 22 and 25!
THE GOD OF THE SHUT DOOR!

If you go to St Paul’s Cathedral in London you will see a painting called ‘The Light of the World.’ It’s a Pre Raphaelite painting by Holman Hunt. In it you will see the figure of Jesus standing, lantern in hand, preparing to knock on an overgrown unopened door. The painting illustrates Revelation 3.20 ‘Behold I stand at the door and knock.’ The implication is an invitation to open the door which will change the lives of those who do so.

Doors are funny things. When you open them you expect to see what is on the other side. But not all doors are like that however and I speak of those other doors in life which are invisible and which to go through is sometimes to open up a completely different vista - which may or may not be to your liking. We have, I suspect, all gone through doors like that for good or ill, especially those which change lives. The door Jesus is knocking at in Holman Hunt’s painting is sometimes to be feared because change might be on the way.

So it’s all very well to open the door to the man with the lantern but it’s another thing when God becomes, as it were, the God of the shut door. Do I shock you? Often in life we hammer on that door and there seems to be no answer. It remains closed to our entreaties, even tears. Perhaps this side of the door has become unbearable. Even, it seems, prayer will not unlock that door. Again sometimes after going through a desired door which has opened we quickly want to get back and find it shut against us. The worst event of all is when one door shuts and another is slammed in your face as well! Ever had one of those? I have. God then can become the God of no answers. Often life is like that!

So what’s going on? Is this the way a priest should be talking about Holman Hunt’s great painting? Surely all will be well when we open the door to the man with the lantern? I take that painting very seriously but let me think outside the box for a moment. Now I take ‘Free Will’ very seriously as well. Not just for us as humans but for the whole of creation. When creation came into being at what science calls The Big Bang, God let it make its own way and watched its development without interfering with it. God would not have it as a Marionette Show with him pulling the strings, neither
would he have us as human puppets on his string. That’s where free will comes in with us given
the choice to open that door to the man with the lantern or to keep it shut. St Paul had it in a
nutshell when he said that ‘the whole creation has been groaning in pain until now,’ God is no bully.
We can accept or reject him but he’s not above a nudge now and again.

So back to those doors. I had a choice of two doors many years ago. I found that I had one door
shut tight against me. A door I did my damnedest to go through. The other door was wide open.
That is the door I eventually went through whilst I have often wanted to go back and try the handle
of the closed one! It is only in hindsight that these doors can be seen for what they have been. I
went through that open door sixty two years ago when a phone call was made for me to Church
House in London. I had been accepted for training for the ministry before I went into the army. Six
weeks later I was in Durham at The Bernard Gilpin Society – from there I went on to St Aidan’s
Theological College and then ordination.

I had opened that door to the man with the lantern! Deo Gratias!

Revd Roy Baker

SMILE LINES

Lesson - All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Rings - They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now - you call up and it rings and rings but nobody
answers.
MEDITATION - 1. A PRAYER:

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care,
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OR For those in isolation

God of compassion
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
Christ our Lord.
Amen

OR ONE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK PRAYER JUST FOR YOURSELF

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in
your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

2. A THOUGHT:

Do we become saved, or do we become well; that is the question no doubt in all our minds, so we must
simply trust in what He desires from each of us. “We who have taken refuge wish to be strongly
encouraged to seize the hope set before us. May we have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the
soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf,
has entered” (Hebrews 6:18B-20A)

3. MEDITATION:

This is a period of silence and contemplation for your own time of not more than half an hour.

4. YOUR OWN PRAYERS & A CLOSING PRAYER:

O, my God, may I rely on Your almighty power and infinite mercy with promises; I (and………..) hope
to obtain Your healing and protection, through your power and the everlasting merits of Your son,
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Colin Trollope

QUOTES

He who has the Holy Spirit in his heart and the Scriptures in his hands has all he needs. - A MacLaren

The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for
His people. - A W Tozer
HOPE

