



CHURCH AT HOME

Issue 48: July 17th 2021

Welcome, brothers and sisters to the Forty Eighth edition of "Church at Home".

I very much hope this will be the final edition of Church at Home, but we will see what happens in the coming weeks and months. On Sunday the 25th most of the restrictions on our worship will have been lifted and we can come together in broadly the way we were before this terrible pandemic affected every aspect of our lives.

I would like to thank a number of people for specific roles during the pandemic. For Colin and Peter for implementing our risk assessments. For those who have contributed to this bulletin and for those like the Lindridges who have diligently distributed it. For our Leadership Team & PCC for taking on the responsibility with myself on how to interpret the reams of regulations and what decisions to make and for Lauraine for helping to make sure everyone in our church family is being contacted by another person.

Please join my prayers for a smooth transition back to normality at St Paul's and make sure you join us for our celebration on 7th.

Follow the guidance, encourage each other, pray and stay safe.

Rev Clive

Church Noticeboard

Our Archdeacon has announced his retirement.

The Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley, Paul Wright, has announced his intention to retire from post on March 31, 2022. Paul was made deacon in 1979 and priest in 1980, serving the largest part of his ministry in the Diocese of Rochester, with three incumbencies and as Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley since 2003.

Website

Many of the talks from our current sermon series on John's gospel are available on our website www.spnh.org.uk

Church Celebration BBQ

We have our church celebration BBQ on 7th August from 1-4pm. We will be inviting Neighbours and those on the fringes of the church as well. Please come along and bring either a salad or a pudding to share with others.

Cameo & Men's Group

Monica and Bob are pleased to announce that Cameo and Men's Group will commence in September:

Cameo: Monday 6 September 8.00pm in the lounge: Bring and Share Supper with Christian Aid Bring and Buy.

Men's Group: Tuesday 14 September 8.00pm in the lounge: Fish and Chip supper with planning

Doreen Gilson

Sadly, Doreen Gilson died after a short illness on the 13th July. Her funeral will be at St Paul's at 12noon on the 30th July.

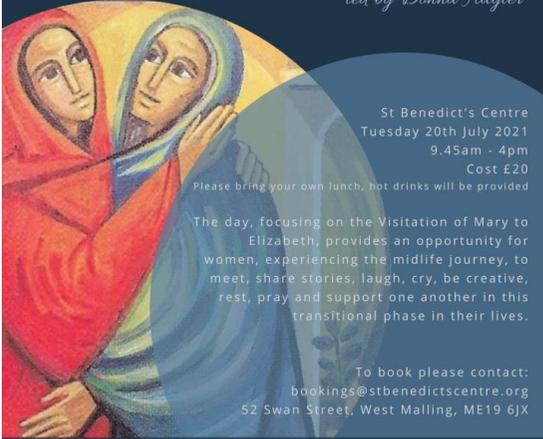
Spring Harvest 2021

For more information, please speak to Clive.

Sharing stories

WOMAN TO WOMAN

A day at St Benedict's Centre
led by Donna Hayler



St Benedict's Centre
Tuesday 20th July 2021
9.45am - 4pm
Cost £20

Please bring your own lunch, hot drinks will be provided

The day, focusing on the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, provides an opportunity for women, experiencing the midlife journey, to meet, share stories, laugh, cry, be creative, rest, pray and support one another in this transitional phase in their lives.

To book please contact:
bookings@stbenedictscentre.org
52 Swan Street, West Malling, ME19 6JX



01732 252 651



@stbenedictscentre



@stbenedictsctr

www.stbenedictscentre.org

...a place apart

NOT LOOKING BUT SEEING

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Led by Colin Lovell,
Lay Canon of Rochester Cathedral

Mobile phones mean most of us carry a camera with us wherever we go. We see images and videos recorded for all sorts of purposes. This day invites us to use the camera to make images: as a means of discovering the presence of God and enhancing personal or corporate worship

Wednesday 21 July

10am - 3pm (coffee from 9:30am)

St Paul's Preschool

A Church of England Preschool – Est 1976
Ofsted - Good Provider
£5 per hour* (local government 15 & 30 hour grants available)
Places available*

For more details or to organise a visit
Phone 07752 776226
St Paul's Church Hall
Mill Road
North Heath
Erith
DA8 1HN

Diocese of Rochester

*Correct at time of printing

This week's prayer

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family.

