

The **Methodist** Church

BRIDGEMARY GOSPORT LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

MAY 2020 MAGAZINE



May Musings

First I want to thank all who have contributed to this magazine, plenty to think about and plenty to do, so no cheating for at least a week.

Spring flowers are beginning to die back Summer ones are growing slowly, teasing us with the promise of glorious colour, but not yet. For the last twenty years I have listened to the ewes with their new born lambs on the hills above the village baa softly to gather them. As they grow and wander away from mother so the lambs voices are loudly heard, a cacophony of noise as you walk by when the evening draws in. The ewes soon tire of their infant wanderings and reply once and carry on munching away at the grass. Some lambs carefully sniff each ewe they find until mother is found, they know the pain of getting it wrong.

We may wander out for fresh air as we start out on a walk, but do we notice that the birds get louder as soon as we step out of the door. I am sure they see us as a threat getting in their way and are telling their fellows to look out. I was out in the garden reading when I heard this odd noise a chattering coming out of the mouth looking directly at me. I was clearly not expected to be where I was, a while later I was clearing away previous trimmings and heard the same again. I am convinced the squirrel swore at me! Well I chase them away for digging holes in the lawn!

A puzzle

A farmer takes a basket of eggs to market

The first buyer takes half the eggs plus half an egg

The second buyer takes half the remaining eggs plus half an egg

The third buyer takes half the eggs plus half an egg

The farmer goes home with one egg.

How many eggs did he take to market?

From George Smithers

Pat Barrett

Sally & Jenny would like to say that Pat their Mum who had been unwell for some time has sadly passed away with covid19 on 9th April aged 91. The funeral is on 1st May obviously in these circumstances it is family only.

For those who want to, this link can be used to view the service.

Url: <http://crematorium.mediaondemand.net/Player/portchester/12651>

Please note the broadcasting will not begin until the service starts so allow a few minutes before 1:15pm for the broadcast to start. You may need to refresh the browser until the service appears. The service will also be available to download by clicking on the same link approximately 2 hours after the service.

Donations in lieu of flowers to RSPB or PDSA via Solent Funeral Directors 82-84 High Street Lee-on-the-Solent PO13 9DA

From Pamela Davey

Pat was a quiet and enthusiastic member at Bridgemary Methodist Church from the early seventies onwards. She was a member of the choir (14 members at one time) and also joined the R & B Concert Party(Rubbish & Balderdash) The choir always sang at Mary Sandell's services, always an introit and sometimes an item.

The R&B's was an enthusiastic group who worked hard and happily to raise money for our building fund, which was for the room called the new room and now called the youth room.

Eventually Pat's increasing age and disability made it impossible for her to continue attending services. She struggled on at home for a while but eventually moved to Canford Manor Nursing Home in Lee.

Pat's daughters salt and Jennifer were members of the junior church, more recently Pat and Sally and the grandchildren, came to Christingle services on Christmas Eve.

Pat was a lovely Christian lady who bravely faced any difficulties in her life.

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## Every Cloud.....

Even now, after more than 4 weeks of lock-down, mainstream media reporters and commentators continually ask government ministers and medical experts, “When will the lock-down end?”

The lock-down will be lifted when it is safe to do so. When will that be? How long is a piece of string? What will Saturday’s lottery numbers be? Each day we witness a government minister, flanked by two highly qualified medical experts, give a Covid19 update from Downing Street and this is followed by questions from the media.

The situation is not helped by demands that the government provides details of its “exit strategy” to the lock-down. One very good reason for **NOT** giving details of any future strategy is that such information would immediately be jumped on by currency speculators and other chancers and that, while it would undoubtedly benefit them personally, would be to the detriment of the country and our society as a whole. It does, however, highlight the wider question of how our economy can be saved once we get Covid19 under control.

“We need to get things back to normal as soon as possible.” Why? What was “normal” 3 or 4 months ago might well be lost forever. It is true that there was an air of optimism abroad; the Tories [*or more particularly Boris*] had won a convincing victory in the general election and we were on track to finally leave the EU at the end of the year. There was an atmosphere of expectation and confidence that, at last, we could determine our own future in the world. It is also true that there were issues that were in urgent need of being addressed, not least the broken social care system that required people to sell their family homes to meet care costs. There was also the need to provide suitable family housing to meet a national shortage. Our roads were/are in urgent need of repair. All of which and more begs the question, why would we want to go back to “normal”?

What if we viewed Covid19 as an opportunity? A chance to reset the priorities in both our national life and in our personal lives. All the

“experts” are telling us that our economy is going to take a massive hit as a result of this pandemic. OK. Suppose that this is true; then why not take this opportunity of building a better economy, one that meets the needs of everyone trying to live in our modern world. What if we reset our economy so that it concentrated more money in ensuring that our NHS was expanded to meet more medical needs, especially mental health. At the same time we could apportion more funding to ensure that care provision was properly met for those entering older age.

