

St. Augustine and St. Aidan Tonge Moor and Hall i'th' Wood

PARISH PAPER

“Lockdown Edition 2” - June 2020



Dear friends

After 2 months of lockdown, the Government is tentatively trying to get the country back to work, and our children back into education. These first steps are necessarily tentative, but nonetheless necessary. We all stay in lockdown until a vaccine is developed and distributed, but my guess is that by then children's education - especially for the more disadvantaged - would be irreversibly damaged, and millions more will have been made unemployed, with the now-bankrupt country unable to support them. I doubt any of us would want that.

Yet there are those who criticise the Government's approach as being reckless, uncaring, unclear or even confusing. Just as at the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak governments were feeling their way in a totally new situation, so they are now, as they begin relaxing measures imposed over the last few months. Not all will get it right: some countries are having to re-impose restrictions, having seen infection rates rise. It may well be that no country gets this right. In our own, democratic, nation, there will be Inquiries, which some will no doubt seek to use for political purposes, but the aim should be to learn from mistakes that have been made, both here and abroad, while acknowledging honestly those aspects which could not possibly have been foreseen.

However, that is for the future. For the time being it is incumbent on all of us to acknowledge that the coronavirus will be with us for some time: perhaps it is here to stay, like the ‘flu. We need to manage it, and act responsibly in relation to our families and our neighbours. Social distancing guidelines, however modified they may be over time, need to be observed. Regular hand washing may well become routine, especially on returning home, and the wearing of face-coverings, now receiving attention from the fashion industry, may become *de rigueur*.

The much talked-about “new normal” will be very different from what we have been used to. For example, when churches begin to reopen for public worship, social distancing will require us to sit in new locations - we might even get Anglicans sitting near the front!

One of the more important qualities the Christian faith engenders is a generosity of spirit: looking for the good in people; recognising that most people try to do the right thing, even if it’s not the way we would do it; loving our enemies; praying for those who abuse us; working together for the common good, even if it puts us at a disadvantage.

“This is not the way the world works”, I hear you say. No: but it is the way God works, and the way Jesus came to show us. As this month we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, let us pray that God’s Holy Spirit - the Spirit of Peace, of Wisdom, of Comfort - will come into our hearts, and into the hearts of all people, enabling us to work together as a community, a nation, and a species, to share knowledge and insights, and so live and grow together that all people may flourish.

With my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tony

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

For the first time since its inception, the National Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday did not take place this year. Instead, mass from the Holy House was live-streamed on the internet, followed by a homily by The Revd Tim Pike, CMP, Vicar of St Michael's, Croydon. At the time of writing we do not know whether it will be possible to share in it while sitting on canvas chairs in the garden, but it can be followed here:

<https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/2020-national-pilgrimage-at-home/>

#MORETHANSUNDAY

A Year of Discipleship: encouraging us all to live out our faith every day of the week - not just on Sundays!

Theme 11: Community

Each month a theme is outlined, with suggested action for the month, along with a podcast featuring local people who have particular insight to share.

Reflection

When we first formally explored Mission Action Planning as a church, the word 'community' appeared again and again as we prayed about where God was calling us. But what did it mean and how would we create it, serve it and be part of it?

Prayer and hospitality are where we began. We explored how we could build up St John's as a praying community. Fr George Guiver from the Community of the Resurrection at

Mirfield helped us develop the Community of St John: we made a commitment to pray at least the Psalm prayer in the booklet each day together, adding in the Psalm, and one or two readings for the day, moving on to a form of daily office as people wished.

Praying the same prayers, praying with the same readings built up that sense of community, and I know that those prayers have been said in the USA, Singapore, Thailand and New Zealand as people lived away for a time and yet were still part of our praying community.

This has been even more important over these last few weeks during this time of isolation. The last Sunday we worshiped together in church we committed to pray at 8am and 8pm each day. A sizeable proportion of the congregation does not have access to the internet and many have said (during phone calls to maintain pastoral contact) that knowing they are joining others in prayer means they feel less isolated; they feel supported and anchored in a community of prayer.

