

THE

CRAYFISHER

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

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if necessary, items submitted for publication.

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Front Cover Picture: Orpington Sunrise by Brenda Smith

PARISH LETTER

Dear friends,
I do hope that you are surviving and coping with the current lockdown as best you can. As the weeks of isolation and social distancing now turn into months no doubt many of us will be struggling with the current situation. Please be assured that our churches both locally and nationally are doing all that we possibly can to support and pray for you and your loved ones at this time.

These are uncertain times and we are all still working our way through the wilderness as best we can, so some of this information may adapt and evolve in due course.

Services and Prayers.

Our church buildings may be closed but we are still very much alive as a worshipping community. We are continuing to offer a range of services online through our mailing lists, Zoom, WhatsApp, telephone and letter.

We are continuously evolving our worship and have recently established a new pattern of Sunday worship, toddler group Zoom on Wednesday morning, Cray Valley WhatsApp and soon to resume prayer group.

It may be some time until we are able to worship in our buildings again, but we will continue to offer you as many resources as we can until we are back together as a community once more.

Supporting One Another

As we continue to work our way through these difficult times, it has been so wonderful to see the offers of help and support members of our Churches have offered to one another.

Both our Churches have a list of people ready to help and support you if you should find yourself in need. Sometimes a friendly chat can really brighten up the day. Please do get in touch with the Church Office if you should need some support at this time and thank you to those offering their support.

Jessie x

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN JUNE

- Sun 7th **TRINITY SUNDAY**
Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end
2 Corinthians 13.11-end
Gospel: Matthew 28. 16-20
- Sun 14th **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Genesis 18. 1-15 [21.1-7]
Romans 5.1-8
Gospel: Matthew 9.35-10.8 [9-23]
- Sun 21st **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Genesis 21.8-21
Romans 6.1b-11
Gospel: Matthew 10.24-39
- Sun 28th **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Genesis 22. 1-14
Romans 6. 12-23
Gospel: Matthew 10.40-end

COLLECTS FOR SUNDAYS IN JUNE 2020

- Sun 7th Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 14th O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 21st Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 28th Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH CHURCHES ARE CLOSED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE ARE TRYING TO PROVIDE MATERIAL SO PEOPLE CAN JOIN TOGETHER AND WORSHIP AT 10AM ON SUNDAYS (OR WHEN CONVENIENT). PLEASE CONTACT DANIELLE AT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING THE WORSHIP MATERIAL. ALL SOCIAL EVENTS TOO ARE ON HOLD. WE WILL RESUME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

PLEASE NOTE

Sunday 26 April was our APCM but unfortunately due to the current Coronavirus situation, this has been put on hold for the time being. You will be informed when this is to take place. As always, please attend if possible. It is your chance to have a say in how your church is being managed.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE OF THE CRAYFISHER IS TUESDAY 16 JUNE. PLEASE HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE

REGULAR SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

Even though we cannot join together in church at these times, we can still pray for our world, those in need and one another.

If you are able, why not join us on Zoom on your phone, iPad, laptop or other device, for our Sunday worship. If you would like to join and haven't done so already, please let Danielle know and she will send you the link each week. (See page 2 for details of how to contact Danielle at the Parish Office). The service starts around 10 o'clock so log on a little beforehand so that everyone is ready to start. We still have our coffee and chat time at the end of the service, so you can catch up with everyone then.



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PARISH PRAYER GROUP

We cannot meet at Muriel's home, but we are still praying for all in need especially at this time.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

St Mary's Church will be opening its doors again this year, details from Peter or Terry.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

SOCIAL EVENTS

AT **ST ANDREW'S** AND **ST MARY'S** IN 2020

**PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARDS AND LISTEN FOR NOTICES
TO GET THE FULL DETAILS**

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR MORE EVENTS TO COME

DATE

17 October

28 November

EVENT

Annual Dinner

Christmas Fair

VENUE

St Andrew's

St Mary's

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THE SOCIAL EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE POSTPONED FOR THE TIME BEING. YOU WILL BE INFORMED WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO RUN THEM. THE INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, SO PLEASE CHECK WITH THE PARISH OFFICE AND/OR THE CHURCH WEBSITE FOR FURTHER UPDATES.