So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

Amen

Prayer

There are many who still need our prayers.

Those who have asked for our prayers are: Ann Easter, Ann Batchelor (Reader at St Martin's), Andrew Bennett, Charles Brooke, Ron and Joan Handy. For Marjorie and Eileen Hoare, Pippa's Mum - Helen, Monica Lindridge, Christine Meaton and Christine Minns. For Carol & John O'Connor, John Ralph and Amanda Ralph. For Jane & George Stafford. For Karen Vaughan₄ (Cameo), Jeanette Watts and Mark Williams.

Returning to church after July 19th restrictions are lifted.

While the majority of restrictions will be lifted, we ask you all to follow the advice given. Please be respectful of our stewards who will be working according to the guidelines given.

Masks

While it is no longer required by law for masks to be worn, we advise those who can do so to wear a mask when indoors at church.

Sanitizing liquid

Sanitizing liquid will be available at church. We recommend you use it whenever you enter or leave the building and after direct contact with another person. Sanitizing liquid should be use after the peace and before communion.

Seat Spacers

If you would prefer not to have someone sitting next to you, please take two seat signs to indicate those seats are not available.

Singing

Singing is now allowed but we recommend you wear your mask when doing so.

The Peace.

You will be able to great each other during the peace. For the safety of others, we ask you refrain from hugging or kissing for the time being. There will be those uncomfortable sharing the peace at this time. Please be respectful of them. If you do not wish to share the peace then remain in your seats.

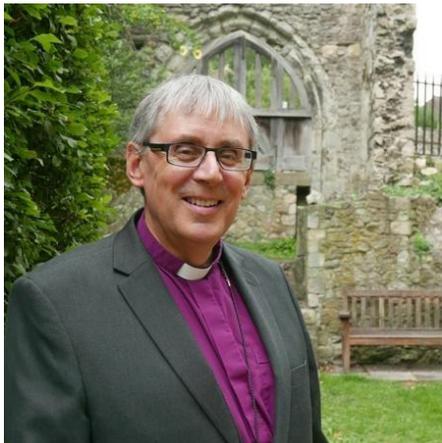
Communion

Please use liquid sanitiser before receiving communion. Communion will be available in both kinds using a common cup. If you do not want to take the wine then take a clear step back after you have received the bread.

Post-Services

Refreshments will resume in September. Until then please try and great each other outside after the service.

A message from Bishop Simon



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With the summer holidays upon us and the vacancy in see legally beginning on August 1, I want to write to people of the diocese to say a few things.

Thank you

We have lived through something unprecedented in our lifetime. Though the threat of a pandemic has always been there in

Now we know, after more than a year of anxiety, uncertainty and separation – of having to live as less than fully human and figure out what these privations have done to us. Coronavirus has messed not just with our lives but with our heads.

Yet across the diocese, people have responded out of loving concern for others, seeking out the vulnerable and isolated, encouraging the downhearted, offering care to those with practical needs.

It doesn't do to sentimentalise the picture – few come out of a crisis perfectly – but there is so much evidence from across the churches and those who support those churches, that people have stepped up to the mark. You have not been found wanting, but giving.

So, this is to express deep admiration and appreciation for the way you have done this and acted as light in the world. There must be lots of tiredness and exhaustion among the readers of this letter. Some will get space to rest this summer, for which we give thanks. Some will not, for various reasons, for whom we pray the promises of God.

Colleagues

Many of you will be aware that three colleagues have almost simultaneously left the diocese. Bishop James to Birmingham, Archdeacon Julie to Birkenhead and Caroline Clarke, Community Engagement and Social Action (CESA) Lead to Corbridge. Our

Our prayers are for them, and especially Julie in the early days of her exciting new episcopal role.

The Vacancy in See committee is deep into its work and it is hoped we may have a new Bishop of Rochester around this time next year.

The Archdeacon of Tonbridge role will be advertised in the coming months. A case could be made for making an interim appointment and waiting for the new diocesan Bishop to make their choice.

However, the news that Archdeacon Paul will retire at the end of March 2022 changes things. The absence of a diocesan Bishop and two archdeacons would introduce significant organisational stress and mean, among other things, much less pastoral care would be available to clergy in the post-pandemic period.