This is by no means a proposed “socialist” programme of public ownership. Indeed, current public service provision includes executives and managers on salaries exceeding £300,000 a year; an obscenity that as often as not rewards failure. And would it REALLY matter if there were fewer fashion shops on the High Street? Or not quite so many betting shops and vaping parlours? Major department stores have already been made bankrupt; could not their massive buildings be re-purposed to meet the chronic shortage of affordable accommodation in every town and city in the land?

If we always do what we’ve always done [in this case, a return to “normal”], we will always get what we’ve always got. Is that what we truly want? Or could we bravely reset our priorities and give a lead to a world that has had to wake up to the realisation that we are not all-powerful and invincible.

### **Prayer.**

Father God, as we come to terms with the new future for our world, we pray that our leaders may be guided by your Spirit to make decisions that will refocus our priorities towards what we need rather than what we want, always in the knowledge that you know our needs even before we know them ourselves. We look to your saving love and grace, made known to us through our Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Gerry Williams.***

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### Other Questions

1. What ended at 11am on November 11, 1918?
2. What is known as the "Lone Star State"?
3. What country dominated the East Indies spice trade in the 17th and 18th centuries?
4. What plant is commonly used for soothing a burn?
5. In what city did pizza originate?
6. In what year did the United States celebrate its bicentennial?
7. In electrical terms, what does AC stand for?
8. What American actress died on August 5, 1962, at age 36?
9. What show features the TARDIS?
10. Who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver?
11. What composer's "Ring Cycle" is comprised of four operas with a total length of 17 hours?
12. What is Robin of Locksley better known as?
13. What movie takes place at Shermer High School's detention?
14. What bird, the largest by wingspan in North America, was on the brink of extinction in the 1980s?
15. What type of berries are used to flavor gin?
16. What recent book trilogy features a character named Christian Grey?
17. Who are Athos, Porthos, and Aramis?
18. What comic book villain was also known as Oswald Cobblepot?
19. What is a Fender Stratocaster?
20. What famous poet and libertine died of fever while fighting for Greek independence in 1824?

### City answers

a. CHELMSFORD; b. CAMBRIDGE; c. CARLISLE; d. CARDIFF; e. CHESTER; f. CHICHESTER; g. CANTERBURY; h. COVENTRY

*'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

*'Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...*

*'Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.*

*'The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*'He says, "Be still, and know that I am God..."'*

Psalm 46

### **Christian Aid Week 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Bridgemary will be holding a quiz evening once the lockdown is lifted to raise funds for Christian Aid, so I hope that many of us will join them for this.

I have spoken with Geoff who is the co-ordinator for Christian Aid in Gosport & Lee. He points us to their website where we can donate should we wish to do so. He is not doing envelopes this year, but if at a later date we want to take a collection, he can provide paying in slips to pay any donations in.

### **A month of Sundays**

A month of Sundays for those who cannot receive emailed reflections, though you could ask a relative who can go on line to our circuit website and read it to you if they are willing.  
[www.esanddcircuit.or.uk](http://www.esanddcircuit.or.uk)

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020**

Readings Psalm 23

Acts 2:42-47 John 10:1-10

Hymn 443 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,

The new believers who were in Jerusalem stayed together in a large group for some time, sharing all they had. Eating together,

breaking bread, supporting each other with this very new faith and this was infectious to those around them in a good way. People wanted to know more and so joined the new believers. We are not watched by those who have a thorough understanding of the Bible as the disciple had, but by people oblivious to our faith. They know faith works for us, but cannot see how it could work for them, or think it takes up too much time that they do not have.

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that you will make our faith attractive to those we know, so that they too may believe. Help us during this lockdown to have a confident trust in you that all will be well so that those we talk with will recognise this confidence and want to know more. Keep us all safe from harm during this pandemic, keep us well we pray, that we may continue to praise your name. These prayers we pray in Jesus Name, Amen.

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Christian Aid Week begins**

Readings     Acts 7:55-60  
                  John 14:1-14

Hymn 320 Father, whose everlasting love

The Acts reading is really gruesome. They could not shut Stephen up, they could not stop him spreading the good news. This is Paul, before his Damascus Road experience, where he persecuted those who were not being true to their Jewish heritage. Jesus is telling the disciples that if they have seen him, they have seen the Father, so they do not need to see the Father. Where we are concerned, we have a sense of presence when we pray, a knowing that Jesus is present with us, however we name that. We have an interchangeable use of the persons of the Trinity as we connect with God. Jesus is saying that he and the Father are one and we worship this unity. This reading is also about prayer, asking Jesus for anything. The context though is about the works Jesus has done and bringing glory to the



Father. There is such positivity that comes from Jesus in this reading, let us make it our own.