SPACES AVAILABLE NOW

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SUNDAY SERVICE VIA ZOOM

One of the worst things about having to practice ‘self-isolation’ during Covid 19 pandemic is that some of the things that sustain us in any situation that is worrying and frightening are no longer available to us. We all have ways of coping with problems and difficulties in our lives, talking to friends being at the top of the list. But we have been asked not to socialise, not to gather in groups, to stay 2 metres apart so that we do not put ourselves or others at risk.

Because we are trying to beat the infection, much of our social activity has been curtailed or cancelled just at a time when we need it most. For many people who have worries, fears, anxiety and are feeling lonely and depressed coming to the Sunday services and being with friends provided a period of calm and respite from anxiety, a place where they can feel welcome and valued, where they can lay their problems at the foot of the Cross. But services are cancelled. So, it is no wonder that when the chance to get together to worship with the help of modern technology was suggested, we gratefully accepted it.



So, for the past few Sundays we have been enjoying ‘virtual’ Services. We receive the Order of Service via email or text and at the specified time on Sunday morning we put in the password and on our screens we see the faces of our friends from St Andrew’s and St Mary’s. It is very enjoyable and comforting to hear Revd Jessie or Revd Jane lead us in worship, to listen to the scripture readings, make our Confessions and receive the Absolution. We can also join in the singing of some hymns, led by a choir from a famous Cathedral or a famous singer. In spirit we join a congregation which encompasses the whole country. So, join us next Sunday.

Evelyn Magee

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Christians and the bubonic plague of London

Most of the clergy in the City of London had fled the Great Plague in 1665, but Reverend Richard Peirson was one of the exceptions. He stayed behind to look after the parishioners of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, where he was Rector. The parish was densely populated and the pandemic was catastrophic. The church's register records 636 burials that year in the month of September alone, with 43 interred in one day.

Houses of infected people were marked with a red cross on the door, with occupants kept inside for 40 days. Handcarts were pulled along the city streets to cart away the bodies; the drivers' cries of "Bring out your dead", became etched in the memories of subsequent generations. Relatives were banned from attending funerals.

The official count numbered 68,596 deaths in London alone, but other estimates suggested two or three times that number. Bubonic plague – for that is what it was – was incurable. Poor people were fatalistic about it but complained that even their 'spiritual physicians' had abandoned them. Clergy of the Church of England were often supplanted by non-conformist preachers.

It wasn't just the St Bride's Rector who put his life in jeopardy by staying at his post. While most wealthy people, along with King Charles II and his court, escaped the plague-ridden city, Churchwarden Henry Clarke also chose to remain at the church. When he succumbed to the illness, his brother William took over. William survived for a fortnight.

Plague cases continued to occur sporadically at a modest rate until mid-1666. That year the Great Fire of London destroyed St Bride's Church and much of the City of London. It was rebuilt to a design by Christopher Wren, but almost obliterated once more in 1940 during World War II before being restored yet again.

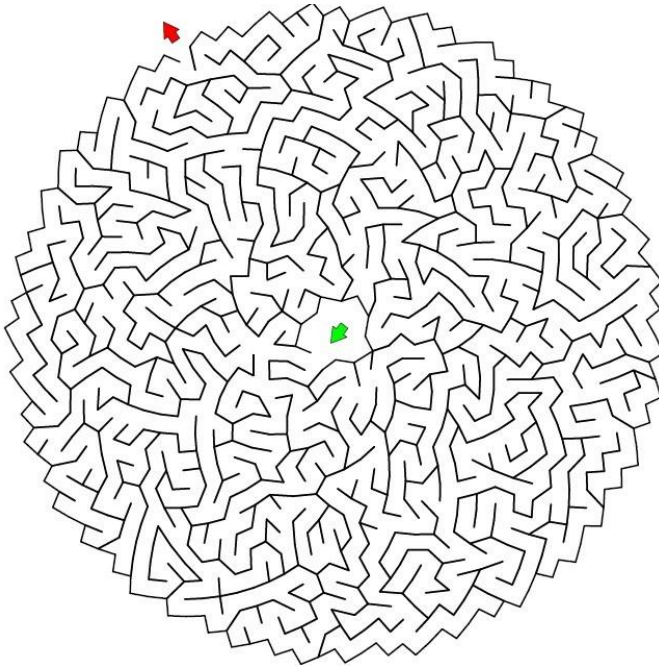
Today's Rector, Canon Alison Joyce, says that compared with her predecessor Richard Peirson, she has it easy. Like everyone else, she is confined by the lockdown rules to her Rectory next to the church. But her pastoral work continues, and she collates sermons and archive music to create a Sunday webcast service. Alison writes, "these days it is a

ministry of telephone calls, emails and Facetime. I offer such practical help and support to the vulnerable as I can . . . I keep a candle burning before our main altar and continue a ministry of prayer.”