The intention, then, is to advertise shortly for a new and substantive appointment to Archdeacon of Tonbridge and to allow the new Diocesan Bishop to oversee the replacement of the Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley.

Interim plans would be made for Bromley and Bexley after Archdeacon Paul leaves to ensure continuity. Early thanks go to Paul for his remarkable ministry and refreshing *can do* spirit sustained over many years. Hopefully our farewells to him will be unrestricted, unlike Bishop James’.

Please pray especially for Archdeacons Paul and Andy in the period ahead, as they support their own archdeaconries and a part each of Tonbridge archdeaconry.

Meanwhile, we are planning a replacement for Caroline Clarke as Community Engagement and Social Action (CESA) lead. Now, more than ever, our practical involvement in the welfare of local communities is called for.

Priorities

So much is being said about how we might emerge from the pandemic and each parish will have its ideas. The need to breathe and to recover is first up, and I hope each church will give good attention to this, and to those who have suffered most in their community. Significantly, these people may not compel attention, so we may need to listen out for them.

Though the world has changed and therefore the context in which we express our faith, the priorities remain the same: to help people live out everyday faith in Jesus,

to listen to others and to share our faith sensitively, and to care for the bodies of other people through practical action and healing love.

This is where our focus should be, and where I hope to give good attention during the vacancy in see. To this end, I have made this commitment to the clergy of the diocese in a separate, but similar, letter to this one:

I would be pleased to come and preach about everyday faith in your church, especially in the different ways we work each day, and anoint and pray individually for every church member who wishes it during the service.

Of course, it doesn't take a Bishop to do this, but I see it as that important, personally. I have also drawn up a simple service of the word liturgy that is available to use at any time.

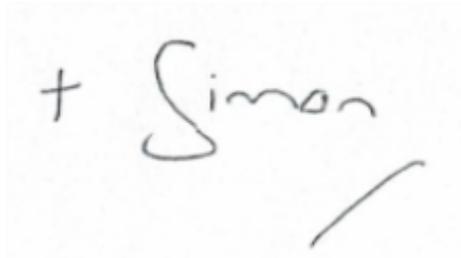
Hope

The pandemic may have inhibited and frustrated us in so many ways, meaning the 'Go and make disciples' command of Jesus has required some inventive responses, but the belief that the kingdom of God is always drawing near is an inspiring one.

We believe in the resurrection of the body. In a culture short on hope, we have something distinctive and life-saving to share. And we express this in that strange combination of divine confidence and human weakness that St Paul readily identified.

God's grace is sufficient for you and me, this summer, as always.

Yours, in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Simon" followed by a long, sweeping flourish.

Simon, Bishop of Tonbridge

Beryl Baker

An Update from our Mission Partner in Paraguay

Dear Praying Friends,

An encouraging word from Jeremiah 29:15

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

Coping with change touches us all and certainly since March last year. That has been a challenge for everyone as suddenly normal routines went out the window.

Heaven and earth may pass away but God and His words are eternal and it is this that gives us

a true future and hope because Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and He alone has the words of eternal life for all who will believe and receive the pardon and salvation that He offers.

Please pray for Mari, Rhett's family and friends, that Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life, would be comforted as time and eternity become sudden realities and for all who mourn the loss of loved ones.

The Clinic at the ranch continues, also the monthly visits to the indigenous people at La Patria. On the whole, people remain healthy after self-imposed isolation. Many bring animals to the clinic as going further afield to get help is financially out of the question or because of lack of transport. I do what I can but my input is limited especially when emergency surgery is required but I can always pray and lead anxious pet owners to the King of creation.

Alejo Rojas, my new helper is a 40-year-old Enxet indigenous person, married with 4 children and lives 15kms away at Jerusalem; he never had the opportunity of going to school so cannot read or write. His wife, at his home with myself are helping him and he is making good progress. The daily Bible studies continue and as he has memorized so many Bible verses, I can use these to help his reading. He sings and preaches and is a very reliable helper.



My own means of transport keeps me on the road. The engine is fine but the body work leaves much to be desired as the lime impregnated dust is hard to remove and the bad roads have done their worst. Some stretches of the new Transchaco highway are now open and what a difference it makes in time and comfort to the journeys.

As ever the weather is bizarre. We are now well into winter and the afternoon temperatures hover around 34C. We have had two frosts and the mornings certainly are a lot cooler. Please pray for much needed rain.

