

PARISH NEWS



APRIL 2020

When we are
no longer able
to change a situation,
we are challenged
to change our selves.

Victor Frankl [1905-1997]

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOUR, TYNEMOUTH
www.holysaviours.org.uk



Coronavirus COVID19

Following advice from the Archbishops

- **all public worship has been cancelled until further notice**
- **video services will be available on Sundays on the church website [www.holysaviours.org.uk]**
- **the church is closed until further notice**
- **if you can, join together at noon each in private prayer at home – set your phone or tablet to remind you**
- **all meetings have been cancelled or postponed**
- **the Parish Office is closed until further notice**
- **the Lent Study Group will no longer meet but materials can be downloaded from www.holysaviours.org.uk to follow at home**
- **please check www.holysaviours.org.uk for further updates**
- **If you know of anyone who needs practical or social support, please contact**
- **the Parish Office - 0191 597 9815**
- **or the Vicar, Steve Dixon - 0191 697 4562 / 07729 393 580**
- **please observe all government advice**



THE VICAR WRITES.....

During the early part of lent I have been reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Letters from Prison. Bonhoeffer was German pastor and anti-Nazi protestor and was imprisoned for his opposition to the fascist regime. Little did I know that when I began to read these letters we would all find ourselves incarcerated, albeit in our own homes rather than in a cold, damp prison cell. In a letter to his Godson, he recalls the apt words of Isaiah 26.20, 'Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until

his wrath has passed by.' This he recalled during the terror of the allied bombings of Berlin, but we are, once again, thrust into a place of uncertainty and fear where movements are restricted and people are forced to hide away.

Bonhoeffer reflected on his surprise at how quickly he got used to his isolation. Just as we are having to do, he had to come to terms with his new reality and he mused on the words he found in *Imitation of Christ*, 'Take good care of your cell, and it will take care of you'. This had me thinking about the nature of the particular 'cell' we inhabit; at this particular time, the 'cell' of our own homes and families, and also the 'cell' of our responsibilities, our careers, our values, our community and culture. These need not be negative constraints on our lives, but they are the things that hem and define us. And what does it mean to take care of these spaces and boundaries in life? I think it is a major part of our discipleship to discover God in these spaces, offering them to him and seeking his blessing upon them so that, in turn, they may be a blessing to us. Bonhoeffer was not a person to wallow in self-pity and could see God and the good in his predicament. If we are to prevent ourselves from slipping into self-pity while we are holed up in our homes, we need to find God and the good in our current situation.

This was true of St Paul who often found himself a prisoner for speaking out about his faith in Jesus. It was while he was in prison in Philippi (Acts 16) that he and Silas were praying and singing hymns when an earthquake shook the jail and the doors fell open. Whether this miracle was a result of their prayer and song is unknown, but their example of faithfulness and resilience is striking. I hope we can take a lead from them and transform our cells into the place we find strength from God through offering him prayer and worship in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves. Latterly, Paul wrote from house arrest in Rome to the church in Philippi; *'I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'* (Philippians 4:12,13)

I look forward to praising God and praying from my 'cell' as I continue with our united midday prayers and bringing you the video services from the vicarage.

Steve Dixon

EDITORIAL

John Pearce writes: *"A man who has gone even a week on bread and margarine is not a man any longer, only a belly with a few accessory organs."* Thus wrote George Orwell in the introduction to his 1933 book *Down and Out in Paris and London* which takes an unflinching [but often very funny] look at poverty and want. As someone who has always, even during the leanest periods of his life, known where his next meal was coming from, the sight of empty shelves in our shops has brought home [as nothing else could] the flimsiness of our social structure and of the frameworks which hold it together. The effect of this realisation on me [as, I suspect, on many others] is not dissimilar to that of a sudden death, a tsunami or a terrorist attack. We know, in theory, that anything can go wrong at any moment, but this knowledge does not prevent such an actuality from being a terrifying shock when it does happen. If nothing else, Covid 19 has been the crudest of rude awakenings to the harshest of harsh reality.

And, just as a man with an empty belly is either reduced to the sum of his appetites or exalted into finding a way of transcending them, our society in recent weeks has seen human beings at their worst and their best. Some days after the pandemic took hold, I went to do the regular weekly supermarket shop for us and for Helen's Mum and was horrified by what I saw. To call it "panic-buying" is to dignify it with a plausible emotional cause – which could be seen as justifying what looked like selfishness in its purest form. It may be that the couple I saw taking ten boxes of Yorkshire Tea off the shelf and then splitting their haul into two trolleys so as to get round the supermarket's "five items per customer only" rule, were in fact planning to divide those eight hundred teabags among family and friends unable to do their own shopping; or it may have been cold-hearted, hard-eyed greed. But when, on the other hand I read this story in *The Times*, there was no mistaking the motives of those involved, God bless them.