Almighty God and Father of us all, we pray you will show us your possibilities in the situations we find ourselves in. Help us to understand that what Jesus said, he meant. If we ask he will do the works, help us to be bold enough to ask. We pray in Jesus Name, Amen.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Readings     Acts 17:22-31  
                   John 14:15-21

Hymn 302 He has risen, he has risen

Paul in Athens the centre of philosophy and he uses this opportunity to tell them something new, they agree to listen. He tells them he knows the unknown God telling them the story of Jesus, of his living, dying and rising again to life. This was too much information for them and some of them scoffed. Jesus directs his disciples to keep his commands and promises them a helper, they will not be alone, the Holy Spirit will be with them. He enables them to talk to others about Jesus, as Paul does and as we can. Jesus gives us the ability to be story tellers about him.

Lord God, we thank you for the food we eat, and all that is made for us and those we care for. Bless we ask those who grow our food, bless the land they grow it on and bless what is grown. Bless those who manufacture goods, bless the machines they use and bless the goods being made. Bless the businesses that have furloughed their staff, help them to creatively reopen keeping staff and customers safe. These prayers we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 AFTER ASCENSION**

Readings     Acts 1:6-14

John 17:1-11

Hymn 300 Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, all the gospels and Acts are written in hindsight, where as the letters and some of the major and minor prophets are written in the thick of it and it is clear that some of the Psalms are a cry of need, for God to intervene rather urgently. The gospels reflect back to parts of the old testament to show the fulfilment of promises given by God in times past of things to come. This is one of those moments, Jesus physically leaves this earth, the disciples see him go, as he has gone so he will return. We have no clue when, nor are we supposed to know. Our job as Christians is to have such an infectious faith that others catch it (excuse the pun!).

Lord Jesus Christ as you told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, help us to wait for how long we do not know, but help us to wait patiently for the end of this lockdown. Help us to get used to living with out the company of others for now. Help us to be patient and understanding with those we spend too much time with and bless those we cannot see with good health and keep them safe. These prayers we pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

### **Sunday 31st May 2020 PENTECOST**

Readings Acts 2:1-21

John 7:37-39

Hymn 385 Holy Spirit we welcome you

The day that changed the world for ever. The disciples had been told to wait in Jerusalem for this day. Imagine yourselves there, either as one of the disciples, women were in that company, or in the crowd of all ages and races. A surprising day with strange new things happening, but nothing to be afraid of, though some mocked them and John Wesley would have been one to mock their uncontrolled behaviour. He always expected his hearers to be in control even when the Holy Spirit fell on people as he was preaching all the way back in the 1700's.

Lord Jesus Christ, I commit my self to you again, to be useful for you. Help me to use the gifts I have to your service, and fill me again with your Holy Spirit. Give me the words to say when I need them so I can point people to you, that your kingdom may come and grow right where we are.

Sent in by Heather Murphy

These two are from Richard Osman of Pointless who is doing them to share.

I have the initials 'CC,' but who am I?

1. I had a little moustache before Hitler
2. My dad was president but my mum wasn't
3. I married Chandler
4. I am a space traveller and a funk and soul DJ
5. I sailed the ocean blue in 1492
6. I'm a welsh soprano with the voice of an angel
7. My initials were ct, then cc, then cfv, and now i'm just c
8. I am one of the original supermodels
9. I did the twist
10. I invented the hovercraft

There are eight cities in the UK beginning with 'C'. I have given you the last letters of each too.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| a. C _____ D | b. C _____ E |
| c. C _____ E | d. C _____ F |
| e. C _____ R | f. C _____ R |
| g. C _____ Y | h. C _____ Y |

Other Answers

- |                          |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. World War I           | 2. Texas                 | 3. Netherlands      |
| 4. Aloe Vera             | 5. Naples                | 6. 1976             |
| 7. Alternating Current   | 8. Marilyn Monroe        | 9. Doctor Who       |
| 10. Judas Iscariot       | 11. Richard Wagner       | 12. Robin Hood      |
| 13. The Breakfast Club   | 14. California Condor    | 15. Juniper Berries |
| 16. Fifty Shades of Grey | 17. The Three Musketeers | 18. The Penguin     |
| 19. an Electric Guitar   | 20. Lord Byron           |                     |

Whilst we are at home, we could all think about learning something different.

Why not try a free personality test at [16Personalities](#) or take part in one of over 3300 thousand free high-quality, interactive, video-based lessons, including a recent brief by Bill Gates on the COVID-19 pandemic at [TED Talks](#)

[Open Learn](#) is somewhere that you can find free courses from The Open University in subjects from Politics and Business, to History, and Science. Also [EdX](#) Which is a website hosting lots of free courses by prestigious institutions such as Harvard, and MIT. [Future Learn](#) Is another place you will find short courses from various UK universities, including courses relating to Coronavirus, managing collaborative teaching, training, and outbreak control.