People needing special prayer "Acting Bishop" Augustine Maidana and his wife Teresa are both very tired and their grown-up children with health problems all have had Covid. Ada Fernandez, the widow of Nito, Rebecca Avelos the widow of Pastor Jorge, Retired Bishop Andres Rodriguez and his wife Estela in Concepcion as Andres continues with his recuperation from cancer. Many elderly people needing cataract surgery. Cirilo Benitez as he does a very good job as health promoter in Estribo in spite of his age and diabetes. For Health Promoter Narcisa Rojas also at Estribo and her now 9-year-old Downs syndrome daughter Liz and the difficulties caused by her alcoholic husband. Norma Alvarez with diabetes and Teresa Ayala as they both receive and treat people at Sombrero Piri.

I continually praise God for his constant protection especially on the road and when rattle snakes are nearby. Also, healthwise I am tired but only have minor health problems. I have just had the Sputnik 5 Covid vaccine. All the necessary things I have managed to get done in town in spite of having no Toyota with me. The vehicle now has its renewed road tax and insurance.

Jordy and Jonathan, now 7 and doing well academically are ok and continue to care for the Asuncion house and animals. Covid 19 is still not going away in the cities and this with Dengue Fever has swamped the health services. Maintenance of pavements and broken water pipes that cause dirty water flowing down most roads in Asuncion all need careful negotiating when crossing the street.

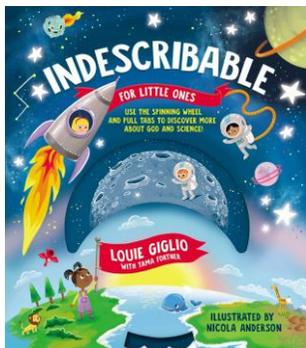
At last, a constant Internet signal which makes this letter possible and I am truly grateful to be able to write and not having to get up quite so early in the morning.

I'm here in town until Tuesday when I will return to the Chaco with Chris Hawkesbee, DV.

Love and prayers, Beryl

Books

This week's book suggestions come from www.eden.co.uk



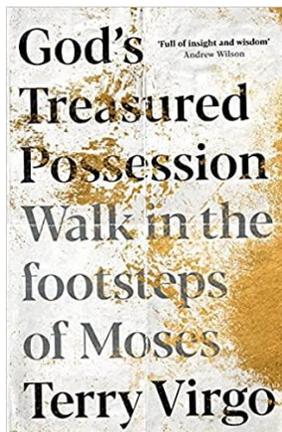
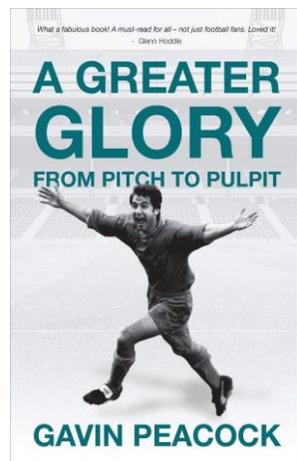
Indescribable For Little Ones by Louie Giglio

Discover the wonders of God's creation! Bestselling author and pastor Louie Giglio brings *Indescribable for Little Ones*, an interactive board book that will introduce the littlest readers to God's amazing world. Young children will be awestruck as they pull tabs and turn a wheel to reveal that everything, from the ants on the ground to the stars in the sky, was made by God.

A Greater Glory by Gavin Peacock

What makes a man walk away from his life as a professional footballer turned BBC pundit to become a church minister? They say it is every schoolboy's dream to play in the F.A. Cup Final and it's a dream that came true for Gavin Peacock.

In his riveting autobiography follow Gavin's journey from a child growing up in a footballing family to Chelsea captain; from a son following in his father's footsteps to a husband and father supporting his own family; from pundit to preacher.



God's treasured Possession by Terry Virgo

Moses is a key character in the unfolding narrative of God's Kingdom. A foundational leader of God's people in the Old Testament, he's held up throughout the New Testament as a man of God, in spite of his flaws. Yet Moses didn't always believe what God said about him.

In this biblically balanced book, Terry Virgo invites us to walk in the footsteps of Moses so that, by faith, we can be ready for whatever life brings.