Two weeks ago Asiyah and Jawad Javed found an elderly woman crying outside a supermarket because she could not buy any handwash or sanitiser. The couple, who own a Falkirk corner shop called Day Today Express, decided to act. Using £2,000 of savings, the Javeds began putting together bags of soap, gel and masks and delivering them free to elderly people in the neighbourhood after closing time. They have since delivered more than 2,000 bags costing £2 each. Their supplier,

United Wholesale, has contributed £1,000. Customers have donated several hundred pounds, too, and volunteered to deliver the bags. Even the Javeds' three children, aged five to 14, emptied their piggy banks and gave the money they had saved for a cancelled holiday in Spain. "The community has come together," said Asiyah, who has been overwhelmed by the response.

And, not that it matters, it was evident from the accompanying photograph that Asiyah and Jawad are observant Muslims; what does matter is the quality of what they are doing, which is nothing less than the love of God in action. There is no point in speculating as to what might happen next; but if we emerge from this crisis with a heightened sense of our good fortune of being well fed in a relatively hungry world, and perhaps resolved, like the Javeds, to do something about it, then we may yet retrieve something from this difficult situation.

Just as important as satisfying our material appetite, however, is the feeding of our spiritual hunger, and here I am finding the deprivation severe. Outside my family and my faith, it is music – listening, playing and singing – which means the most to me spiritually. There is an overwhelming collective joy and emotional and spiritual satisfaction in group music making – whether it is singing a Thomas Tallis motet, playing the trombone in Sibelius' *Finlandia* or thrashing the keyboard for the *Bell and Bucket Singers* wellying away at *Da doo Ron Ron* with a forthright bass guitar beside me [never ask me who] almost making my ears bleed. All of that stopped a fortnight ago and God knows when it might start again; I miss my weekly appointments with "Dr Music" with a bone-deep sense of loss.

It is so good that Steve, Malcolm and Malcolm Soulsby are putting together weekly online services for us, and I hope that all of our parish who can will take part in these. I was not at all sure how it would work for me; but, given a quiet room and time set aside, I was surprised and gratified by how authentically spiritual an experience it was. However that may be, I agree with our Archbishops [a new pleasure for them both, you may feel] that this period of time will be a defining one for all churches, not least because, for the first time, the truism about the church being its people [and not its buildings and hierarchy] is being put into practice by *force majeure*. If we can keep the spirit of God moving among us during a time when we cannot use our churches, then we might gain the confidence we need to move beyond them, to leave the safety of our holy huddle, to do without them, even; or at least find the energy to transform them into resources for everyone who lives in a Church of England parish – which, come to think of it, is everyone who lives in the country.

I also think that this will be a defining time for our societies as a whole – deplorable as it has been, I think that the greed and selfishness we have seen in

the supermarkets reflects, at least in part, an appetite for something deeper; a need for reassurance, for comfort, and solace beyond that which can be supplied by a full belly and a warm place to sleep. Behind the greed there lies an unconscious but genuine panic – a realisation of just how fragile and vulnerable to time, chance or the blind malice of disease our way of life actually is, how easy it is for it to fall apart. And if our Christian churches do not stir themselves to find new ways of meeting that appetite as it is emerging in this whole terrible episode, then they will have thrown away their last chance to re-position themselves as a relevant, meaningful and essential element in whatever kind of society we are turned into in the aftermath of Covid 19; Ecclesiastes 9:10 also refers.

NOTES AND NEWS

Revd Steve Dixon writes: Dear Sisters and Brothers, You will all by now aware of the announcement on March 17th by the Archbishops that public worship was to be discontinued until further notice. Further to this, on March 24th, it was with great sadness that I posted a notice in the church porch saying that the church is closed until further notice. I cannot think that Holy Saviour's will have closed its doors in the 179 years since it was consecrated for worship. We are living in extraordinary times and we need to find a way to continue as church without meeting.

This news is deeply saddening, and difficult for us to bear when so much of what we are is based on our regular gatherings for worship and social interaction. These are indeed unprecedented times and we will have to view our life together and the ministry we offer in a very different way over the coming weeks and months.

First of all, can I reassure you that we are doing all we can as a staff team to continue that ministry and are working hard to put in place plans to keep us in contact with one another. I have instigated a telephone rota so that everyone on our database should receive a phone call at least once a week from a member of Holy Saviour's and/or from myself or Malcolm Railton. Phone calls will be a lifeline to us in the coming weeks, so please keep ringing those who you know.

