

All Saints Thornton Hough Newsletter

April 26th 2020

All Saints Church, Raby Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral. CH63 1JP

allsaintsth.org.uk



Welcome to our occasional newsletter!

As the lockdown continues, we hope this newsletter will bring you some joy, encouragement and some food for thought. It comes with love from everyone at All Saints' Thornton Hough, reminding us that we are all still a part of that worshipping and serving community even though at the present time we are unable to meet together.

Daily Hope 0800 804 8044

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phone line, *Daily Hope*, to bring worship and prayer into people's homes. It offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England. It is available 24 hours a day, just call

0800 804 8044

Archbishop Justin says: "I want to urge people to spread the news about this service. I'm going to phone a friend; will you join me?"

News

Please pray for the friends and carers of Miss Doreen Edwards, resident at Brimstage Manor Nursing Home.

We also remember Penny Dodd from our All Saints' congregation, who for many years lived with her parents on Oxford Drive. She passed away on 16th April after a period of illness. She was a long-standing member of the Women's Institute, part of both the Thornton Hough and Poulton Lancelyn branches. She worked as a typist at Cunard and the Land Registry. Her brother Peter describes her as "absolutely unique".

VE Day

May 8th is the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day) when we remember and celebrate the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany on May 8th 1945. The surrender of the Nazis brought about the end of war in Europe. We would love to hear your family stories about VE Day and about the early years after World War II. Please send us your reflections, memories and photographs so we can include them in any future newsletter or in *The Magazine*.



Kerry and Gemma Hughes

Life in lockdown

Patsy Baker wrote:

Our "stay at home" routine continues and is beginning to feel almost normal.

My daily exercise walk is as welcome as ever, especially as the bluebells are now in full flower, and my borrowed dog's time in our garden is a delight. She is so helpful with the pruning!



A few weeks ago my sewing machine got rather a shock as it was brought out of retirement to help with sewing with the "West Kirby Scrubeteers" who have been making scrubs and wash bags for our local NHS hospitals. My thanks go to friends who supplied sheets and pillow cases to be transformed into wash bags. Our activities had a mention in the Daily Telegraph and we may well be featured in a future edition of the Wirral Life magazine, what fame!



Our grateful thanks go to all the NHS staff as they don their protective gear daily to work in what must be such a stressful situation. I'm sure we all know of patients and staff in hospital at this time and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

I hope you are all getting enough exercise. Stepped on my scales this morning and it said "Please use social

distancing, one person at a time"!

Brian Jenkins wrote:

During this period of enforced self-isolating, I have become somewhat of an expert in doing jigsaws or rather *Wasgij's* (which are harder and have very little relationship to the picture on the front of the box). It's amazing how fast the time passes when you are "jigsawing", and I can recommend it to anyone who has several hours to spare with nothing to do therein.

Also, I have never in my life, made so many telephone calls- my telephone bill is rapidly rising.

What do other *self-isolators* do to pass the time, apart from walking, shopping, housework, and cooking? I might add that Freda is in a Care Home in Caldby, and is only available by telephone - so I am on my own.

cots2tots

I've missed our little friends, I messaged parents/carers last weekend, and everyone is good and enjoying the sunshine. A memory of last Easter came up on my phone, hope it makes you smile. *Rach xx*



On the lighter side...

Due to the effect of Covid-19 some businesses are in trouble ...

A submarine company has gone under.

A manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation.

A dog kennel supplier has called in the retrievers

A company supplying paper for origami has folded.

Interflora is pruning its business and Dyno-rod has gone down the drain.



Ladies, the new *Social Distancing* outfits are available now...

Lockdown on the Earth

During the Lockdown, throughout the majority of the Earth at this time, our minds might turn to lockdowns in the past and see what lessons can be learnt, or reinforced. Here is a snapshot of three such situations.

Eyam: In 1665 a tailor from the Derbyshire village Eyam ordered a box of materials from London that he was to make into clothes. He unwittingly triggered a chain of events that led to 260 Eyam villagers dying from bubonic plague. The village elders quarantined their entire village to protect the surrounding area from the plague. This plan would have become an effectively self-imposed siege if it weren't for the villagers who lived around Eyam bringing provisions to them. Let us be thankful for those who supply provisions to us now.



The Boundary Stone, Eyam, Derbyshire, with holes believed to be where coins were placed for trade during the quarantine of the Bubonic Plague outbreak of 1665-6.