Hospitality was key to how we sought to create community, how we served the local community and how we became a more active part of the wider community in Hurst. We set up our Place of Welcome in Feb 2017, offering free refreshments, a warm and consistent welcome, various activities and a place to be, to chat and meet new people. We would regularly get at least 50 people each week and over time local GP surgeries, local community groups and organisations like Action Together and Save the Children would socially prescribe us to clients and want to work with us on other projects. We attracted volunteers from the local community. Most of the people don't join us for worship on a Sunday but they would say St John's was their church. They ask for prayers in times of family crisis or with health concerns, they contribute to fundraising events, they take part in social

events and they feel, and they are, a loved and much valued part of the church community at St John's.

Through offering hospitality relationships have developed with other local groups in the community which has led to St John's being able to quickly enter into a partnership with Smallshaw Hurst Children's Community group run by Save the Children, Ashton United in the Community and the Broadoak and Smallshaw Community Centre to form The Smallshaw Hurst Community Action Group to support positive community action during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

Through perseverance in prayer and extending hospitality to strangers, we have been able to be alongside others in times of joy and suffering, contribute to their needs and create, serve and be part of a growing community in the place we have been planted.

Revd Liz Devall

LET'S TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY

This podcast was recorded before the Coronavirus outbreak, but we feel that its message is still hugely relevant in these difficult times: <http://tiny.cc/podcast11>

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Join your church's Facebook group and make conversation
- Join the #MoreThanSunday Facebook group
- Support your vulnerable neighbours by offering to do their shopping/to pray for them
- Take part in Clap for Carers

GOOD OLD DAYS?

We sometimes wish that we were back in ‘the good old days’ - those times when loo paper had not been invented and there was no media to encourage us to panic buy. Of course, we would not have had the NHS either, or even hand sanitiser to try and keep the virus at bay.

In 1665 the City of London was in the grip of another plague - the Bubonic Plague, which had also originated in China over a century earlier.

In the sleepy village of Eyam, nestled in the Derbyshire Dales, a delivery man brought the plague to the village in the form of a flea-infested bolt of cloth. When people realised what had happened, and the first residents succumbed to the disease, the village took a very brave decision.

Under the leadership of the Rector, Rev. William Mompesson, and the Puritan Minister Thomas Stanley, the village agreed to self-isolate so that the disease could not spread to other local villages. Points were set up on the perimeter where people could speak to neighbouring villages by shouting across an open space, and places were designated where food could be left.

They also chose not to use the church and found a suitable dell like a natural amphitheatre where they could hold outdoor services and meetings.

It was fourteen months before the village could declare itself free from plague, but during that time at least 273 had died out of a population somewhere around 400.

But their generous self-sacrifice probably saved very many more people in neighbouring villages.

An interesting fact is the pattern of spread of the disease. One lady buried her husband and six children within eight days, but survived

herself, as also did the gravedigger who must have had many opportunities to succumb.

Today Eyam has become a tourist site, and plaques have been placed on the walls of old houses to indicate who lived and died there. The church registers have the names and dates of those who lost their lives, and most of the graves are still discoverable.

Obviously, Coronavirus is a totally different problem to the Bubonic Plague, and fortunately is less likely to cause so much loss of life, but it's interesting to note how un-selfish the people were, and how they worked together as one community.

Sadly, our twenty-first century lifestyle has become a lot more individualistic and selfish. But there are signs of a change of attitude to one of caring for one another.

Perhaps this will help us to re-think what really matters in life.

BACK IN CHURCH SUNDAY

When is a church not a church? When it cannot be used for God's worship. That was the position of every Anglican church in England until recently. From the moment the Archbishops, supported by the House of Bishops, overrode the Government's advice on the 24th of March and forbade clergy from even saying their private prayers in their churches, there was a rising tide of discontent from both clergy and laity. Although certain retired bishops with a catholic understanding of the Church added their voices, I am unaware of any serving bishops who did so.