We will not be able to print and deliver the Parish News for April, but it will be available later this week online here <http://www.holysaviours.org.uk/news-events/parish-magazine-/> The church website - <http://www.holysaviours.org.uk/> - will be regularly updated with information concerning the current situation regarding services and events. The parish office is closed until further notice, but Stuart can be contacted via email at office@holysaviours.org.uk Please call me on the numbers at the end of this article if you know anyone who needs practical help.

Although we cannot meet in worship or in our current Lent course groups there's no reason to stop growing in our faith. This week's Lent material is available at <http://www.holysaviours.org.uk/content/pages/documents/1584987202.pdf> and will be updated each week.

Thank you for all the kind and encouraging comments about the video service on Sunday March. . We will continue to provide this through the church website or by going to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkW1sSFuDg8jQ0WtjVWAoww>. Please log in to this so that we can feel united in our worship.

The archbishops joined other church leaders in calling for a day of prayer and action on Sunday March 22nd, (Mothering Sunday), particularly remembering those who were sick or anxious and everyone involved in health and emergency services. They suggested that we all placed a lit candle in our living room windows at 7pm on that Sunday evening as a symbol of our solidarity in prayer, and it is good to know that many of our parishioners did this. Likewise, many children, locally and nationally, followed a lead set by Italian families in painting a rainbow and displaying it in their windows too – a symbol of the hope we all share for the immediate and long term future.

For the first few days after the suspension of public worship, we rang the church bell at 12 noon so that people could pause and pray together. New restrictions imposed by the Archbishops on March 25th mean that it will no longer be possible to do this so as signal the beginning of this season of prayer. If you can, however, please set a reminder on your phone, tablet or kitchen timer to pray at midday.

The suspension of public worship also raised questions about our ministry through baptisms, weddings and funerals. Boris Johnson's March 21st announcement has banned weddings and baptisms until further notice. Although funerals may take place, these will be held in crematorium and cemetery chapels with only close relatives in attendance.

As we continue to support the life of Holy Saviour's financially, I wish to thank all of you for your generosity. Those who give using the envelope scheme will be receiving their next batch by post, but can I ask that those who give by envelope or cash donations consider setting up a standing order or taking part in the parish giving scheme. Please contact our Treasurer, Karen Bilton, on 0191 258 0270 who will be happy to talk you through the process.

I hope that this information will cover most of the questions you might have, but if you have any further queries, please look for updates on the church website or ring myself at the vicarage or the Parish Office on weekday mornings.

The Archbishops have written general letters to the Church of England explaining the current measures. Should you wish to read them then they are available here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/archbishops-call-church-england-become-radically-different-public-worship>

These are uncharted waters for us to navigate and I hope that our faith can be a source of comfort and strength to us and our families during these uncertain times. Our ministry and witness as a church have never been more greatly needed and, as we continue to be united in our faith and community of prayer, I hope we can be the light of Christ to those around us.

Can I remind you that there are many of us who will be self-isolating or in enforced isolation and we need to keep in contact with family, friends and relatives through means that do not increase the risk of cross-infection. This communication will be vital to provide for the mental well-being of our community.

I would also like to ask you to comply with the government guidelines to stay in your own home and only go out for journeys that are absolutely essential. The threat posed by coronavirus is very real and there have been cases confirmed in Tynemouth. Please stay safe and well. I also would like our church to be a source of practical support to the community, so if you know of anyone in need, can you please let me know by ringing: the Parish office - 0191 597 9815 or the Vicar - 0191 697 4562 / 07729 393 580

Every blessing, Steve

The Mother's Union: International Women's Day, March 6th 2020

Linda Benneworth writes: Friday March 6th was not only used to celebrate the Women's World day of Prayer but also "International Women's Day". at "Walking With" in Wallsend. Here it was celebrated with a fun day for clients and friends.

Henna hand painting was very popular along with hand massages and eyebrow waxing. Members of Mothers Union donated gifts of jewellery. After lunch which included Syrian bread made by some of the Syrian ladies, there was a jewellery making session organised by Mother's Union and led by Sue Croome. It was very enjoyable and productive. Two of the ladies, once from Syria and one from Jamaica, made several pairs of earrings and some bracelets. Both said that they had made jewellery in their home countries.



They said that they had enjoyed the actual session so much that they wanted to donate things which they had made back to Mothers Union funds. It is hoped to sell these at the Council meeting at Kingston Park on April 3rd.

