

Shoreline

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Shoreham Beach

May 2020

50p





**The church doors might be closed but we are
still running regular services online.**

Join us during lockdown on the internet!

Sundays 10am

Holy Communion with Sermon

Tuesdays 9.30am

Holy Communion with Sermon

Thursdays 7pm

Celtic Evening Prayer

Fridays 8am

Meditation with Morning Prayer

**For details about how to join our online worship visit
www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk**

First Thoughts

Revd Peter takes inspiration from an old photo and a good deed done

“Dib, Dib, Dib!” The other day I came across an old photograph – there I was, about 10 years old, in my Wolf Cub uniform. Though the picture was in black and white, I can still feel the green pullover and the blue and yellow neckerchief symbolising the pack to which I belonged. I have to say that I had beautiful knees, but very few badges.

It brought back memories of rituals and rules long gone, and of friendships and skills well remembered. It also made me think of “Bob-a-Job Week” when we had to try to do some good deed and ask neighbours and relatives to pay for the experience. It was an extension of the principle that we should always try to do at least one good deed every day.

I would not want to resurrect “Bob-a-Job Week”, (“5p-a-Job anyone?”) but the aim to do something good each day seems to me still to be admirable. To be expecting and looking for the opportunity to help someone, to increase the quantity of goodness in the world – that surely is a laudable criterion by which to live our lives. “Do not grow tired of doing good.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

Now of course we can argue about what “good” is, and belief in God involves believing in an absolute goodness of which we know only in part and quite often misconstrue. Moreover, for good to be done, there has to be a recipient, and there is always the danger that one person’s good deed is another’s unwarranted interference.

Accepting a good deed from someone involves a great deal of grace and patience, and there is a sense that obeying the rule of life which seeks to do good everyday also involves being willing gratefully and genuinely to accept the kind action.

As a Wolf Cub, it was all much more straightforward. But even given all the caveats and qualifications, and sensitivities required, I would put before you the old Cub rule and ask you to give it a go. In today’s dark days more than ever, we do need to overcome evil with good. So, here’s this month’s daily question for us all – me as well: *“What did I do today which made the world a kinder, safer, more loving, more peaceful place?”*

Peter Wolfenden

A poem which speaks to us across the centuries

This poem was in a local parish magazine. It was believed to have been written by an Irish-French Catholic writer, Kathleen O'Meara (Dublin 1839 – Paris 1888), who also wrote under the pen name of Grace Ramsay, and is to be found in her novel *Iza's Story*, set against the background of the Polish struggle against the occupation and partition of their country in various stages by Russia, Austria and Prussia from 1772 onwards. She compares the Polish-Russian situation to the Irish-British situation. I am struck at how pertinent it is in the current situation.

Judy

And people stayed home and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

Coping with Lockdown

A series of reflections on how to cope with anxiety and loneliness in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, including simple Christian meditation techniques and five tips, have been published by the Church of England.

Actions that could help people feeling isolated or worried, as well as those who grieve, are put forward in a new guide *Supporting Good Mental Health*, written by Durham University academic Revd Professor Chris Cook with Ruth Rice, director of the Christian mental health charity 'Renew Wellbeing'.

The booklet gives advice ranging from putting aside time to rest, to using the phone and the internet to reach those who may be struggling on their own. Making a list of all the good things – and people – that you miss when you are on your own and thanking God for them, can be a way of coping with loneliness.

Simple prayers can be said repeatedly to help deal with stress, the booklet says, and lighting a candle, where safe, can be a helpful form of prayer for some people.

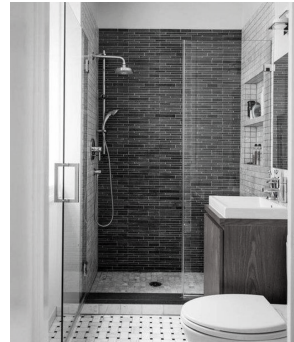
Quotations from the Bible can be a useful aid to meditation and calming fears, including writing down and repeating short passages.