I was one of over 800 clergy and laity who signed a letter to *The Times* on the 4th of May. On the 6th, the House of Bishops reconsidered the matter, and on the 7th the Bishop of Manchester permitted the opening-up of churches in the

diocese again to clergy for the purpose of private prayer and saying mass, which could also be streamed.

This is as it should always have been, and no doubt questions will be asked of the House of Bishops in due course. As it is, I hope that by the time of publication, mass will again be being said in church, echoing sound issues having been ameliorated.

I had grown rather fond of the Oratory in the Vicarage, and while mass can indeed be celebrated anywhere, it is most fittingly celebrated in a place whose stones have been hallowed by the worship of countless faithful worshippers, and by the offering of so many masses, and the appearance of which is so comforting and reassuring - and right - to those sharing in the worship as it is being live-streamed.

Mass resumed in church on Saturday 23rd May, the echoing and distorted sound having been resolved. For weekday masses we are using the Christ the King chapel: the light from the south-facing window in the Lady Chapel made that location impractical. Our first Sunday back in church saw that main altar back in use once more, but an unfortunate technical difficulty meant that the mass was transmitted without sound. Future masses and other devotions will continue to be live-streamed on the parish's YouTube channel (<http://tiny.cc/SATMYouTube>).

How long it will be until we can all gather together again - suitably distanced from each other - within the beautiful worship space that is St Augustine's, Tonge Moor, no-one yet knows for sure, although July 1st has been mooted. Until we can, do share in the Church's offering of Our Lord's sacrifice by tuning in to the parish's YouTube channel (subscribing if you can) on Sundays at 10.30am, and during the week if you are free. Times are given on the weekly Mass Sheet on the website, where you will also find useful texts for the mass.

Fr Tony

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

7th June Trinity Sunday

Celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: ‘Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’

Isaiah 45:22: ‘Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.’

Genesis 1:1-2: ‘In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...’

Judges 14:6: ‘The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...’

John 1:1-3: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.’

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: ‘I am going to send you what **my Father** has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (**the Holy Spirit**) from on high.’

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

20th June

Summer Solstice – longest day of the year

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol + stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here are some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.

A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

St Francis of Assisi

God in All

He inspires all,
 He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
 He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
 He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
 He is the God of heaven and earth,
 of sea and rivers,
 of sun, moon and stars,
 of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
 and in heaven,
 and under heaven.

A prayer of St Patrick

24th June

John the Baptist, preparing the way for the Messiah

John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman. He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request. When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.

29th June

Feast of SS Peter & Paul, the two most famous apostles

29th June

St Peter, 'the Rock'

The two most famous apostles are remembered this month, for they share a feast day.

St Peter (d. c. 64AD), originally called Simon, was a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He met Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Jesus gave him the name of Cephas (Peter) which means rock. Peter is always named first in the list of apostles. He was one of the three apostles who were privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.

When Peter made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus recognised it as being the result of a revelation from the Father. He in turn told Peter that he would be the rock on which His Church would be built, that the 'gates of hell' would never prevail against it. Peter and the apostles would have the power of 'binding and loosing', but Peter would be

personally given 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. Jesus also forewarned Peter of his betrayal and subsequent strengthening of the other apostles. After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter before the other apostles, and later entrusted him with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ's flock.

Peter played a big part in the early Church, and he is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts, where in the early chapters he organised the choice of Judas' successor, preached with stirring authority at Pentecost; and was the very first apostle to work a miracle. Peter went on to defend the apostles' right to teach at the Sanhedrin, and to condemn Ananias and Sapphira. It was Peter who first realised that Christianity was also for the Gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius. Later he took a prominent part in the council at Jerusalem and went on to clash with St Paul at Antioch for hesitating about eating with Gentiles.

Early tradition links Peter with an apostolate and martyrdom at Rome. The New Testament does not tell us either way, but Peter being in Rome would make sense, especially as Peter's first epistle refers to 'Babylon', which was usually identified with Rome. Peter's presence in Rome is mentioned by early church fathers such as Clement of Rome and Irenaeus. Tradition also tells us that Peter suffered under Nero and was crucified head-downwards. There is no conclusive proof either way that St Peter's relics are at the Vatican, but it is significant that Rome is the only city that ever claimed to be Peter's place of death.