Since the very start of 2020 the word ‘hope’ has been my trusty companion, never out of my mind. Why, I began to wonder? Was it building up to something? Well, the coronavirus pandemic has truly answered my question. Hope, to me, has become the hidden driving force to recovery, despite the tragic loss of life along the way. Hope, it seems, came to me early this year. It had a purpose. I had no need to go looking for it. But is it hope alone that sustains us? Has prayer got anything to do with it? They both relate to something unseen and yet wished for. Maybe hope is more secular in meaning compared to prayer which is obviously religious. Romans 8 verses 24 and 25 (NRSV) read: For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

All Christians will testify that the Bible is the greatest book ever written. This belief is even shared by many of no Faith. Why should the latter be? I think it is because the Bible is not just a code for trying to achieve a righteous, contented and rewarding life, important as this may be, but also because it offers us hope for a better life and world through recovery from the endurance and suffering of sin, pain and death. This is never better illustrated than at Easter. The crucifixion and resurrection of our Saviour Lord, Jesus Christ, is the set stage for the forgiveness of our sins followed by the start of a new and better life. Easter Day is about hope and rebirth. The Bible thus becomes a book of hope, and through prayer and belief in God the Christian Faith takes root. People of no Faith don’t pray at all (or so they say) and don’t believe in any God, but they, like everyone else, largely conduct their lives in hope. A Faith is then allied to hope, related but distinct. A Faith (Christian or otherwise) relies heavily upon the legitimising tools of the written word and prayer to convert hope into reality.

On surfing the internet, as one does on doing a bit of research, the word hope appears on average about 150 times throughout both Testaments of the Bible, figures varying from one translation to the next. There are numerous verses in which it can be found, thus giving substance to it being regarded as a book of hope, and understandably helping to explain why it is loved by so many.

The Queen addressed the nation on 5th April and recommended that people of all Faiths and of no Faith pray and/or meditate during this strange time of social-distancing, isolation and lockdown. The Queen addressed the nation further (on radio) at Easter for the first time and ended with: “May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future”. Both were pleas to us all to find, through solace, the self-discipline needed to cope from day to day and to find collective strength as a nation to battle through the crisis. Being a pandemic, such actions apply to every country in the world. Collective prayer and meditation will strengthen our hope for a better tomorrow, a hope that could slowly translate into reality.

To hope for something can also be for something bad or negative of course, or maybe a kind of neutral hope along the lines of; ‘I hope things remain the same’. I must declare that the hope in the forefront of my mind over the past few months has been very much of the uplifting kind. I have prayed throughout this time during church intercessions and privately for a satisfactory outcome to Brexit, to all those adversely affected by the recent winter storms and floods, for St Luke’s PCC throughout our interregnum and now for us all worldwide as we combat the impact of Covid-19. Many others have prayed the same prayers during this period, and I do feel confident in saying that with all this symbiotically feeding collective prayer positive realities will soon materialise.
I also stated in one of my recent intercessions that ‘hope springs eternal’, a common phrase which most of us use from time to time. I was reminded again of it in late March when one of my friends was admitted to hospital with coronavirus. He texted me stating this very same message. On a less serious and more visible level I saw in a national newspaper at the end of March a picture of a new-born Highland calf born at Lyme Park in Cheshire (National Trust) whom they called ‘Hope’ – ‘a symbol of optimism in times of uncertainty’ the caption read. In early April, talking on the telephone to Maggie (one of our church members at St Luke’s), I was pleasantly surprised to learn that her Roumanian rescue dog was also called ‘Hope’. All were further examples of hope following me around. There are many in our fallen world that can lose hope altogether due to the pain and suffering they are experiencing. We may be talking about an individual who has given up the will to live through some incurable or terminal illness – the Pause for Hope service to show collective solidarity against cancer at St Peter’s last autumn, organised by Churches Together, was a welcomed opportunity for collective prayer and hope - or perhaps we think of a whole group of people like refugees struggling for a better life living every day in that hope. How did Jews (mainly) feel incarcerated in the Nazi concentration and death camps like Belsen and Auschwitz of World War II? What was their take on hope? A mixture of negative and positive to all degrees, I would guess, varying from individual to individual and within each individual from day to day.