Everyone at the event in Wallsend said that it was a really positive and enjoyable day and an excellent way to celebrate International Women's Day

WANTED – HOLY SAVIOURS PUBLICATIONS [I]

John Pearce writes: In November 1991, as part of the Holy Saviours Church sesquicentenary celebrations, a commemorative booklet was put together under the leadership of the late Richard Taylor, who had led the celebratory *Which Way?* project that occupied us for much of that year. Does anyone have a copy of this booklet which I could borrow? In the intervening thirty years I have moved house twice, shedding and losing possessions in the process, and my own copy of the booklet is long gone. I would also welcome the loan of copies of *The Parish News* from any period in the last fifty years, starting with the incumbency of Revd. Stephen Huxley. I will keep any material that I am loaned only as long as is needed to photocopy it and it will then be returned to the lender. I have in mind to publish in the *Parish News* occasional snippets of interest and relevance from the recent past. This request is prompted by the favourable reaction to Sheila Park's articles about the altar kneelers, which has reminded me that among other things our church is a sort of living museum in which appear remembrances of many people who have given life to our parish in the past. Recently I was loaned Cathy Duff's copy of the *Holy Saviour's Tynemouth Handbook* produced in 1988 by a team including Ian Buxton and John Kirkby [now living in retirement in Nantwich with Christine] as well as three parishioners who have since died – Constance Fraser, Marjorie Waller and George Codling. Much of the information in it is now outdated [indeed some comparisons with the church then and now are

rather depressing], but there is also much of interest in the booklet. I will be running some selected chapters from it in future months; and it would be interesting to add to this some material from the 1991 publication and any other Parish News productions that I am able to borrow. Turn out your cupboards now!

THE VERMONT BIG BAND

For the second year running, the Vermont Big Band, led by its musical director, Chris Kaberry, sold out the Parish Hall.

Rev'd Malcolm Railton writes: I'd better start with an admission; I love big band music so I apologise for any lack of objectivity. I had a great evening on Saturday, listening to the Vermont Big Band in our Parish Hall. I enjoyed it and it certainly appeared to me that everyone present did as well, both the audience and the band.



Chris Kaberry led the band enthusiastically and assuredly; he also led the audience through the evening in a charming manner. The music must have covered a

period of about ninety years, many instrumentals and a good selection of songs which were beautifully performed by Grace. The whole band, and there were a lot of them, appeared to be enjoying themselves too, and put their heart and soul into everything they played.

Some of the music was quite challenging but the band performed admirably throughout. Everyone who I spoke to on the evening had a great time and was enthusiastic about having the band back again in the future. I think it would be great if this was to become an annual event, we may even look to using a bigger venue as we could have sold all of the tickets several times over.

I can't recommend Chris and this band highly enough; the next time you get the chance, do go and listen to them. You won't be disappointed.

W3 at Trinity House, Newcastle Quayside.



Margaret Gibson writes: On Wednesday 4th March, seventeen members of W3 Ladies Group went to have a tour of Trinity House in Newcastle, some met at Tynemouth Station while others made their own way to Newcastle. We decided that we should make a day of it and booked an early meal at UNOs opposite the Guild Hall. We then made our way along the Quayside to Trinity House and bearing in mind the time of year we were very surprised at how warm and

pleasant it was. A few ladies took photographs and I thought I would include one of mine showing the Quayside at twilight.

We continued to our venue and we had a very interesting and comprehensive tour of Trinity House with a lady who loved the building and she was very keen to share her knowledge with us. It was a treat to learn that it was Trinity House who trained the river pilots and arrange for the Collecting of tariffs on ships coming to the Tyne. Trinity House is full of historical documents and artefacts and the best part was left to the end when a hidden door was opened and we entered the glorious private chapel.

We all had a very good day and enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the Quayside followed by the quiet serenity of Trinity House.

SAINTS ALIVE! [12]

Clive Harper writes: Coming up to Easter it seems to me there is only one saint that I can highlight; that is the giant historical figure of St John; St John the Apostle. I am thinking of the man who inspired the fourth Gospel which has provided an endless source of wonder and investigation for two millennia to all those seeking the truth.

Consider this Gospel of St. John, resonating with Old Testament echoes and yet marvellously new. Jesus is seen to travel in the footsteps of the Creator: on the first day; on the second day; on the third day; setting out the remarkable teachings and the miraculous acts (signs) as the ministry of Jesus develops in the sight of the disciples and the coming generations, and yet mirrors the pattern of the Creation story in the early chapters of the Book of Genesis; for this too begins in the beginning.