Egypt: During the visitation of the plagues in Egypt, the final one was the plague of the Firstborn. The whole community of Israel was asked by Moses to prepare a meal and, on the planned night, each household was to be in their house together. Let us remember that they survived without loss by being together at home in their households. Let us do the same.

Robben Island: During the racial tension in South Africa many people, including Nelson Mandela, were locked down, by imprisonment, on Robben Island. He was imprisoned for reasons that the regime thought were correct but, to many, were not. Eventually he was released and became a shining light in his country. Let us show the same strength of character and spirit showing patience and fortitude in our lockdown now.

There will be many other examples of experiences during past lockdowns that you will bring to mind but these three highlight

- **Neighbourliness** (both to us and by us)
- **Households** (stick together and stay apart)
- **Strength** (patience and fortitude)
- **NHS for us all**

Peter Arch

Safeguarding Training

Despite the “trials and tribulations” of this period of lockdown, I am finding myself with more free time at my disposal – and far from feeling bored, I am able to catch up with home activities that I have been putting off for a while (or even a long while!). However, I also appreciate that “key workers” may currently find themselves busier than ever and I join in with others in thanking them for all their efforts.

If you do find yourselves with some free time, please could I encourage you to complete the online Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training? This is relevant for every one of us and important for us to know about, even though it is not a comfortable subject to consider. We each hope we will never have to put our knowledge to good use, but it would be wonderful if we emerge from this “hibernation” able to manage our safeguarding at All Saints even better.

There are details about the training on the Diocese's Safeguarding Training Page. From the Safeguarding Page chester.anglican.org/safeguarding/ follow the *Training* link at the bottom of the page. The Basic Awareness course takes about an hour or so, but you don't have to do it all in one sitting. It is free of charge. The most straightforward way of accessing this course, is through the [Church of England National Safeguarding Training Portal](https://www.churchofengland.org/national-safeguarding-training-portal). You must first register to gain access to the training course. Whilst this is relatively straightforward, there is a document on our web site at www.allsaintsth.org.uk/safeguarding-training to help.

Please let me know when you have completed the course, or if I can help in any way. In the meantime, let us hope and pray that Covid-19 can be tamed soon.

With all good wishes,

Linda. (safeguarding@allsaintsth.org.uk)



Can you find 16 books of the Bible ?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

A Jigsaw Puzzle



Casting around for something to fill a couple of hours or so the other day I came across a jigsaw which had been sat in the bottom of a drawer for longer than I cared to remember. It was not large and I couldn't remember ever

completing it.

So, not being one to avoid a challenge, I set to. Once it was done, it struck me that a jigsaw puzzle can teach us a great deal about how we might live our lives – the protocols are not dissimilar: -

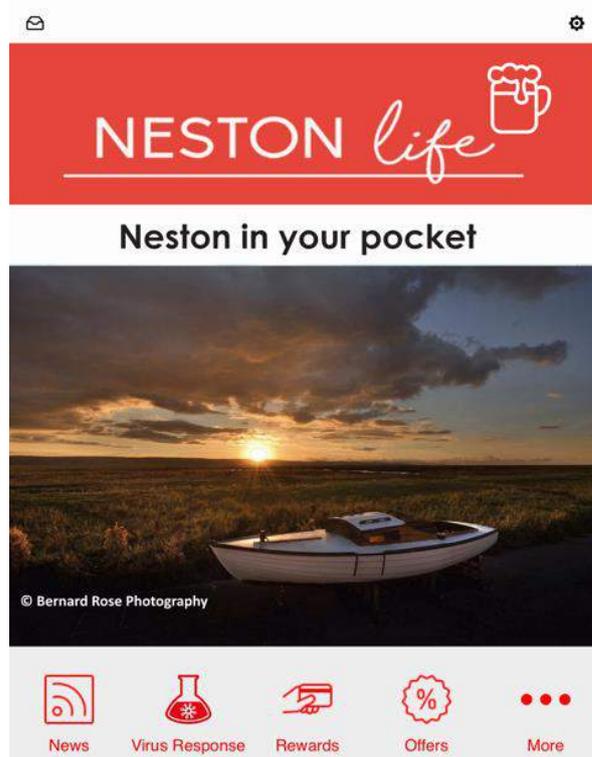
- Don't force a fit - if something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
- If things aren't going so well, take a break. Things will look different when you return.
- Be sure to look at the overall picture. Getting hung up on just the little pieces can lead to frustration.
- Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together gradually, piece by piece.
- When one part of the puzzle becomes difficult, move to another part and then go back to the difficult bit later.
- The creator of the puzzle gave you a picture as a guide. Refer to the Creator's guide often.
- Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colours and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
- Working together with friends and family makes things easier and more fun.
- Establish the corners and the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
- Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches will surprise you.