St Peter was a major influence on Mark when writing his gospel, and the First Epistle of Peter was very probably his. (Many scholars believe that the Second Epistle was written at a later date.)

From very early times Peter was invoked by Christians as a universal saint. He was the heavenly door-keeper, the patron of the Church and the papacy, a saint both powerful and accessible.

In England there were important dedications to Peter from early times: monasteries such as Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster. Cathedrals were named after him, too: York, Lichfield, Worcester and Selsey. In all, it has been calculated that 1,129 pre-Reformation churches were dedicated to St Peter, and another 283 to SS Peter and Paul together.

Images of Peter are innumerable, but his portraiture remains curiously the same: a man with a square face, a bald or tonsured head, and a short square,

curly beard. Not surprisingly, his chief emblem is a set of keys, sometimes along with a ship or fish.

29th June

St Paul, apostle to the Gentiles

Like Peter, Paul (d. c. 65) also started life with another name: Saul. This great apostle to the Gentiles was a Jew born in Tarsus and brought up by Gamaliel as a Pharisee. So keen was he to defend the god of his fathers that he became a persecutor of Christianity, and even took part in the stoning of Stephen. He hunted Christians down and imprisoned them, and it was while on his way to persecute more Christians in Damascus that he was suddenly given his vision of Christ.

It was the decisive moment of Paul's life – Paul suddenly realised that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and the Son of God, and that He was calling Paul to bring the Christian faith to the Gentiles. Paul was then healed of his temporary blindness, baptised, and retired to Arabia for about three years of prayer and solitude, before returning to Damascus.

From then on Paul seems to have lived a life full of hazard and hardship. He made many Jewish enemies, who stoned him, and wanted to kill him. Nevertheless, Paul made three great missionary journeys, first to Cyprus, then to Asia Minor and eastern Greece, and lastly to Ephesus, where he wrote 1 Corinthians, then to Macedonia and Achaia, where he wrote Romans, before returning to Jerusalem.

After stonings, beatings and imprisonment in Jerusalem he was sent to Rome for trial as a Roman citizen. On the way he was shipwrecked at Malta; when he finally reached Rome he was put under house-arrest for two years, during which time he wrote the four 'captivity' epistles. Later Paul may have revisited Ephesus and even have reached Spain. Tradition tells he was eventually martyred at Rome during the persecution of Nero, being beheaded (as a Roman citizen) at Tre Fontane and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands.

The belief that Peter and Paul died on the same day was caused by their sharing the same feast day.

Paul was not only a tireless missionary, but a great thinker. His epistles played a major part in the later development of Christian theology. Paul's key ideas include that Redemption is only through faith in Christ, who abrogated the old Law and began the era of the Spirit; that Christ is not just the Messiah, but the eternal, pre-existent Son of God, exalted after the

Resurrection to God's right-hand; that the Church is the (mystical) body of Christ; that the believers live in Christ and will eventually be transformed by the final resurrection.

It is difficult to overemphasise the influence of Paul on Christian thought and history: he had a major effect on Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin and others. In art, Paul is depicted as small in stature, bald and bandy-legged, with a long face, long nose and eyebrows meeting over deep-set eyes. His usual emblems are a sword and a book. In England he was never as popular as St Peter, and ancient English churches dedicated to him alone number only 43.

The history of the relics of Peter and Paul is not very clear. Tradition says that Peter was buried at the Vatican and Paul on the Ostian Way under his basilica. Certainly, both apostles were venerated from very early times both in the Liturgy and in private prayers, as testified by Greek and Latin graffiti in the catacombs of the early 3rd century.

NEWS FROM WALSINGHAM



Once again, news from Walsingham, such as it is, comes from Facebook postings from the Shrine and the Priory and the Shrine's web-site. Apologies to those who have already read the information from those sources.