Talking of isolation and lockdown, we were recently reminded in one of Jean Cox’s excellent daily bulletins to church members of her past visit to Anne Frank’s house in Amsterdam (now a museum in Prinsengracht), a visit I also made about 10 years ago. Anne, family and friends were undercover from the Nazis and Dutch collaborators for 25 months (765 days). The Diary of Anne Frank is a must read by the way. They had to have possessed a great deal of hope to survive undetected for as long as they did, despite the final outcome not being what they would have hoped and prayed for - no TV, no computers and no on-line shopping in those days. How would you have coped? Would hope through prayer have been your daily exercise?

One can look for symbols or signs of inspirational togetherness to lift our spirits and heighten our hope for better things to come. I am currently thinking of the nation coming together as one and publicly clapping every Thursday evening at 8.00pm in support of our magnificent NHS, lighted candles in windows on Sunday 22nd March at 7.00pm “as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished” (Archbishops’ suggestion), paintings of rainbows by children in windows, the idea from Bobby Bear (AKA Bob Wagstaff) of putting teddies/toys on window sills locally (now picked up by many), and not forgetting the many acts of kindness throughout the world shown to fellow human beings at this most difficult of times for humanity. Being an avid Liverpool fan I am thrilled to hear that our adopted anthem ‘You’ll Never Walk Alone’ (from the 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical Carousel and the Gerry and the Pacemakers version in 1963) is now also being adopted as the world wide anthem for all combating the coronavirus - hairs standing on the back of your neck, a lump in your throat and tears in your eyes epitomising hope in all its positive connotations and nuances through togetherness.
Our St Luke’s Bible verse for 2019 was Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV): *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.* The verse for 2020 followed on perfectly, Romans 15:13 (NIV): *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Hope is a welcome companion at present. My mate with coronavirus was discharged after 10 days in hospital. His message that ‘hope springs eternal’ had certainly rung true. If you have Faith, hope really is eternal, just like spring. Listen in the silence – the birds are not in lockdown – they are getting on with life, and very soon, so will we the world over. The power of prayer is eternal and must never be underestimated. We live in hope. We pray in hope. We die in hope. Stay with me, my trusty friend.

*Ken Davies*

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**TOP TEN SILLIEST QUESTIONS ASKED ON A CRUISE SHIP**
- Paul Grayson, Cruise Director for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

1. Do these steps go up or down?
2. What do you do with the beautiful ice carvings after they melt?
3. Which elevator do I take to get to the front of the ship?
4. Does the crew sleep on the ship?
5. Is this island completely surrounded by water?
6. Does the ship make its own electricity?
7. Is it salt-water in the toilets?
8. What elevation are we at?
9. There’s a photographer on board who takes photos and displays them the next day... the question was asked: ‘If the pictures aren't marked, how will I know which ones are mine?’
10. What time is the Midnight Buffet being served?

with acknowledgment to the Oldie magazine
LOOKING BACK AT LIVERPOOL A CENTURY AGO

We can’t actually remember what the centre of Liverpool looked like over a hundred years ago, of course, because there were none of us there to walk down the streets and be part of the bustling throng of shoppers, visitors and workers at that time. However, we do have wealth of old photos and maps from the time to provide food for our imagination and, when we are all able once again to spend our time freely and safely in the close company of others, we can pop into the modern-day centre to compare those very photos and maps with what we can see ourselves, adding into the mix our own memories of Liverpool centre in times past.

Let us take a virtual walk through the centre together and see what memories pop back to us and also open our eyes to some things we possibly did not know before. Today we need no bus, train or car – let our imaginations take us .....  

Let us today walk along Church Street. If we look closely at the buildings to enjoy some of the architectural features we normally fail to notice on shopping trips: how had they been used in previous times?