- Take time to celebrate your successes (even the little ones).
- Anything worth doing takes time and effort. Puzzles cannot be rushed.
- When you finally put the last piece in place, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've created and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Michael Rogers (Bunbury)

Neston Life

“The historic market town of Neston is now one of the most up to date areas of Cheshire, as its very own mobile app has launched. It brings together the very best of the town centre and its surrounding villages, including Little Neston, Ness, Burton, Willaston and, of course, Cheshire's only coastal location, Parkgate.



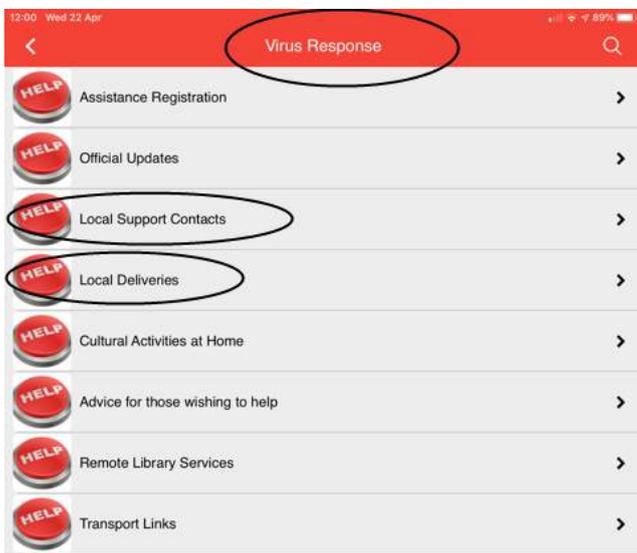
“As well as bringing businesses and customers together, Neston Life will support the activities and events of local community groups and organisations. Many local groups and their events are already listed on the app at launch, with others invited to get in touch to ensure their details and dates are added or updated as required, both on the app and the AboutMyArea website.

“Neston Life can be downloaded FREE from:

- Apple's App Store
- Google Play Store

During this time the app includes information about local (to Neston) businesses which are continuing to operate and it says how these businesses are continuing to work within the Government's Social Distancing Guidelines.

People in the parish may find this useful.



The AboutMyArea website also has information about Wirral though this is less well-developed than the Neston material. Go to aboutmyarea.co.uk/Merseyside/Wirral and select your postcode within Wirral.

A totally new experience of “Homecoming”

When we travelled to see our son and his family in Australia on 1st January we were totally unaware of the threat of coronavirus on the world. Travelling home after nearly 3 months away and transiting through Singapore, we were advised to self-isolate for two weeks – which we did and then came “lockdown”.

Before our trip we had emptied our cupboards, fridge and freezer. This is when our friends and neighbours and people from church rallied to our rescue with food and other necessities including offers of “Jam Butties” and still help us even now. We are so grateful to them and to others who, when passing, have offered to shop for us. We are so fortunate to be living here in Thornton Hough where everybody is so thoughtful.

The one message coming across to us both through this terrible pandemic from our Christian friends of all denominations, our lovely Muslim neighbours, our daughter-in-law’s Hindu mother and others who, although they may not attend church often still have a belief, is that the help and caring attitude, kindness and more especially prayers will help us all.

Thank you to everyone. Take care and keep safe

Love and Blessings, *Lesley and Brian*

Keeping in touch online

We are using our contact list to send interested people regular updates about All Saints by email. You can join this contact list by following the link from the home page of the website or you can send a request to join the list to office@allsaintsth.org.uk. This list is operated in accordance with our Data Privacy policy

Covid 19 Chronicles - Clappers for Carers

On Wednesday 25th March 2020 the first Clap for Carers happened all over England. Our nearest neighbours are the inhabitants of the cottages at the bottom of the walled gardens, and so we didn’t feel very involved in a major clap, but I was out in the garden pruning roses (almost all the gardeners, volunteers and professionals, had stopped coming on



Tuesday 24th) so I clapped with my leather pruning gloves, and heard quite a few other people doing the same. There were fireworks too. Very inspiring.