It was announced on Wed 6th May that a new Shrine Priest has been appointed to succeed Fr Andreas. Fr Ben Bradshaw is currently Chaplain to the Bishop of Sodor and Man. He and his family will (lockdown restrictions permitting) move to Walsingham in the summer. Fr Ben trained for the priesthood at Mirfield and after ordination served at St Matthew's, Little Lever. He is no stranger to Walsingham. He is the local Superior for the Isle of Man's Walsingham Cell and has been a regular pilgrim for over ten years. He was interviewed on Radio Norfolk on Sun 17th May, and can be listened to through a link on the Shrine's web-site under 'News'.

Our regular pilgrims will know that Steve Eley, the Shrine gardener, was due to retire last month. The gorgeous gardens are currently being well looked after and his successor begins work on 1st June.

Shrine Prayers continue to be streamed at 6pm every evening and are currently attracting on average an amazing 800 views each day. The number of people who are following the shrine on Facebook has leapt by 1,000 to 5,200 since the start of the lockdown, and there are 100s of applications to join the online prayer cell each month.

Those of us who usually travel down to the ‘National’ Day Pilgrimage on Bank Holiday Monday are very sad to miss it but look forward to 2021! This has been only the second time the event has been cancelled since 1946, the other being in 2001 due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic. At the point of writing this, the Shrine intend to stream the Mass live from the Shrine Church, which will include the Revd Tim Pike, CMP, giving the homily as a special broadcast.

Sadly, the Priory Dedication Festival on the 10th May had to be cancelled but Sr Angela and Sr Carol kept the day in private. Their Chaplain, Fr Frank Nichols, has written how the Priory chapel bell serves as a reminder that the Sisters are at their daily task in the faithful praise of God. The Offices are still said in private and no Eucharist is celebrated in the chapel. In their recreation time, both Sisters have been knitting. Sr Angela (finally) finished an angel, which is clearly going to be unique as she’s declared there won’t be another one! Sr Carol made a nun and following a photo of her on their Facebook page, I suggested that people paid £1 a go to name her. This was taken up with the proviso that her name had to include Mary or Margaret and that of a saint. One was drawn out of a hat and it all raised £80 for their charity of the year, Tariro. The ‘new novice’ is Sister Margaret Rebecca and was duly dispatched to the winner.

On the home front, thanks to Fr Tony for giving us the opportunity to share saying The Rosary (and a link to instructions for making our own if required) on the evening of our planned Cell meeting. The intention for Mass earlier in the day was for our Cell of St Nicholas and on the last Saturday of May for the Shrine and its Priest Associates.

In common with the rest of the country, the Shrine is waiting for Government guidelines to finalise plans for re-opening, with the highest regard to the safety of its staff and pilgrims.

Linda Parkington





Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families



Hope you are all keeping well. Just a few notes from Mothers' Union this month.

Though we are unable to meet together for our meeting this month, Fr Tony will stream MU Mass via YouTube on Wednesday 17th June.at 6.15pm (our normal meeting date, but an earlier time).

We are continuing to keep in contact with each other via email and telephone, while Mothers Union Manchester Diocese continues to post on Facebook.

The MU website is continually updating the resources on the website, which include:

A MU Coronavirus prayer

Midday Prayers for June

Colouring sheets with bible verses

Knitting and crochet patterns for mask straps (for nurses and care workers)

Sewing pattern for scrub bags (for nurses and care workers)

I have received an email from MU with a link to a questionnaire from MSH about a new magazine publication, I have forwarded this to members who I already have an email address for. If members let me have their email I can then forward any information I receive to them.

If there is anything you need help with please do not hesitate to contact me.

Elsie Hollinrake

100 Club News

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their number/s and even taken on new ones. We managed to start the 100 Club monthly draw via a Zoom meeting at 3.30pm on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May.

Pam and Fr Tony were in charge of the drum containing the numbers at the vicarage, as the weather was glorious it was outside, on the lawn. Ruth & David had list of numbers and names, in their dining room.