Those of us with longer memories of shopping in the city centre will surely remember how important and always crowded was the policeman-manned crossing of Church Street outside what used to be the Woolworth’s Store. How many people at a time crossed that busy thoroughfare whilst the Bobby’s gloved hand held up the traffic for us! The ‘snap’ from the 1950s may serve as a reminder of those days!
However, if we go back further in time we would have seen a very large and significant building standing back in its own grounds on the Woolworths site. The clues are in the name of the street – Church Street – and the small brass Maltese cross that can be found embedded in the pavement outside what had been the old Store. The cross signifies that this was once consecrated ground and the church was St. Peter’s Church, once the old pro-
cathedral of Liverpool before Bishop Chavasse arrived in the early 20th century and set about the task of having the vision of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral come to fruition – which it did eventually, though a long time later than foreseen at that time. St. Peter’s was eventually demolished in order to sell the land and raise funds for the new cathedral.

The photograph shows church and gardens, the building itself laid out parallel to Church Street. On the other side of the street can be seen one of Liverpool’s most iconic large stores, Marks and Spencer: originally, as can be seen, this was the grandiose Compton’s Hotel and can be seen in many photographs of the area at this time such as the coloured postcard from 1903 shown here that depicts a busy and lively thoroughfare.

John Phillips (Chair of Formby Civic Society)

(Ed. There will be a piece about the old Formby Chapel in the June issue).

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SMILE LINES

Lost in translation

Two American preachers were visiting in Germany and attended Sunday services. Since they couldn't speak German, they decided to do as the man sitting in front of them did.

A few minutes into the service the preacher from the pulpit said something and the man in front of them stood, and they stood also. The congregation burst into laughter. They then sat down when the man did.

At the end of the service, they met the pastor and found that he spoke English. They asked him why everyone laughed so much when they stood?

The pastor explained that he had announced that they would have a christening service that evening, and would the father of the child please rise.
WHO’S WHO

Vicar
Please speak to the Wardens during the Interregnum

Readers
Prof Allan Hobson
Mrs Anne Dixon
Mrs Jean Watts

Readers emeritus
Mr Colin Trollope
Mr Chris Mulford

Churchwardens
Mr Peter Griffin
Mrs Andrea Brown

Assistant Churchwarden
Mr Steve Ginn

Deputy Churchwardens
Mrs Ann Wood
Mr John McGibbon

Treasurer
Mr Hugh Dixon

Deputy Treasurer
Mrs Gwyneth Croft

PCC Secretary
Mrs Christine Payne

Electoral Roll Officer
Mrs Jean Cox

Deanery Synod Representatives
Mr James Patterson
Mrs Chris Payne
Mr Andrew Cox

Weekly Envelope Scheme and Gift Aid
Mrs Rachel Patterson

Legacy Officer
Mr John McGibbon

Parish Hall Secretary and Meeting Room Secretary
Mrs Gwyneth Croft

Newsletter Editor
Mrs Irene Powell

Magazine Editor
Mrs Margaret Cooke (Contributions to Margaret by 10th of the month please by e-mail if possible – see Page 1)

Assistant Editor
Mr Ken Davies

Magazine Distribution
Mr Colin Cooke

Magazine Adverts
Mrs Margaret Cooke

Church and Churchyard Maintenance
Mr Allan Worthington

Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Joyce Eddlestone

Health & Safety Officer
please see wardens

Woodland Workshop Co-ordinator
Mr Peter Griffin

Scripture Union Bible Notes and Alpha organiser
Mrs Rhona Heron

Cathedral Representative
Mrs Elizabeth Lowe

Church Mission Society and Mid-Africa Mission
Mrs June McGibbon

Children’s Society Boxes
Mrs Rachel Patterson
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TowerHeating.com

Page 14
Range High School had planned a collection of non-perishable food and other essential non-food items in aid of the Southport Soup Kitchen and related needy families throughout Lent. No sooner had staff and pupils begun to donate when COVID-19 struck and the school closed. But, all was not lost, as organiser and Head of RE, Caroline Bridge, was willing to resume the collection of donations in support of the Kitchen when things returned to normal. Caroline, on perusal of their website (www.southportsoupkitchen.wordpress.com) noted that money donations were also accepted to help with deposits on accommodation and fuel bills, topping up with food supplies for guests and collecting other supplies for needy families in the local area. The Soup Kitchen is a registered charity and all staff working there are voluntary. They have no salaried staff. Caroline was willing to email Range staff to encourage on-line money donations via details taken from the Soup Kitchen website – money donations being especially welcome during Lent and throughout the time of the virus whilst the Kitchen remains closed. By early April Caroline reported that many staff had done so.