A phrase such as Psalm 18:1 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer' could be chosen for each week and used as background for a mobile phone as a 'go to' thought when someone is anxious.

It also suggests repeating a simple phrase from the Psalms such as Psalm 4:8 'I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety,' to help calm the mind for sleep.

The Rt Revd James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle and the Church of England's lead bishop on health and social care, said: "For some time now the issues of loneliness and isolation have been identified as major problems within our society. The coronavirus pandemic will only create further challenges in this respect. So it is vital that we do all we can as a church to protect people's mental wellbeing.

"My prayer is that as many people as possible are able to draw upon these new resources over the coming weeks and months."



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Celtic Evening Prayer

Revd Jane is leading evening prayer online every Thursday at 7pm using Zoom.

During Holy Week this year I had to come up with something extremely quickly online to replace our three evening services that we would usually have offered as Lent groups.

I turned to our Celtic Evening Prayer liturgy, which we have been using each Thursday at the Church of the Good Shepherd for some years - thanks mostly to Liz Beeston for keeping it going. It's a lovely simple liturgy and and in the charism of the Celtic church, has a deep valuing of creation.

I decided to continue with the service beyond Holy Week as it seems to be a good way for us to gather and connect up in prayer.

I have begun to additionally include time within the prayer to go through the Examen together. For those who do not know, the Examen is a form of prayer that was developed 500 years ago by St Ignatius of Loyola. He recommended the Examen as a daily practice and a way of taking spiritual stock of the day.

During the Examen, in silence, we look back on the day we have just lived and reflect on the blessings we have received, giving thanks. St Ignatius believed that gratitude was among the highest of virtues. We also consider the

parts of the day that didn't go well: when we were hurt or when we made a mistake.

The prayer has the power to stir up praise and thanksgiving in us, which is helpful at this time, when we might find ourselves in a place of sadness and struggle.

There are different ways of praying the Examen. I am using a version that has five movements to the prayer, helpfully all beginning with the letter 'R'.

1. Readyng – we centre ourselves so that we are present to our prayer.
2. Request – we ask that God is with us to guide us in our prayer.
3. Review of the day – the invitation is for us to replay our day, noticing what blessings we received, both big and small. We relish all we have received and give thanks.
4. Repent – we go back through the day noticing what didn't go well. We ask for healing if there were any hurts. We ask for forgiveness if we made any mistakes or fell short.
5. Resolve – we look forward to the day to come, and ask for the graces we might need to live it well.

The service ends by 7.30pm and includes one of the set lectionary readings for Evening Prayer. We are a growing group that gathers together on the Zoom platform – this means we can see each other and also speak when sharing a time of open prayer. If you would like to join us, email me for the Zoom link. Alternatively, you might want to join us privately at home and be with us in spirit. In the words of Ignatius: ‘Whatever you are doing, that which makes you feel the most alive...that is where God is.’



Celtic Evening Prayer

Thursdays at 7pm

Meeting on Zoom

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Christian Aid Week — 10th to 16th May

In this month's *ShoreLine*, I would usually be reporting on the success of the Big Brekkie last Saturday. I would be encouraging people to take the last roads to cover on Shoreham Beach with the envelopes for Christian aid Week 2020.

With the situation as it is, we have all had to change our ways of communicating. Christian Aid Week 2020 has

come up with some innovative ways of raising our awareness of the needs of those in the poorest parts of the world especially at this time of the pandemic: virtual fundraisers.

At <https://omhb.eu/caw2020> you will find a link to an e -Envelope which you should be able to open and share with others. There is a direct link for donations in it: no more knocking on doors! Well, not this year, anyway. All the donations will be recorded against our Church's Christian Aid group number.

You will also find links to opportunities for daily prayer and live daily reflections from Christian Aid staff and partners overseas there, too.

Stay safe and well during these difficult times and we look forward to a delayed Big Brekkie in the autumn. Watch this space.

Jill Charlish
(Christian Aid coordinator)



The life of Revd Streete

Barry Ward has been delving into the past of the church, and has found that our sixth vicar was quite a character...