If you want to learn to play the guitar; make a perfect coffee or successfully grow your house plants then have a look at [Skill Share](#) which is an online community with thousands of free classes, mainly creative topics but which also covers analytics, management, and lifestyle topics.

Also don't forget your friends – what can they do? If you have a disguised dog trainer or a hidden history freak then why not ask them to help you train your pooch or educate you on the Edwardians and give you both something to do!

Many thanks

Sue

Hello Everyone,

Easter Blessings to each of you. Christ is Risen, Alleluia!!

I hope you were able to celebrate Easter through streamed services, radio or local church arrangements. Tom & I tuned in to the Easter Morning Eucharist from the Priory Team, who each took part in their own homes. The lessons were read in their gardens, so we had John's account of Mary meeting with Jesus in the garden serenaded by a blackbird in full song! It was wonderful!

I have been enjoying the daily exercise and have walked several times to an oak tree nearby. (those who came on one of the Pilgrimages I lead may remember that we stopped there for a Reflection and prayer).

When I went there at the beginning of the lockdown there were just small buds on the branches. Now, in just those few weeks, the leaves are open. Nature surprises us and continues to grow and develop and there are always God Moments to celebrate, even when we struggle and are downhearted and depressed by the news of so many deaths and nightmare experiences.

I found this prayer by Ruth Gee in the Prayer manual for 013/2014, the theme for that year was LIGHT and HOPE.

“ Jesus, light of the world:

In the darkness of anxiety be the glimmer of peace;  
in the darkness of sorrow be the glimmer of joy;  
in the darkness of suffering be the glimmer of comfort;  
in the darkness of rejection be the glimmer of welcome;  
in the darkness of despair be the glimmer of hope.

So may the light that cannot be overcome, shine through the darkness,  
shine through our lives, shine in the world. Amen.”

Love and Peace

Chris Stuckey District Enabler for Methodist Women in Britain

## TAKE TIME

Take time for now.

This is the only moment you are sure of.

Take time for friends.

They will help you through the very worst days.

Take time for family.

You will miss them immeasurably, when they are gone.

Take time for work.

But don't let work, take all of your time.

Take time to laugh.  
Laughter raises spirits and lifts the gloom.  
Take time for music.  
It will feed your soul and bring you joy.  
Take time to exercise.  
You have one body, you should look after it well.  
Take time for you.  
For if you keep dividing yourself, what will be left?  
Take time to understand.  
That we cannot save time.  
We can just try to use it wisely.  
Take time to Live.  
(Liam Porter)

#### CC Answers

1. Charlie Chaplin;
2. Chelsea Clinton;
3. Courtney Cox;
4. Craig Charles;
5. Christopher Columbus;
6. Charlotte Church;
7. Cheryl Cole;
8. Cindy Crawford;
9. Chubby Checker;
10. Christopher Cockerell

For your listening pleasure recommended by Harry and  
Elsie.

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TBN UK: Freeview Channel 65 | Sky Channel 582

**TBN UK** is an exciting premier Christian television channel, broadcasting a supreme selection of the best **UK** and international Christian programming.

**The answers are all things you can eat or drink. Some of the answers are homophones (Answers next time)**

|     |                                      |  |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1.  | Bored kids do it (4)                 |  |
| 2.  | It makes you smile (6)               |  |
| 3.  | A balloon might do it. (3)           |  |
| 4.  | Born and ..... (5)                   |  |
| 5.  | Lots of traffic. (3)                 |  |
| 6.  | Dover or Liverpool eg. (4)           |  |
| 7.  | Chas and Dave sang it. (6)           |  |
| 8.  | Start of a golf match. (3)           |  |
| 9.  | A palace in Scotland. (5)            |  |
| 10. | It makes you cry. (5)                |  |
| 11. | Could be a regular TV programme. (6) |  |
| 12. | You call the plumber for it. (4)     |  |
| 13. | One for the teacher. (5)             |  |
| 14. | It was a kind of tie. (6)            |  |
| 15. | A goat is one. (6)                   |  |
| 16. | Twenty two over seven. (3)           |  |
| 17. | A wise person. (4)                   |  |
| 18. | A prison sentence. (5)               |  |
| 19. | A Chinese language. (8)              |  |
| 20. | Clint Eastwood's western. (9)        |  |
| 21. | Term of endearment. (5)              |  |
| 22. | Marvin Lee Aday. (4/4)               |  |
| 23. | Historic Kent town. (8)              |  |
| 24. | Duo. (4)                             |  |
| 25. | A German citizen. (11)               |  |
| 26. | Another German citizen. (9)          |  |
| 27. | Talk at length. (6)                  |  |
| 28. | Philosopher 1521-1626. (5)           |  |