Official UK Christian & Gospel Albums Chart

Top 20

Pos	LW	Title, Artist		Peak Pos	WoC
1	1		THE SEARCH NF NF REAL MUSIC	1	102
2	2		CLOUDS NF NF REAL MUSIC	1	15
3	3		OLD CHURCH BASEMENT ELEVATION WORSHIP & MAVERICK ELEVATION WORSHIP	2	10
4	4		VITAL SIGNS SKILLET WARNER BROS	2	318
5	5		JESUS IS KING KANYE WEST EMI	1	89
6	7 ↑		LOOK UP CHILD LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	1	58
7	9 ↑		MANSION NF CCMG	1	204
8	6 ↓		HYMN OF HEAVEN PHIL WICKHAM FAIR TRADE SERVICES	6	2
9	11 ↑		AWAKE SKILLET ATLANTIC	2	383
10	10		JUBILEE: THE JUNETEENTH EDITION MAVERICK CITY MUSIC TRIBL	10	2
11	8 ↓		BELIEVE ANDREA BOCELLI DECCA	1	34
12	12		THERE IS MORE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	170
13	13		UNLEASHED SKILLET ROADRUNNER	1	257
14	14		VICTORY - LIVE BETHEL MUSIC BETHEL MUSIC	1	113
15	15		MAVERICK CITY - VOL 3 PT 1 MAVERICK CITY MUSIC MAVERICK CITY MUSIC	15	3
16	20 ↑		VICTORIOUS SKILLET WARNER RECORDS	3	98
17	16 ↓		GREATEST HITS (THE ATLANTIC YEARS) POD ATLANTIC	6	109
18	18		AWAKE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	2	89
19	17 ↓		PEOPLE - LIVE HILLSONG UNITED HILLSONG MUSIC	1	74
20	19 ↓		JUST BE HELD - CASTING CROWNS FAVORITES CASTING CROWNS REUNION	12	69

1. What occurs twice a year during an Equinox?
2. Which religious political Asian was known as the Little Brown Saint?
3. Where would you find a Royal Sovereign in bed with a Hampshire Maid?
4. How was Charles Bunchinsky better known?#
5. Who is generally the only person qualified to become the Prince of Wales?
6. How many players are there in an Ice Hockey team?
7. Which marriage anniversary is Crystal?
8. What known in 1876 as Swards Folly, did the USA purchase from Russia?
9. 9.What kind of food is a Mexican tortilla?
- 10.Who lived at 165 Eaton Place, London
- 11.Men usually have seven ribs! How many do women have?
- 12.Where was Moses when he was given the ten commandments?
- 13.Name two of the three kinds of swords used in fencing?
- 14.What kind of young creature is a leveret?
- 15.Who was the father of Tiny Tim?
- 16.Name Adam and Eve's three sons?
- 17.Dr Jeckylland Mr Hyde. Which committed the murders?
- 18.What name is given to a queue of aircraft at an airport?
- 19.Who is the only person in the UK who is allowed to drive without a licence?
20. Name the coffee shop in US sitcom "Friends"

Poets Corner

Look for the sun

Today I saw the sun once more
A bright and cheerful day,
The gusty wind had whirled and swirled
And blown the clouds away.
The whole of nature smiled again
And I rejoiced Lord too,
My soul was lifted up again
And I gave thanks to You.

The rain had fallen steadily
Depressing heart and mind,
Our hopes and dreams had slipped away
And joy seemed hard to find.
But now, Lord, You remind us all
When we have days of doubt,
Your love is there to keep us strong
And make the sun come out.

By Iris Hesselden

Thank you

To all those who give regularly towards the mission and ministry of St Paul's

Use this information to set up regular giving through your bank

Code 60-15-28 Account No: 66526434.

Account Name: St Paul's Church.

Reference: your name

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Night is as long as day; 2. Mahatma Gandhi; 3. In a strawberry bed field; 4. Charles Bronson; 5. The eldest son of the reigning monarch; 6. Six; 7. The fifteenth; 8. Alaska; 9. A tortilla is a thin, pliable flatbread used as a wrap in Mexican cuisine; 10. The Bellamy Family (Upstairs, Downstairs); 11. They also have seven; 12. Mount Sinai; 13. Epee Foil and Sabre; 14. A Hare; 15. Bob Cratchit; 16. Cain, Abel and Seth; 17. Mr Hyde; 18. A stack; 19. The Queen; 20. Central Perk.