We were disappointed when the next week there was no clapping on the Wednesday, although there was on



Thursday April 2nd, but we weren’t really expecting it, so just heard various people not just clapping but apparently banging pots and pans, so the next Thursday, April 9th, I was ready to make a more musical noise with a couple of handbells, an E and a G, which I thought made quite a good sound. However, our

cottage neighbours went one better. There’s a trumpeter in Cottage number 4 and a saxophonist in Cottage number 3, and between them they put my puny little handbells to shame.

There was nothing else for it. Scirard got out the bell trailer and on Thursday 16th managed to ring a couple of short peals, though the brass kept going for much longer.



So not to be outdone, on Thursday April 23rd, St George's Day, he rang twelve and a half minutes of Reverse Bob Major, followed by Happy Birthday to You in honour of Shakespeare. Whatever shall we do next week?

Caroline Lancelyn Green



Congratulations to Bo and Ken Edwards who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on April 23rd.

Extract from Bishop Keith's letter to the Diocese April 24th

"We are now post Easter. Whatever our focus has been until now, as we look ahead to another three weeks of lockdown which is very likely to become more, how are we doing?"

"I continue to hear stories of encouragement and surprise. I think my favourite this week is from Runcorn and an older lady accessing an online service from her parish holding a telephone up to her computer screen so that a friend, another lady on her own, could hear the sermon..."

"But with encouragement and thanksgiving there is challenge and testing. For some, perhaps the novelty of online worship has begun to pale as we crave actual company (even if we can actually participate in worship in this way). Maybe we are wondering what our lives are going to be like when whatever "normal" looks like returns if it ever does. We may be crying out to God for some sense of what this all means.

"As we give some thanks that the present strategy of our government here appears at least to be helping the NHS to cope, what might be the possible impact of this pandemic globally, especially in our link dioceses in Congo and Melanesia, who have none of our health infrastructure and capacity for self-isolation..."

"The resurrection scriptures have been speaking powerfully of the Lord Jesus meeting us and calling us by name. I have found these assurances of the risen Lord with us enormously sustaining, even with, and especially with those who are going through bereavement and the nearness of death. We pray for those, including those from our churches, who are working in hospitals and ICUs and in care homes..."

"But with this prayer of intercession and thanksgiving, I wonder whether in this time before Ascension Day and Pentecost, we might also give ourselves to silent prayer. I have often found Romans 8:26 an enormous relief in prayer:

"Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words".

"Sometimes when we will allow ourselves to be silent before the Lord we allow the Spirit to pray in us and

through us in this way *"with sighs too deep for words"*, and this is the beginning of our discovering how it is that we ought to pray. ...

"So, let's pray, let's continue in prayer; let's receive this time in lockdown to pray to the risen Lord.

"If silent prayer, given you have a house full of preschool or primary school children sounds remote, know that there are others in the diocese who are praying for you.

"If you are at your wits end with loved ones in hospital, or you have financial and job uncertainties and all the praying you can do is more in panic, praying "Help!", know there are others in the diocese praying for you too.

"And if we are praying in this way and learning to sense the Spirit interceding within us, don't be surprised if in that moment you find God giving you a person to call, a word to speak, a website to recommend, or an online service to access.

"We do not know what is to come. We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit helps us in our weakness. And when the Spirit does, then the Spirit (as the rest of Romans 8 reveals) will open to us even more the heart of God for our lives, our country and our world.

With love in Christ. **+Keith**

The complete text of the letter can be found online at <https://chester.anglican.org/coronavirus/#CB> and then click on 'Coronavirus Briefing 24/04/2020' from the menu.

Bible books – solution

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **fluke**). It kept people **looking** so hard for the **facts** and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it** usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

Copies of this newsletter are sent by post to those we know do not have Internet access, others will receive it by email. It is also available on the website.

Copies of Rev'd Vicky's meditations and reflections published since Easter are included with newsletters sent by post. Others have received these via email.

Please send your contribution for future newsletters to editor@allsaintsth.org.uk or to Newsletter, 6 St Stephen's Close, Heswall. CH60 3TA

Thanks also to Maureen Thompson, Vicky Barrett, Sue Stinson and Di Hughes for their contributions. IS.