For it is no biography; the early life of Jesus is wrapped in remarkable and mysterious imagery as John concentrates our minds on the principal reason for the coming of Jesus, no less than the salvation of the whole human race. And after the early chapters over half the Gospel is devoted to the last few weeks of Jesus' life on Earth, such is the importance given by John to the events centred on and around the Crucifixion; and it culminates in the risen Christ breathing new life into the disciples once more reminding us of the way that God, in the Book of Genesis, breathed life into His creation making 'man' a living being.

Of John himself we know only what the Bible reveals to us; a younger man; highly intelligent and thoughtful; he had a brother, James, who was killed with the sword

in the early days of the Church; though we do have a fragment of the fourth Gospel known as the Chester-Beatty fragment dating back to the early second century; older than any of the synoptic Gospels.

John was the disciple 'whom Jesus loved' who was entrusted with the care of Jesus' mother; who entered the sepulchre of Jesus and who saw and believed; beginning to realise the amazing fact that Jesus had conquered death and was alive. And that, dear reader, as you well know, is the heart of the Gospel message, standing central in the midst of much diverse theology: 'Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, Alleluia!'

But the Gospel of John is not the only writing under his name; we have the letters of John, three of them, which pick up and expand the teachings in the Gospel; and there is the Book of Revelation, also under the name of 'John,' revealing those things which are to happen hereafter; such mystery and such extraordinary teaching, together enough for a whole lifetime. We cannot be certain that the Apostle John wrote all of these books but we can acknowledge our debt to the one who was chosen by our Lord to be a close companion and who was the principal human agent through whom the truths of the fourth Gospel have come into our lives.

John was prominent in the early days of the church; tradition teaches us that he travelled with the mother of Jesus to the Ephesus and most likely ended his days there. Churches all over the world have the designation 'St John' and his main feast day in the west is 27th December.

THE ALTAR KNEELERS: PART TWO

The editor writes: Sheila Park's Mothers Union talk on the names behind the altar kneelers created considerable interest and revived fond memories of some of the remarkable women who have served our church in the past. The second and final instalment appears below, the initials heading each section being those embroidered on either end of each kneeler.

L.M. and M.H. Louise Marshall This one is a difficult one for you to guess. I'm not sure if she was a M.U. member. She lived in a flat in Prudhoe Terrace, round the corner from the current Post Office. She was a widow, her husband had been a civil servant and they didn't have any children. She was always neatly dressed, with never a hair out of place. She was part of the team of ladies who cleaned the silver and brass ornaments in the choir vestry on a Friday morning – the Sanctuary Guild, I think they were called. She had quite a sharp tongue and I used to be a bit

afraid of her to begin with. One day she was in the vestry 'going on' about something and as I passed her I just lent my arm around her shoulders and said something like 'never mind Louise

I felt her body relax against mine, her tone softened and I realised no one had put their arm around her for a long time. A kindly gesture can suddenly relax people. We became good friends and I remember visiting her in a nursing home on the Marden Estate where she died.

Muriel Hobson Muriel was a very lively and hardworking Branch leader for almost 9 years. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Scottish Dancing Class. She loved dressing up and took a lively role in our shows. She had a mentally handicapped daughter, Pearl who was a regular attender at church. As Muriel and her husband Bert didn't own a car, they had a restricted life caring for Pearl. I think acting as Branch leader and taking part in our activities played a very important part of her life. When we had committee meetings at her home, Bert was assigned the task of making the refreshments and always made us lovely large pots of coffee. Sadly Muriel collapsed in Church one Sunday morning at the beginning of the service when six new members were to be admitted and died in hospital later that morning. Her husband went on caring for Pearl for over 20 years. He had the walls of the living room covered in photographs and snapshots of Muriel to that Pearl would never forget her mother. Our M.U. banner was getting shabby and he knew we had been talking about raising the money to replace it. He paid for the new one in Muriel's memory. This is the one you see standing in the South Transept.

M.S. and J.R. Joyce Rowland Joyce was a lovely attractive person. She and her husband, Ken originated from Jarrow where Ken's mother ran the M.U. at her church. They had four children and lived a full and busy life. She served on the committee but I couldn't get her to be secretary. She did once suggest when we were planning the programme that maybe one meeting we should have prayer and a speaker and the next month go out and enjoy ourselves. This suggestion greatly amused my husband when I told him. Sadly Ken died after a short illness in the early 80's and Joyce's life changed very much. She died in 1994 and sadly never saw her two grandchildren who were born in the early 2000's, to her daughter, Julie.