We, on behalf of the Southport Soup Kitchen, pass on their grateful thanks to the staff and pupils at Range, and to Caroline particularly, for what they are doing for those in great need at this difficult time. Caroline in turn sends her best wishes and prayers to everyone at St Luke’s and at the Soup Kitchen.

From the Southport Soup Kitchen website, ways to donate money are:

**Cheque** – payable to Southport Soup Kitchen and sent to Secretary, Mrs P Liddiard at 20 Ince Crescent, Formby, L37 1XR.

**Bank Transfer** – Sort Code 16-32-10 Account Number 10448035.

**PayPal.**

**Just Giving page** – https://justgiving.com/southport-soupkitchen

Further contacts for Southport Soup Kitchen are:

Postal Address: 75 London Street, Southport, PR9 0TX.

Email: southportsoupkitchen@gmail.com

Facebook: @southportsoupkitchen

The above was written in early April, so let’s pray that by the time you read it in our May online magazine the landscape will have changed for the better with regard to overcoming this deadly coronavirus. However, don’t forget, the Southport Soup Kitchen will eventually reopen and donations, money or otherwise, will continue to be needed.

Ken Davies
ROUND UP OF PCC NEWS

PCC meeting March 12

The last meeting of the PCC before the "lockdown" took place on March 12. This was the Section 12 Meeting, attended by the Archdeacon, Pete Spiers, and Area Dean, Anne Taylor, at which our Parish Profile was formally approved and the process for appointing a new vicar agreed. However, this will now be subject to delay because of the current restrictions on meetings.

PCC meeting March 23

This meeting was cancelled, but the PCC were updated on ongoing matters, including:

- Future lettings for the Parish Hall.
- Maintenance work required in the church and grounds.
- Guidance from the Diocese during the lockdown period.
- Impact on finances of the current restrictions; there will be a reduction in rental income, loss of income from the Tea Room and other activities and loss of cash donations. There will be no significant reduction in expenses as the main expense is the Parish Share paid to the diocese to cover the costs of ministry.
- Appreciation for the work undertaken by Andrew and Jean Cox in setting up daily bulletins and telephone trees to keep in touch with the congregation during the period of self-isolation.

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was scheduled to take place on April 23, but has been postponed until the restrictions have been lifted. The key items which are normally dealt with at this meeting are:

- Presentation of Annual Accounts for the year to 31 December 2019, previously approved by PCC.
- Presentation of the Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2019.
- Reading of PCC approved Safeguarding Statement.
- Election of Church Wardens.
- Election of PCC members.

The key numbers from the Annual Accounts have been summarised separately.

The Annual Report has been prepared and approved by PCC.

PCC members will remain in office until an APCM is held. However, as previously reported in the magazine, one of our two Church Wardens, Andrea Brown, was to have stood down at the APCM; for the time being, her duties will be delegated to Stephen Ginn.
Other matters

The PCC are dealing with the day to day administration of the church by email. The following important issues have been dealt with:

- The magazine will be produced in an electronic format whilst the restrictions are in place, and published on the church web site.
- All of the church buildings, including the vicarage, will be regularly inspected and routine maintenance work in the buildings and grounds undertaken as required.
- The Diocese of Liverpool has appealed for churches to pay Parish Share in advance and the PCC have agreed to pay three months’ in advance now and take a three month payment holiday in the autumn.
- Payments direct into the church bank account, Collection or for the Lent Project would be good at this time. Details from Hugh Dixon.

Summary of Annual Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary giving</td>
<td>83,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees (wedding and funerals)</td>
<td>5,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea room profit</td>
<td>10,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other church income - meeting room lettings fund raising events, interest</td>
<td>5,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church hall surplus</td>
<td>3,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines sales net of cost of covers</td>
<td>1,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>109,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish share</td>
<td>-7,6014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable donations from General Fund</td>
<td>-8,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other church running costs</td>
<td>-21,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for year</td>
<td>3,401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The church had cash reserves for general purposes of £84,864 at 31 December 2019.