Alison says she is surprised when people regard the faith as a kind of celestial insurance policy against bad things happening to them. The first followers of Jesus knew that in dedicating their lives to following the crucified and risen Christ, their discipleship would take them into the very heart of darkness, not away from it.

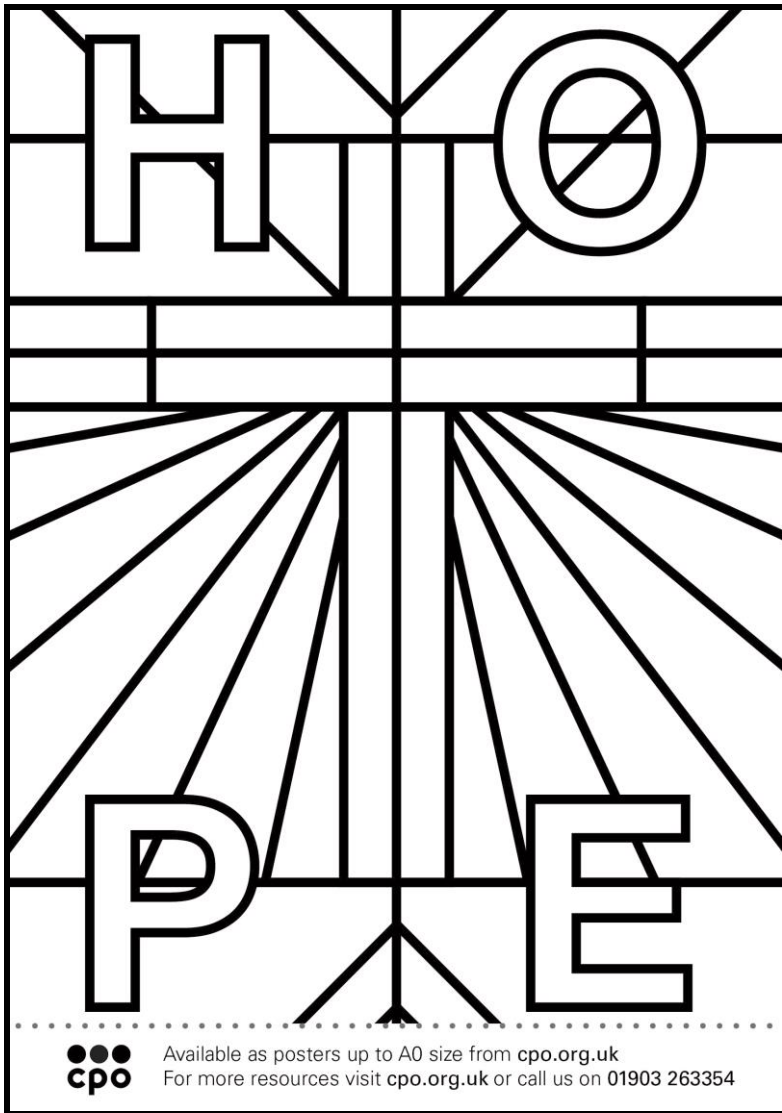
She adds, “Hope is no hope at all unless it can engage with utter despair and meaninglessness.”

Can you find your way out of this maze?



FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO COLOUR PICTURES

A picture of hope. Why not take a photo of your finished poster and post it on our WhatsApp group?



A number of people have written in to ask Parish Pump what you should do about using photographs that you find on the internet in your magazine. Here is their advice. I thought it would clarify the situation for everyone.

Brenda Smith, Editor

When someone takes a photo, copyright of that image automatically belongs to them

That means that, in line with any other intellectual property, you need permission to use, copy or otherwise reproduce that image.

Copyright has two elements: Moral and Economic. That means as the copyright owner, I have the right to control how my image is used, and any changes that are made to it, and I also have the right to charge if it is used by someone. Just because an image is found on the internet and can be easily downloaded, that does not mean you have the legal permission to use it in your own magazine or online.

In UK law, ignorance, or an inability to find the owner, are not excuses for breaching someone's copyright. Beyond that, as Christians, I believe we should set an example in our attitude to copyright. The fact we are unlikely to be caught should not be a reason for an action!