We have had some very interesting and dedicated priests that have served the Good Shepherd in the last 100 years. I have always been interested in the people that have left a mark on this church.

With a little time on my hands now, I decided to investigate the life of one of these, Revd E A Streete, COGS priest number 6.

Ernest A Streete took over from Gerald Engelbach in 1927 and was Priest for 3 years.

Born 10th December 1884, the only son of Charles and Susan Streete, in Stanmore, Middlesex — close to the present-day Heathrow Airport.

Ernest was baptised at the age of 18 in Leyton, Essex, studied and was ordained.

I have not found out where he served from then until the 1920s when he left to take up a post in South America and became the Archdeacon of Santiago, Chile. He

returned to the UK in 1925 to be the Vicar of Shoreham Beach.

Banned during the banns

One of the most unusual events in his career happened in his last year at COGS. The front page of the *Littlehampton Gazette* of Friday, 24th January 1930 announced. “Marriage Forbidden: Bungalow Town Congregation Startled”:

“I forbid the marriage!”

“The Congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Bungalow Town, were shocked and startled on Sunday morning when a white-haired man rose from his pew and uttered these words after the banns of marriage of two parishioners had been read.

The Priest in charge (Rev. Ernest Streete) quietly announced that his Warden would inquire into the impediment. He then left the chancel; three minutes later he returned and announced: “I am satisfied that the impediment is just. The ceremony will not take place.”

The objection was made by a brother-in-law of the woman. In the banns, which were being called for the third time, the man was described as a widower; but inquiries in the district on the Saturday led to the objection being made.

We can only speculate as to the reasons why the objection was raised.

I asked Tony Thompson if anything like this had ever happened to him during his long ministry. He told me that it hadn't, but the procedures that Ernest had employed would be used today if this situation was to occur.

Leaving Shoreham

Obviously, this was too much excitement for poor Ernest, and he left Shoreham Beach to take



up a position in Staines, Middlesex, close to where he was born.

In World War II, he was Chaplain to the Air Raid Police in the area, as well as vicar.

In 1952 he moved back to Sussex and became Vicar of St Nicholas, Bramber and St Peter's, Upper Beeding.

He made the press again in 1964, this time the *New York Times*!

The Rector's Curse

"London Jan 6 – A West Sussex rector who pronounced a curse on the Church Vandals yesterday withdrew it after the damaged was repaired overnight.

The Rev. Ernest Streete, Anglican rector of St Nicholas Church, Bramber, had directed his curse against those who had desecrated Church graveyard. Standing at the altar of the 900-year old Church during his Sunday service he raised his arms and said:

"I pronounce a curse on those who touch God's acre in this Churchyard. May their days be of anguish and sorrow, and may God have mercy on their souls."

This morning, after it was discovered that crosses and angels' heads had been replaced on the gravestones, Rev. Streete said:

"I shall withdraw the curse. I think it had a psychological effect. It needed a

firm hand. The congregation was very glad I did it, they are all behind me."

A spokesman for the Church of England said, however, that the 76-year-old rector "was not performing any official act within the framework of the Church service. It appeared to be an action on his own initiative and the Bishop was looking into it."

This was not the first time he had pronounced a curse. Thieves that rifled a church money box were cursed by Revd Streete when he was rector in Ashford, Middlesex 20 years before.

The money was returned anonymously soon after.

The Rector's Retirement

Ernest retired not long after the *NYT* report and remained in the area. He died in 1973 and is buried in St Peter's churchyard, Upper Beeding together with his wife, Maud.

If anyone can fill in any gaps in the life of this extraordinary man, please contact me.

