

THE PARISH CHURCH OF

ST JOHN



THE DIVINE

BROOKLANDS • SALE



## ***From the Editor***

It is hard right now to think of anything other than the Coronavirus. Events are moving so quickly that I've had to re-write this opening twice. Richard's letter discusses the impact of the Archbishop's directive to curtail services, so I won't rehearse that here. The impact on our lives will be enormous and it is hard to see a return to normality for some time. There is a lot of fear and anxiety, which are likely to get worse and many people will be asking, 'Where is God in this?' Well, in us. We can reflect him in the acts of kindness and compassion we undertake to help others. That is part of our calling as Christians.

As we think of Easter, which we will hopefully all be celebrating in some way later this month, we can reflect on two things. The first is that the death of Jesus, on the Cross, was for us and that in his resurrection we have a signpost to our future. The second is that none of us knows when we will be called to that future. Like a thief who comes in the night or a Master who returns home late at night we cannot prepare for the precise moment. We can though prepare and be ready by living each day as if we will be called today.

That thought doesn't though mean that we shouldn't take precautions in the current crisis. Hand washing; avoiding close physical contact; and self-isolating if necessary are all essential aspects of this. But equally essential is the need to look out for each other. The early church is described in The Acts as being one of mutual support and love. We ought to emulate that by looking out for neighbours, ensuring they have supplies of food and medications. Communication is also valued, a friendly phone call or email demonstrates kind thoughts. And let's too not be British about it if we are in that situation, ask for help if you need it.

If you want some distraction from the doom and gloom then there is the usual pot pourri of content here. The hymn we may or may not have sung has been replaced this time with a worship song I was introduced to recently. Find it online, turn it up loud and dance around the kitchen to it. Sharon provides us with a Saint and some rather sad news regarding the Mothers' Union. There is an editorial self-indulgence, or should that be 'another' editorial self-indulgence plural and some random articles for your delectation.

Keep safe and have a Blessed Easter.

**The Editor**

## Richard writes...

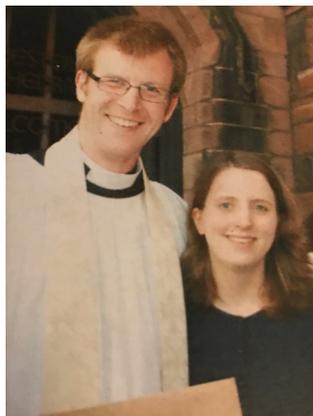
Yesterday the Archbishops wrote to all clergy informing us that in light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact we are advised that public worship is suspended until further notice. Whilst I was expecting this to be the advice given, it was nonetheless quite a shock! The writer to the Hebrews instructs his fellow Christians to 'not giving up meeting together' (Heb. 10:25). This brings home that deep sense of loss which I feel at not being able to meet with you to worship God. This sadness is increased when we consider that this comes with Easter on the horizon. The Christian faith is an Easter faith, and to be unable to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with you pains me deeply.

The thought process behind the advice is to limit the close contact that people have with each other thereby reducing the opportunities for the virus to spread and so ensuring those most at risk are protected as much as possible.

In very practical terms this means the following are all cancelled / suspended / postponed with immediate effect:

- Sunday services, beginning with Mothering Sunday
- Messy Church
- All Easter services
- Breakfast Alpha on Saturday mornings
- The Prayer Course on Wednesday evenings
- The Youth Prayer Course on Sunday evening
- The Wednesday morning Connect Group
- Our Friday morning Discipleship Group
- Women's Fellowship on Wednesday
- Good as New on Thursdays
- Crafty Chat on Wednesdays
- Mothers Union on Wednesdays
- Bumps & Babies on Tuesdays
- PCC meeting currently scheduled for next Wednesday
- Our APCM currently scheduled for the end of April

Looking at this list leaves me feeling deeply saddened, 'Beside the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept as we thought of Jerusalem' (Psalm 137:1). The Israelites were in exile in Babylon, the temple and city walls lay in ruins, the promises of God looked fragile, and yet 'weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning' (Psalm 30:5).



There is much talk about the Church of England being very much “open for business” but it will not be “business as usual” et cetera. We’re told by our Archbishops that we ‘must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church,’ and yet I wonder if this is more an opportunity to discover what already was: the rhythms of grace and the rich heritage of Anglican spirituality. I could say a lot about these, but I simply want to encourage you to use your time as a gift from God to refocus on him over the forthcoming weeks and months.