In addition, the Lent Project raised £2,700 which was split between projects in Rwanda and South America.
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LOVE AND SOFT TOYS

‘If you could go down to our streets today, you’d better go in disguise.’

This parody of the old children’s song, and the lack of folks in the streets, has not stopped people expressing hope and love in many ways. One of those ways is by the proliferation of soft toys being displayed in windows.

Like so many of us, I have been so grateful to Jean Cox for her informative bulletins, which have kept us in touch with events leading up to and over the Easter period. It was good too, to read of some of the different toys being displayed. This weary old correspondent just had to join in, and on Palm Sunday, Freddie, the white bear I have, was placed in my front window.

Trouble was, he kept falling backwards, and he needed to be propped up. Now Freddie’s friend Mr Frosty occupies the window space over the Christmas period, and he has a small plastic chair to sit on. As Mr Frosty is currently having his summer hibernation, it just meant a climb into the loft to borrow his chair. I’m sure he doesn’t mind.

That certainly did the trick, and Freddie sits proudly watching for any passing children. He was even more proud to be given a Palm Cross to hold during his stay.

Dear readers, you might be interested to know that this particular Palm Cross came from West Yorkshire in 2017. I was on one of my steam train excursions and this trip included the Worth Valley line from Keighley to Haworth. Many readers will know Haworth in the Bronte country, and I pitched up there on Palm Sunday. After negotiating the steep main street, I found the Bronte Parish Church. In I went, and found a quiet pew. It was quite busy. After sitting awhile, I offered up a prayer, which I hoped was fitting. Then I left, but not before I had given a donation and collected a Palm Cross.

Just to complete my story a bit more, you might like to know how I came by Freddie. When my wife and I went to collect our Land Rover Freelander from a dealer near Garstang, Freddie was sitting in the back seat wearing his seat belt, and waiting to go. Well, you don’t look a gift bear in the mouth, and he came home to join his pals.

Freddie did do one thing for me from his window seat. He told me the window needed cleaning! Hey Ho. Pray for a fine day.

Ed – You got plenty of those, David – so no excuses! I need to do the same!
8th May - Julian of Norwich, A Voice from a Distant Cell

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian’s, Norwich was the church where she had her ‘cell’.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of ‘Julian Groups’ who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practice.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a ‘saint’. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is ‘All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.’ These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

24th May - The Hymns of the Wesleys

Later this month the Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John’s great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He actually wrote over 6,000, most of which aren’t sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – ‘Love divine, all loves excelling’, ‘O for a thousand tongues to sing’. ‘Jesu lover of my soul’, ‘Hark the herald angels sing’ – and scores more.

40 years ago almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that’s no longer true. Traditional hymns aren’t usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for ‘Songs of Praise’ on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are over 50.

With only about ten per cent of the population even irregular church-goers there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is ‘Jerusalem’ and ‘Amazing Grace’, because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing ‘Bread of heaven’! It seems a pity to lose it.

It’s not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think about what is your favourite hymn, and why – ancient or modern doesn’t matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience!

*Canon David Winter on the Parish Pump website*
CROSSWORD

Across
1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
2 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
3 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
4 Group of eight (5)
5 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
6 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
7 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord’s Table (4,9)
8 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
9 Attend to (3,2)
10 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
11 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
12 Rule of sovereign (8)
13 Test (anag.) (4)

Down
1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
3 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
4 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
5 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
6 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
7 Minister of religion (6)
8 'I am — of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
9 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
10 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
11 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
12 Establish by law (5)
13 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

SMILE LINES – Why Jesus walked on water

A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. “Goodness,” he objected to the travel agent. “In England it would not have been more than £20.”

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder He walked."
This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We encouraged our 18-year-old daughter to find a job to help pay for her college education. One day she came home with five applications, and later that evening we read them. Under ‘Previous Employment’, she listed ‘Babysitting’. And under ‘Reason for Leaving’ she wrote, ‘They came home’.
NEWS ABOUT CHARITIES STILL WORKING AROUND THE WORLD

Toybox – still helping the street children

Toybox, the Christian charity which helps street children, has issued a recent statement to explain how the current crisis is affecting their work.