Barry Ward

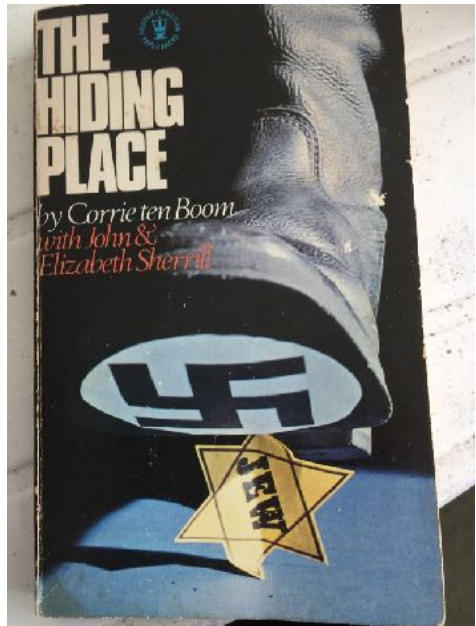
Book review: *The Hiding Place*

Having run out of new books to read during these weeks of lockdown, I was sorting through my bookshelves and came across a book I had first read many years ago: *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom.

It tells the harrowing tale from World War II of courage and faith of two elderly Dutch sisters, whose strong Christian faith and compassion led them to shelter and hide Jews escaping from persecution by the Nazis. They were then betrayed and imprisoned themselves, which made me see our present situation in a new perspective.

Corrie's ability, by the Grace of God, to forgive even the harshest of the guards she came across in the concentration camps was so humbling.

Corrie ten Boom and her sister had a vision of life after the war when folk would need healing and restoration and how life could be different. This echoes many of our thoughts at this present time. How do we use this experience to build a better future? What is God calling us to do?

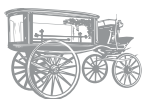


Now to sort some more books out and find something to read! Perhaps something lighter like the lovely books Sally's daughter-in-law Liz Eeles writes?

Ah, yes: *Annie's Lovely Choir by the Sea*.

Perfect!

Sheila Powell



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A Colourful Day



“This social isolation,” said Noah to his wife,
“I know is keeping us all safe but leading to some strife.
Our sons, their wives, birds, animals, all in one ark together
Plus forty days and nights of rain, no let-up in the weather.”

“I’ve tried to keep the peace among my three sons and their wives,
Birds, animals as well are keen to get on with their lives.
I said to God, ‘I will remain through this your great supporter.’
and told them all that without God we’d all be under water.”

The flood went down, they landed upon Mount Ararat,
But floods still on the land below kept them just where they sat.
So Noah sent a raven out and then a dove to scout,
if it was safe to leave the ark, and get out and about.

The dove came back a second time with a fresh olive leaf,
Another week the ground was dry, they all sighed with relief.
God said, to Noah, “Leave the ark, get off two-by-two
Take all the birds and animals, your family with you.”

“This is a colourful day, so I will make a sign to please the eye
A range of lovely colours, a rainbow in the sky.
Look up and see a sign of peace alighting with a dove;
Look for the rainbow in the rain, a symbol of my love.”

Caroline Hansen

I'm staying home, Lord

*A poem courtesy of
Christian Art Today*

A beautiful prayer written by an Italian priest who was self-isolating and very sadly lost his own brother to Covid-19.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And today, I realise, you taught me this, remaining obedient to the Father, for thirty years in the house of Nazareth, waiting for the great mission.

I stay at home, Lord, and in Joseph's studio, your keeper and mine, I learn to work, to obey, to round the corners of my life and prepare you a work of art.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And I know that I am not alone because Mary, like any mother, is in the next room, doing chores and preparing lunch for all of us, God's family.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And I do it responsibly for my own good, for the health of my city, for my loved ones, and for the good of my brother, whom you have put beside me, asking me to take care of him in the garden of life.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the silence of Nazareth, I pledge to pray, to read, study, meditate, be useful for small jobs, in order to make our home more beautiful and more welcoming.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the morning, I thank you for the new day you

give me, trying not to spoil it and welcome it with wonder, as a gift and an Easter surprise.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And at noon I will receive the greeting of the angel, I will make myself useful for love, in communion with you who have made you flesh to live among us; and, tired of the journey, thirsty, I will meet you at Jacob's well, and thirsty for love on the Cross.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And if the evening takes me melancholy, I will invoke you like the disciples of Emmaus: stay with us, the evening has arrived and the sun sets.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And in the night, in communion of prayer with the many sick, the lonely and all the caregivers, I will wait for the dawn to sing your mercy again and tell everyone that, in the storms, you have been my refuge.