As we should have started the draw from April we did 2 months together to bring it up to date. The winners were:

April Draw

First Prize Number 80 - Howard Anderson wins £25

Second Prize Number 10 - Shirley Dickinson wins £15

Third Prize Number 8 - Lilian Schofield wins £10

May Draw

First Prize Number 16 - Elsie Hollinrake wins £25

Second Prize Number 15 - Ted Hale wins £15

Third Prize Number 50 - Jean Pye wins £10

The third draw for this term to be drawn

Sunday 6th June 2020 after the streamed mass approx. 11.30am, enough time to get yourself some tea and toast before Fr Tony joins us.

If you are not a member and would like to join it is just £1 a month. Please see David or Ruth Taylor.

WITH A VOICE OF SINGING

One of the major aspects of worship in our church is congregational singing: it is wonderful to lift heart and voice in praise of God in the company of others doing the same.

Somehow singing along to a Youtube track or other online means is not the same as singing together. Many choirs and others have recently made valiant attempts to produce online choral performances, but however technically clever and commendable they may be, the result is something a compromise. I expect that members of our choir and congregation feel much the same.

Sung worship is a key part of our Christian worship and devotion. It is a place where we not only sing about God and to God, but where we encounter God. Hence its absence is so keenly felt. Even if churches are allowed to reopen there appears to be no prospect of singing in church becoming an early reality. Will it be safe to sing? Singing in worship has been highlighted in the media as a possible place of transmission.

A vital part of our faith is a concern for the most vulnerable and therefore the importance of not putting other people at risk must guide any decision making.

Should we stop singing? Although Anglicanism has no hymns in worship before 1833, metrical psalms were sung, as were many parts of the liturgy. Singing has been part of Christian worship since the earliest days. St. Paul wrote, “*As you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.*” (Ephesians 5:19). Many of the questions above about singing also apply to other aspects of church life - after service coffee, sharing Holy Communion, exchanging the Peace and pastoral visits. Church is a community that connects with one another and with God.

It seems that there is no easy solution. What we do know is the one whom we sing to and about in our worship is the one who journeys with us, as he has always done. Our call is to stay close to him, to listen to scripture, be faithful in prayer, to sing his praise in a strange land and to offer worship with our whole selves and all that we do.

Let us hope and pray that in the not-too-distant future we shall again experience the glory of hearing the organ issue forth in majestic tones and our congregation joyfully and with renewed spirit join together in song.

Mike Cheetham
Organist

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

There have been no Occasional Offices this month

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

NUTTIES

(known in our family as “Granny Biscuits”!)

<i>1 cup</i>	<i>Quaker oats</i>
<i>1 cup</i>	<i>Coconut</i>
<i>1 cup</i>	<i>Self raising flour</i>
<i>1 cup</i>	<i>Sugar</i>
<i>115g</i>	<i>Butter (melted)</i>
<i>1 tbsp</i>	<i>Syrup</i>
<i>1 tspn</i>	<i>Boiling water with 1 tspn</i>
<i>Bicarbonate of soda</i>	

Mix the dry ingredients. Melt butter and syrup and add to mixture, then the water and bicarb.

Place in teaspoonsful on baking tray and bake for 5 - 15 minutes, gas reg.4, 180 degrees (150 degrees fan)

(Ed. I take no credit for the old family recipe but can readily vouch for their excellence!)

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On why holding an Arts Festival in church is not a good idea

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren
Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner-city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument. Your stage-hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from 'Oklahoma', with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar. The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.

Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies - through years of experience - can now get five cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 29 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

HOW TO MAKE YOU WIFE MORE EFFICIENT

An efficiency expert was delivering a seminar on time management for a company's junior executives. He concluded the session with a disclaimer: "But whatever you do, do NOT attempt these task-organising tips at home," he said.

When he was asked why not, he explained: "Well, I did a study of my wife's routine of fixing breakfast. I noticed she made a lot of trips between the refrigerator and the stove, the table and the cabinets, each time carrying only one item. So, I told her: 'Darling you are making too many trips back and forth carrying one item at a time. If you would only try carrying several things at once you would be much more efficient.'" He paused.