M.S. Margaret Stockdale Margaret, the wife of the solicitor, Norman Stockdale was a very loyal church member but was not in the Mothers' Union. She was a quiet, dignified, pleasant person and she seemed to enjoy our company working on the kneelers. The Stockdales lived in Kennersdene, but moved away to North Northumberland in their retirement. The elder son John appeared at the 10am service one Sunday about two years ago. He is settled with his family in Cheshire.

It was good to see him but unfortunately I forgot to show him his mother's initials on the kneeler.

A.W. and C.L. Audrey Wright A very loyal member of the M.U., she was the eldest of 5, raised in Tynemouth. Her father was in charge of the Billiard and Snooker Rooms above the Arcade in Tynemouth. I believe the family lived there too. I always felt Audrey had her heart really in the Mothers' Union and she often wrote down prayers she'd heard on the radio for me to use in services. She was an excellent visitor of any sick members and put her name down with me for the ballot of the tickets for the centenary events in London for the M.U. in 1976. Her name came out of the hat for the service at Westminster Abbey which was attended by the Queen Mother. My name came out for the following week's events which were a pageant at the Festival Hall and a garden party at Lambeth Palace. At a later date we both dressed up in our finery and gave a talk of our experiences to our branch. She was the elder sister of Nancy and I believe their mother had been a M.U. member too.

C.L. Connie Littlefield Connie was a loyal and much loved member of our congregation, the mother of Rob and David. She was a great outdoor person and liked nothing better than a walk in the countryside. She wasn't a member of the M.U. but took a keen interest in the kneelers. She worked hard for the uniformed organisations. She was very kind and I remember her knocking on my door one day with her granddaughter, Rebecca, when my husband was ill. They had been to Newcastle and she'd bought us a lemon meringue pie. Another day it was haddock from the Fish Quay. She had nursed her own husband at home eight years earlier and she understood my circumstances. In her later years she sat beside me in church. She loved Ian Crawford's singing voice and one Sunday morning he came across to where she was sitting after the service and sang a particular favourite hymn for her.

WANTED – HOLY SAVIOURS PUBLICATIONS [II]

The Editor writes: At least whilst the ban on public worship stays in place, it seems likely that the Parish News will become one of the more important ways in which our congregation can stay in touch one with another. With this in mind, I am renewing the plea I published in the first edition of the Parish News I edited, two years ago this month, in April 2018. It was, I felt then, important to point out that the News belongs to the parish, and should act as a newsletter, a part of our ministry, and a forum for discussion. Given that it may well be the autumn before weekly public worship on our current pattern is re-established, it seems to be to be vital that the Parish News is used by everyone for in all three of those ways.

With these in mind, please read the appeal below – and, should you have the spare time [and many of us now do] – put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and let the rest of the Parish hear from you.

From the Parish News, April 2018

ARTICLES WANTED FOR THE PARISH NEWS

Do you have a question or concern about our church family?
Is there something you need to get off your chest?
Do you sometimes think "Is it just me, or.....?"
Have you read a book others might like to read?
Is there a poem that never fails to inspire you?
Is there a piece of music that always comforts and delights you?
Do you have a recipe you would like to share?
What would be your "Desert Island Discs" and why?
Have you paid a visit to somewhere that others would enjoy?
What does your faith mean to you during the week?

**If any of the above gives you an idea,
please don't keep it to yourself**

**write or type an article,
[long or short], about it,**

and send it to me at

JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk

or get someone to post it to me at

9 Selwyn Avenue, Monkseaton, NE25 9DH.

**Don't be shy –
if it matters to you
then it will probably interest others.**

Some secular food for thought: The Editor writes: Julian Baggini is a philosopher, author and lecturer, as well as being Academic Director of the Royal Institute of Philosophy. He writes regularly for Prospect magazine, Granta and The Guardian. He has published over twenty books, including A Short History of Truth, The Edge of Reason and The Ethics Toolkit. His latest book, How the World Thinks, a Global Exploration of Philosophy, is available on Amazon in various formats including Kindle - the paperback edition is £6.99. Mr Baggini's website, [www.micropilosophy.net] has enlivened many a tedious train journey for me. It features "small thoughts about big things, big thoughts about small things, and various answers looking for a question". His three and a half minute video "Atheism, a very short introduction", also on Microphilosophy is also well worth a look. In this piece, originally published in The Guardian on Easter Sunday 2018, he argues that atheists who bring logic to the Easter story are missing the point. I am very grateful to Julian Baggini for his permission to reprint this essay in The Parish News.