I'm staying at home, Lord! And I don't feel alone and abandoned, because you told me: I'm with you every day. yes, and especially in these days of confusion, O Lord, in which, if my presence is not necessary, I will reach everyone, only with the wings of prayer.

Amen

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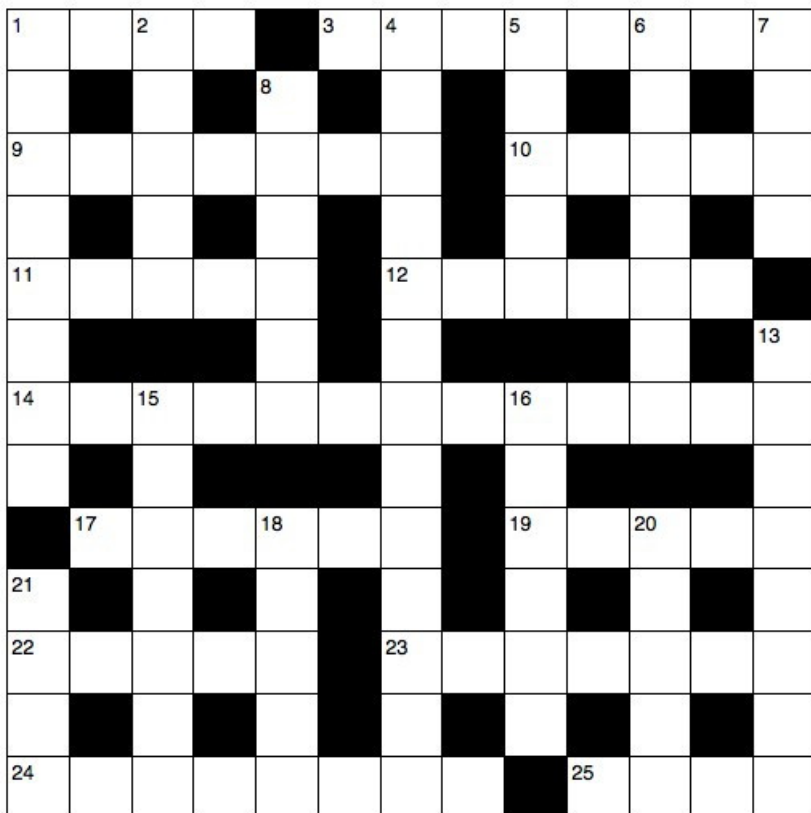
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Across

1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one

another' (Romans 14:13) (4)

3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)

9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)

10 Group of eight (5)

11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)

12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)

14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)

17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)

19 Attend to (3,2)

22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)

23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)

24 Rule of sovereign (8)

25 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)
4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
8 Minister of religion (6)

- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
20 Establish by law (5)
21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

*For answers to this crossword —
see page 25.*

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Both St Paul and the Beatles remind us of the power and eternity of love.

Revd Tony Graham, formerly theological advisor to Christian Aid, told me that Saint Augustine wrote, of the three theological virtues faith, hope and love, hope is the greatest.

Augustine said:

"Faith only tells us that God is and love only tells us that God is good but hope tells us that God will work God's will."

And then Augustine writes immediately that hope has two lovely daughters, anger and courage. Anger so that what must be may not be. And courage so that what can be will be.

My friends at Christchurch in Worthing recently told me the story about **The Four Candles** [No, not those 4 candles!]

The Tale of the Four Candles

Four candles slowly burned; the ambience was soft, one could almost hear them talking...

The first candle said: "I am Peace – the world is full of anger and fighting, nobody can keep me lit", then the flame of peace went out completely.

All you need is...?

The second candle said: "I am Faith, I am no longer indispensable, it doesn't make sense that I stay lit another moment."

Just then a breeze softly blew out Faith's flame.