I know of at least two cases where someone has, in ignorance, used an image they found on the internet in a blog post. In both cases, the owner found discovered it and sent them a bill. In both cases they were forced to settle to avoid legal action. Google is becoming increasingly sophisticated in being able to track when someone has 'lifted' an image. So, the risk is real that you could get 'caught'. Suffice to say, in legal terms, using someone's intellectual property without their permission is theft.


There are alternatives:

- Creative Commons is an arrangement that allows owners to make their work available for free, as long as a specific acknowledgement/copyright line is included. Search "Creative Commons" to find out more.

- You can also search for "royalty-free images" to find sites that specialise in copyright free images
- Take your own: If you want an image of a cat, take the picture yourself rather than taking someone else's copyrighted image.
- Public Domain: Copyright does not last forever. Once a creative work is no longer in copyright, you are free to use it any way you want to.

I hope that helps any of you who are wondering about copyright. Of course, the images on Parish Pump are also copyrighted - but your Parish Pump membership gives you permission to use them in church magazines, news-sheets and websites!

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A RING OF ROSES

*Ring a Ring of Roses
A pocket full of posies
Atishoo, atishoo,
We all fall down.*

I feel sure that there is no one in this country who does not know this nursery rhyme. Who has not heard their parents sing it to them and then in turn, have sung it to their own children and grandchildren? And there are variations of it in most countries.

Older children sang it as they played a game of holding hands, skipping round in a circle and, at the end, dropped to the ground as quickly as possible and last one down was out – in some countries the last one down had to kiss the boy or girl, they loved, very embarrassing and hilarious for the other children!! I played this game myself; but sadly, was never kissed!

Unfortunately, this jolly little rhyme has also become associated with the great plague, known as the Black Death, that swept through the country in past centuries. The ‘roses’ referred to the red rash that accompanied the disease, the posies were bunches of perfumed flowers which people carried to cover the smell of the illness and the ‘atishoo, atishoo’ was the sneezing that indicated the onset of the illness and the ‘all fall down’ was what happened when the illness became untreatable and the person died.

So now we are coping with our own pandemic situation, I wonder whether we might see the emergence of a nursery rhyme to tell the story of the corona virus pandemic; perhaps something like:

*Ring a ring Corona, Came all the way from China
I’m locked down, I’m locked down
With nice clean hands!*

Or perhaps you have a better one! Stay safe!

Evelyn Magee



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Andrew's Church <<***

WALTER MORGAN McELROY (1912 – 1979)

Between the ages of twelve to fifteen I had something good to brag about: my English teacher at school is an American! His name was Walter Morgan McElroy. He was aged, we guessed, in his forties. It would be an exaggeration to say that Mac was eccentric, but he was certainly different. He spoke with an American twang. He was an enthusiastic Shakespearian and he loved the stage. I don't recall that we knew why he was teaching in Sidcup nor that we ever asked. He didn't give much away, except that he once let slip that an earthquake had toppled the dome of his old 'Poly High'. There, surely, was a clue that he came from California. He was dark haired, had a sallow complexion and he looked faintly Chinese which was surely another clue.

Thanks to the extraordinary reach of the internet we now know (from an ancestry website) that Mac was born in Fresno, California in 1912. He attended Long Beach Polytechnic and while he was a student there from 1928 to 1931, he had some poems published. When he died in 1979 could he have imagined the invention of the internet? – and that someone would post his youthful poems there? I liked being taught by Mac for O-level. But I never knew until April 2020 that as a young man he had written this charming, wistful and elegiac little poem:

SONG TO THE SPINNERS OF FATE AT THE LOOM

O spinners
Weave some purple in my grey for me.
Delight my hungriness
With chrome and turquoise,
Jade, vermillion, jasper-green.
Pour out the lacquered floods of colour,
Spinners three;
Spin rainbow-coloured threads for me.
I sicken unto death of pale, wan dun.

Jerry Dowlen



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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, MARCH 6TH, 2020

The service in the afternoon was held at St. Nick's Church, Tubbenden.

The theme developed by the women of Zimbabwe was 'Rise! Take up your Mat and Walk'.

The Orpington Committee took part as leaders and readers, dressing in the Zimbabwe flag colours.

Prayers and hymns were said by all with conviction.

It was well attended and with many donations. The Committee had made refreshments.

Jackie Cook



Are you suffering from any of the following conditions?

**Back pain : Neck pain : Sciatica : Shoulder pain :
Tension : Migraine**

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