Many years ago, I had to recount the life of Jesus to a young Taiwanese student who knew nothing about Christianity. As I told him about the virgin birth, the miracles, crucifixion and resurrection, he responded with incredulous laughter. Most non-believers in traditionally Christian cultures would show a bit more respect. But inside, our reaction is often pretty much the same: how can people really believe this stuff? Rising from the grave isn't even the most preposterous part of the Easter story. Far more bizarre is the claim that God had to send his son to die for our sins. And if God really wanted all humanity to heed his message, why did the resurrected Christ only reveal himself to a few select people before ascending to heaven?

Vociferous atheists don't shy away from revealing their mocking bemusement at all this. Those of us who make determined efforts to understand and debate with religious believers might be too polite to admit it, but we often feel just as baffled. The laziest way to try to cross this credulity gap is to shrug our shoulders and accept that people are often crazy, stupid or both. Yes, there are plenty of people celebrating the resurrection who are sane, intelligent and well-educated, but they are statistical anomalies in a world where higher levels of education are strongly correlated with a lack of religious belief.

Smart people can have blind spots, but this quick and easy explanation does not do justice to the complexities of religious belief. If we genuinely accept that a believer in the resurrection can be intelligent, but also think that any intelligent person would find the idea of the resurrection preposterous, the most charitable explanation is that intelligent believers are as aware of the implausibility of their

beliefs as anyone else. This is indeed what you tend to find if you bother to talk to a Christian. They don't use the word "miracle" for nothing – they know their faith defies laws of logic and nature.

Some believe the unbelievable because they have had religious experiences so strong that they are literally unable to doubt their veracity of. It's hard for those of us who haven't had such an experience to appreciate how powerful it can be. But once you accept the existence of a divine creator who has a personal relationship with you, almost anything else is possible. It is not crazy but logical to conclude that what such a God says or does will sometimes be beyond our comprehension. It follows that there is nothing irrational in accepting a story that we are unable to make sense of rationally.

What atheists often forget is that many – perhaps most – religious believers are less than completely convinced anyway. Many of them are fully aware of the dissonance between what their faith and their rational mind tell them. Religion offers many tools to help manage this. It tells people that faith is superior to belief based on evidence. "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed," Jesus told "doubting Thomas", adding: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Religion also tells believers that doubt is to be expected, even welcomed, as part of the journey of faith, all the time reassuring them that God is beyond our understanding. The Easter story thus ends up rather like quantum theory: if you find it easy to believe, you haven't understood it. Illogicality is a design feature, not a design flaw.

Anyone surprised that people manage to sustain this dissonance all their lives hasn't been paying enough attention to what psychology has taught us about our capacities to assert contradictions. What we call our "selves" are far less unified and coherent than common sense suggests. When we say "a part of me" believes one thing and another part something else, we are being more literal than we think. Dismissing believers as simply deluded could therefore itself be a way for us atheists to deal with our own dissonance between the belief that Easter is palpable nonsense, and the awareness that seemingly intelligent people believe in it. If we really do find implausible beliefs offensive, we ought at least to have more plausible explanations for why others have them.

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STORE CUPBOARD COOKERY

The editor writes: Whilst food shopping remains a hit or miss business, I thought some simple store cupboard recipes might come in handy. Below is the first two of what may turn out to be a series. And thanks to Ruth Day, who gave me the idea.

[1] A simple tomato sauce for pasta

To serve six people you will need:

A generous splash of olive oil
1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
2 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
2 x 400g tins of chopped tomatoes
1 level teaspoonful of sugar
A pinch of salt
Small bunch of basil, roughly chopped OR
1 teaspoonful of dried or semi-dried basil

Method:

- 1 Heat the splash of olive oil in a heavy-based saucepan over a medium heat.
- 2 Add the chopped onion and the salt and cook gently for about eight minutes until the onion is softened but not browned.
- 3 Add the crushed garlic, and stir-fry for a further two minutes
- 4 Tip the tomatoes into the pan with the sugar. Bring to the boil and turn the heat down to a gentle simmer.
- 5 Simmer uncovered for between thirty and forty minutes until the onions are almost falling apart and the sauce has thickened. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking.
- 6 Remove from the heat, stir in the basil and serve with the pasta of your choice, with parmesan or other grated cheese if liked.

This sauce is very tasty just as it is, but it is easy to vary it by [eg] adding any of the following and heating through for a few minutes before serving: chopped black or green olives/kidney, borlotti or edamame beans/chickpeas or diced cooked meat you need to use up.

It is also a very easy sauce for children to make. Christopher and I made this for supper last week and the only adult help he needed was when it came to straining the boiled pasta.