"Did that save time?" one of the executives asked.

"Actually, yes," the expert answered, "It used to take her 15 minutes to fix my breakfast. Now I get my own in seven minutes."

PARISH DATES

SUN 7th TRINITY SUNDAY

6.30pm: Evening Prayer and Benediction

Tue 16th 7.30pm: Litany (Walsingham Cell) Everybody welcome

Wed 17th 7.30pm: Mass (Mother's Union) Everybody welcome

NB No 10.30am this morning

Tue 23rd 9.00am-12.00pm: Clergy Swanwick Conference (via Zoom)

Wed 24th 9.00am-12.00pm: Clergy Swanwick Conference (via Zoom)

NB All masses and Devotions are being streamed on YouTube: (<http://tiny.cc/SATMYouTube>)

CALERND A AND INTENTIONS FOR JUNE 2020

- Mon 1 S Justin: Those persecuted for their faith
Tue 2 feria: Those unable to share in worship via the internet
Wed 3 Ss Charles Lwanga and his Companions: The Church in Africa
Thu 4 **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING:** The Church's mission throughout the world
Fri 5 S Boniface: Those preparing the new deanery structure of the Manchester Diocese.
Sat 6 feria: The Health and Social Care Secretary
SUN 7 TRINITY SUNDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Mon 8 feria: The homeless, the unemployed and the lonely
Tue 9 S Columba: The Church in Scotland
Wed 10 feria: Jean, Archdeacon of Bolton
Thu 11 feria: Medical staff working in Intensive Care Units
Fri 12 feria: The Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet
Sat 13 S Antony of Padua: Members of the Franciscan Order
SUN 14 CORPUS CHRISTI: The Parish and the People of God
Mon 15 feria: All who are self-isolating
Tue 16 feria: Our Walsingham Cell of St Nicholas
Wed 17 feria: The work and mission of the Mother's Union
Thu 18 feria: Walmsley Deanery, its churches and congregations
Fri 19 **THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS:** The Parish and the People of God
Sat 20 The Immaculate Heart of Mary: The Parish and the People of God
SUN 21 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God
Mon 22 **SS JOHN FISHER AND THOMAS MORE:** Right relations between Church and State
Tue 23 feria: The Bishop of Manchester and his staff
Wed 24 **BIRTH OF S JOHN THE BAPTIST:** The Parish and the People of God
Thu 25 feria: The Loyal Opposition and all Members of Parliament
Fri 26 feria: All health and care workers
Sat 27 feria: Our local businesses
SUN 28 SS PETER AND PAUL: The Parish and the People of God
Mon 29 feria: All involved in Tracking, Tracing and testing
Tue 30 feria: Those seeking a vaccine for the coronavirus

PARISH OFFICE

email: paroff@staugustinestm.org.uk

website: www.staugustinestm.org.uk

CHURCH WARDENS

David & Ruth Taylor: 31 Wisbeck Road. Tel: 01204 396409

OFFICERS AND ORGANISERS

email addresses can be completed by adding "staugustinestm.org.uk"

PCC Secretary: Katherine Taylor Tel. 01204 531053 - email: pccsec@

Treasurer: Sue Loftus Tel 01204 302051 - email: treasurer@

Walsingham Cell: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Church Flowers: Cath and Ted Hale Tel: 01204 533745

Child Protection: Margaret Mullen Tel: 01204 695964 - email: cpo@

Brownies: Ruth Taylor Tel: 01204 396409

Sunday School: Ruth Taylor Tel: 01204 396409

Mothers' Union: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Organist: (St Augustine's) Mike Cheetham Tel: 01204 391963

Organist: (St. Aidan's) Peter Pemrick Tel: 01204 527699

Parish Hall Bookings: Sandra Anderson Tel: 01204 383158 - email: bookings@

Wednesday Morning Coffee Shop: John Harrison Tel: 01204 792691

Caretaker - St Aidan's Hall: Andrew Settle Tel: 01204 450321

Parish Paper: Mike Cheetham - email: magazine@