“Street children are particularly susceptible to contracting the virus. The two things that best prevent the spread are the two things that street children will find most difficult: practising good hygiene and social distancing. And both require a home.

“Our partners are working with their governments to ensure that street children have access to shelters and healthcare, although social distancing in shelter environments will be extremely difficult. Also, partners are trying to protect street children from being prosecuted, simply for being homeless.”

So far, Toybox has made the following progress:

In Nepal, our partner CWIN produced child-friendly essential information about where to go for help. In Guatemala, our partner trained street children on how to protect themselves from coronavirus, and where to go for help. In Bolivia, our partner provided hygiene kits for street children and vulnerable families. In India, our partner created a phone tree to maintain regular contact with their street children. For more details, go to: www.toybox.org.uk

MAF – STILL FLYING TO BRING HELP TO THE ISOLATED

‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea…’ Psalm 46:1,2

“In this time of great uncertainty, at MAF UK we have felt God draw us to these precious verses from Psalm 46, and I wanted to remind you of them now.” So writes Ruth Whitaker, CEO of MAF-UK.

“With 75 years of pioneering mission to the remotest places on earth, we know so well how isolation can threaten human development, physical health and spiritual freedom. It is strange to think that many of us in the UK will be experiencing the isolation MAF has been flying to overcome across the developing world for decades.

“As an organisation, our vision to help the most isolated is driving us through this storm. We are maintaining flight operations to reach isolated people in need.

“Internationally, MAF is experiencing changes to flying across many of our operations. Each programme is compiling input from MAF’s Immediate Response Teams, who are very experienced at tackling crisis situations. Tailored actions are being crafted for each country where we work to make sure our staff are protected and the needs of the most vulnerable are met.”

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QUOTES FOR OUR TIMES:-
If God sends us on stony paths, He gives us strong shoes. - Corrie Ten Boom (Dutch writer)
The word ‘comfort’ is derived from the words ‘con’ and ‘fort’, meaning ‘with strength’. Jesus said that if we mourn, we shall be comforted. Behind the promise of his word lies the resurrection of Jesus Christ, where total defeat was turned into glorious victory. - Sherwood Wirt
CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham’s faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

BOOK REVIEWS

Anxious Times – positive help for those facing uncertainty
By Carmel Thomason, BRF, £4.99

A book of 24 undated reflections drawing on a range of relevant Bible passages to offer genuine hope and encouragement in anxious times. Encompassing the very human emotions of fear and anxiety, the reflections encourage us to draw comfort and strength from God’s Word even in those times when He seems silent to us. This book acknowledges that trust and hope in God’s goodness doesn’t always come easily, but when embraced we gain the strength to face our fear with courage and confidence.

Suffering – Gospel Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense
By Paul David Tripp, Crossway, £9.99

Sometimes life doesn't make sense. When death, illness, unemployment, or a difficult relationship challenges everything we thought we knew, we can feel utterly unprepared to cope.

Best-selling author Paul David Tripp weaves together his personal story, years of counselling experience, and biblical insights to help us in the midst of suffering, identifying six traps to avoid—including doubt, discouragement, and denial—and six comforts to embrace—including God’s presence, God’s people, and God’s grace.

This raw yet hope-filled book will empower readers to cling to God’s promises when trials come and then move forward with the hope of the gospel.

SMILE LINES

Good view

At his wife’s insistence, a man purchased a home on a hilltop in a very exclusive section of the community. “I’ll bet there is quite a view from way up there,” said his friend enviously.

“Yes,” replied the homeowner in a resigned manner. “On a clear day you can see the bank that holds the mortgage.”
"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"

Mouse Makes

How many other words can you find using the letters from: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

Which symbol goes with which fruit?

LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP GOODWILL • GENEROSTITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE SELF CONTROL • RERAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

Read Galatians 5:13-26

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