[2] Store cupboard curry

To serve four people you will need:

1 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
1 400g tin of chickpeas
1 400g tin of butterbeans
1 large onion, peeled and chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
An aubergine diced into 2 centimetre cubes
[this ingredient is optional]

1 tablespoonful each of

ground coriander
ground cumin
curry powder
1 teaspoon of ground ginger
Scant teaspoon of chilli flakes

Method

- 1 Stew the chopped onion in a little olive oil for ten minutes in a thick-based [preferably non-stick] pan. A large sauté pan will work.
- 2 Add the garlic, ginger and chilli flakes, and cook for a further ten minutes; stir well to make sure all the onion is well coated with these spices
- 3 Add the coriander, cumin and curry powder and again stir until the onion is well coated for a further five minutes
- 4 Add the tomatoes, bring to the boil and cook as slowly as possible for an hour, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking
- 5 If you have an aubergine, start heating your oven to 180 at this point
- 6 Rinse the butterbeans and chickpeas and add to the curry and continue to cook for a further thirty minutes
- 7 If you have an aubergine, roast the cubes for twenty minutes in the oven and then add to the curry
- 8 Adjust the seasoning with salt and serve with rice, chopped coriander and a generous tablespoon of natural yoghurt and any of the usual accompaniments – poppadums, naans, chapattis, chutney or pickles.

This is also a child-friendly recipe provided that you supervise the aubergine chopping and roasting as well as straining the boiled rice.



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From the letter to all Parishes sent by Justin Welby and John Sentamu, March 17th 2020:

"As the challenge of the corona virus grips the world, and as the Government asks every individual and every organisation to rethink its life, we are now asking the Church of England in all its parishes, chaplaincies and ministries to serve all people in a new way. Public worship will have to stop for a season; our churches will have to close. Our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings must be put on hold. This does not mean that the Church has shut up shop – far from it." Holy Saviours will stream a weekly Sunday service on YouTube and the church's website – www.holy.saviours.org.uk – for further details telephone the Vicar or the Parish Administrator using the numbers below. Also see the Vicar's message on pages 6 – 8 of this issue. All the activities listed in the right-hand column of this page are currently suspended. For updates on these, please contact the individuals in charge using the contact details provided.

Vicar	Rev. Steve Dixon
Email	vicar@holysaviours.org.uk
Telephone	07729 393 580 0191 697 4562
Curate	Rev. Malcolm Railton
Email	curate@holysaviours.co.uk
Telephone	0191 262 3028
Parish Administrator	Stuart Crozier
Church Office	Tel. 0191 597 9815
Email	office@holysaviours.org.uk
Church website:	www.holysaviours.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Janice Torpy
Tel: 07920 049 341

David Bilton,
19 Ashleigh Grove
Tel. 2580270

PCC Vice Chairman:
Chris Benneworth

PCC Treasurer:
Karen Bilton, 19 Ashleigh Grove
Tel. 2580270

Church Flowers:
Sheila Park, 15 Ashleigh Grove,
Tel. 257 5481
Barbara Walker, 2 Monkstone Crescent,
Tel. 257 4159

Activities

Mothers' Union

1 st Monday	2.00pm	Parish Centre
3 rd Thursday	2.00pm	Parish Centre
Cathy Duff	Tel 0191 257 4811	

W3 – Women's Group

1 st Wednesday	7.30pm	Parish Centre
Debbie Baird	Tel. 296 1663	

Rainbows

Lucy Skillen	Tel. 07891101262
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Brownies

Pat Corbett	Tel. 0191 2800510
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Guides

Grace Paul	Tel. 07803371929
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Rangers

Grace Paul	Tel. 07803371929
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Beavers

Gillian Smith	Tel. 296 1426
tynemouthbeavers@gmail.com	

Cub Scouts

Fiona Lydall	Tel 257 3047
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Scouts

David Littlefield	Tel. 257 8740
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Explorer Scouts

Lucy Mace	Tel. 258 5948
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Group Scout Leader

Michael Dyer	Tel. 2596236
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Asst. Group Leader

David Littlefield	Tel. 257 8740
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Scout Hut bookings:

Helen Preston	Tel: 257 0574
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Tynemouth Village Day Centre – Parish Hall
Tel. 259 5569

Mother & Toddler Group – Parish Hall
Friday 9.30am

ARTICLES FOR THE PARISH NEWS

These should be submitted to the editor, **John Pearce**, at JCPrintmail@gmx.co.uk – the deadline will be published each month. Post written contributions in the Parish News Mailbox outside the Parish Office.

All queries to
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07903 227 192.