Sadly, the third candle began to speak: "I am Love. People don't understand my importance so they simply put me aside; they even forget to love those who are nearest to them."

And waiting no longer, Love's flame went out.

Suddenly, a child entered the room and saw the three unlit candles. "Why aren't you burning? You're supposed to stay to the end!"

Saying this, the child began to cry.

Then the fourth candle answered: "Don't be afraid, I am Hope, and while I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles."

With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

"The greatest of these is Love" but...

The flame of Hope should never go out of your life! With Hope, each of us can live with Peace, Faith and Love.

With prayer, faith, love and hope,

Derek



Brian's Quiz Corner

CoGS's own quizmaster Brain Wheeler has another challenge...

The CATE quiz: All one word answers which contain the letters CATE in sequence

- 1 Make conversation or speak with someone
- 2 Make something difficult
- 3 Award for a winner
- 4 Die from lack of air or inability to breathe
- 5 Express opinions in a pompous way
- 6 Make a formal judgment in a disputed matter
- 7 Give up position as King or Queen
- 8 To give something as someone share
- 9 Without exceptions or conditions
- 10 Provide food and drink at a party
- 11 Devote time and effort to a particular purpose
- 12 Disturb the position of a bone in a joint
- 13 Teach
- 14 Easily damaged or broken
- 15 Find

Think you've got them all? Email your answers to brianwheeler1944@gmail.com



April Answers

1. Absence makes the heart grow fonder 2. Actions speak louder than words 3. All good things must come to an end 4. All's fair in love and war 5. All's well that ends in well 6. All that glitters is not gold 7. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy 8. Any port in a storm 9. Ask no questions and be told no lies 10. Any port in a storm 11. Ask no questions and be told no lies 12. Bad news travels fast 13. Beggars can't be choosers 14. Better late than never 15. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush 16. Birds of a feather flock together 17. Blood is thicker than water 18. Boys will be boys 19. Charity begins at home 20. Children should be seen and not heard 21. Christmas comes but once a year 22. Cleanliness is next to Godliness 23. The course of true love never runs smooth 24. Cut your coat according to your cloth 25. The darkest hour is just before the dawn

Shoreline

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If you would like further information on the Church of England and its beliefs, please use the 'Useful Links' on the back cover.

The magazine is also available as a PDF file on the church website: the address is on the back cover.

Any and all contributions are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor by the 15th of each month. Contributions should ideally be as a Word or rtf file. Please send to the editor's e-mail above.

For advertising requirements, please contact Trish Holme direct on the above telephone number or email address. Advertising copy deadline is the 15th of each month for inclusion the following month.



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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.

Final Thoughts

As I write this, we may be approaching the end of this phase of lockdown.

The Prime Minister, now recovered from Covid-19, as some of our community have done, is

expected to address the nation to point our way forwards.

However, it is forwards to a new world, and not back to the old one. The adaptations we have made in the past couple of months will still be needed. And, until we can all gather in CoGS once again, it's a blessing to be able to meet safely, when we can, however we can.

From telephone calls to pre-recorded services, to Eucharists delivered over Facebook Live and whole services over Zoom, we've found new ways to stay a church, even when we can't gather physically together in God's name.

Ironically, because of that, this is one of my favourite issues of *ShoreLine* to date. The current time



of crisis has set free a burst of creativity and it is lovely to share an issue that is bursting with the art of the church, and almost completely without the business of schedules and rotas.

While I do look forward to the day when there's a rota to put in the middle pages again, and it *will* come one day, I'm doing my best to learn from my daughters. Hazel said yesterday that she doesn't want lockdown to end. She's loving being at home, and having her parents around full time.

But I know this is much harder for many. Please do reach out if you are struggling or lonely.

Adam

Don't forget to visit our church website

www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk

Like the church page on Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdshoreham/>

Mailing List

Keep up to date with everything going on at the Church of the Good Shepherd by signing up for our new weekly email.

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Cover Image by Jessica Aidley

If you have a photograph or picture that may be suitable for a future cover then please send it to:

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