The Archbishops remind us of our need to be **rooted in prayer**. Prayer is one of my two ministry priorities here at St John’s, the second being evangelism. There are various ways to pray and as we begin to restrict non-essential contact with others, we could re-envision our self-isolation as a mini-retreat, an opportunity to spend time with God and getting to know him better? If it’s a nice day why not wander to St John’s and sit on one of our benches and enjoy spending time with God? Please check out the resources sheet for ideas! If, like me, you prefer to have a book then I commend *How to Pray* by Pete Greig and *Dangerous Prayers* by Craig Groeschel.

Speaking of prayer, I am praying every day for you. I shall be *with God with the people of Brooklands on my heart*. I am going to set aside the hour of 9am-10am every day for intercession and I’ll be working my way through the electoral roll praying for everyone by name. If you have a particular prayer request please get in touch, and this applies to anyone - whether you’re on our Electoral Roll or not! My intention is to pray in this way:

Day	Surnames beginning with
Sunday	A-D
Monday	E-H
Tuesday	I-L
Wednesday	M-P
Thursday	Q-T
Friday	U-W
Saturday	X-Z

Our current situation also provides us with an opportunity to **worship at home**. The Church of England has put together a short booklet which I commend to you for use. It helps to give shape to your own personal worship. There are also a wide variety of online resources which can be used to help supplement this booklet or could stand alone. You can download them from our website. If you would like a hard copy delivered to you please just ask! You can also find a variety of resources online: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

We live in uncertain and unsettling times, but God is with us, walking alongside us. We began with a passage from Hebrews, let me finish with Hebrews too.

*Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13:20-21)*

*Richard*

## Raise a Hallelujah

An Easter treat or a disappointment depending on your point of view as this is definitely not something we've sung at the 10.30. I came across this song a couple of months ago and have heard it and sung it on several occasions since. It crossed my mind to include it this month as it does have an Easter theme in the chorus but I was of two minds. Then, I the got an email suggesting that the chorus could be used instead of 'Happy Birthday' to time hand washing, so that made my mind up. A search online will throw up several youtube versions, some with lyrics on screen. As I was putting this together I got a note from a friend telling me that the light was still shining and the darkness would never put it out. In these times we need to remember that, so play this loud, sing along and clap in time. The backstory to the song is taken from the publishers web page.

"Bethel Music CEO Joel Taylor and his wife Janie took their two-year-old son Jaxon to the hospital with what they thought was a normal child's illness. The Taylors soon discovered that Jaxon's kidneys were shutting down due to an E-coli virus attacking his organs. Jaxon then began to undergo blood transfusions and go on dialysis, while suffering from seizures and respiratory issues. Soon after, their four-year-old daughter Addie was diagnosed with the same infection. Faced with the possible loss of their son and daughter, the couple cried out to their community for prayer and support.

Worship leaders and friends of the community Jonathan and Melissa Helsers were in constant contact with the Taylors from the beginning of the crisis, and received news one night that the Taylors didn't think Jaxon would make it through the night. "As soon as I got that text, I felt like this giant of unbelief stood in front of me," Jonathan Helsers said. "I thought, 'Jaxon's going to die tonight, we're not going to see the miracle.'" As the Helsers dove into prayer over Jaxon, a new song came out. "All of a sudden, out of my gut, this song came out in the face of the giant - 'I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies. I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief.'" This song became an anthem for the Taylors throughout the rest of the battle over Jaxon's life.

Making worship their weapon, more friends from the community came to the hospital room and sang over Jaxon and Addie. After several weeks in the hospital, numerous treatments and countless prayers, the Taylors were admitted to go home with two healthy children. Joel Taylor recounts his experience, "God's timing often doesn't make sense until you look back to see that mountains were climbed and canyons were crossed on no strength of your own. In the battle for Jaxon's life, the global church community rose up like a mighty army and joined us in prayer and worship all over the world. Our son was miraculously healed and today is perfectly healthy."

## Apollo 13

On 11th April 1970, Apollo 13 was launched as the third manned flight to the moon. If you have seen the Tom Hanks film of the same title then you will pretty much know the story. During a routine operation as it was en route to the moon a bare wire caused a spark in an oxygen tank precipitating a huge explosion. The famous line “Houston, we’ve had a problem” was a miracle of understatement. The three astronauts on board were all experienced test pilots and the Mission Commander, Jim Lovell, was NASA’s most experienced astronauts having flown three previous missions. (You may remember Jim Lovell from the Christmas 2018 magazine as he was on Apollo 8 which was featured in that.)

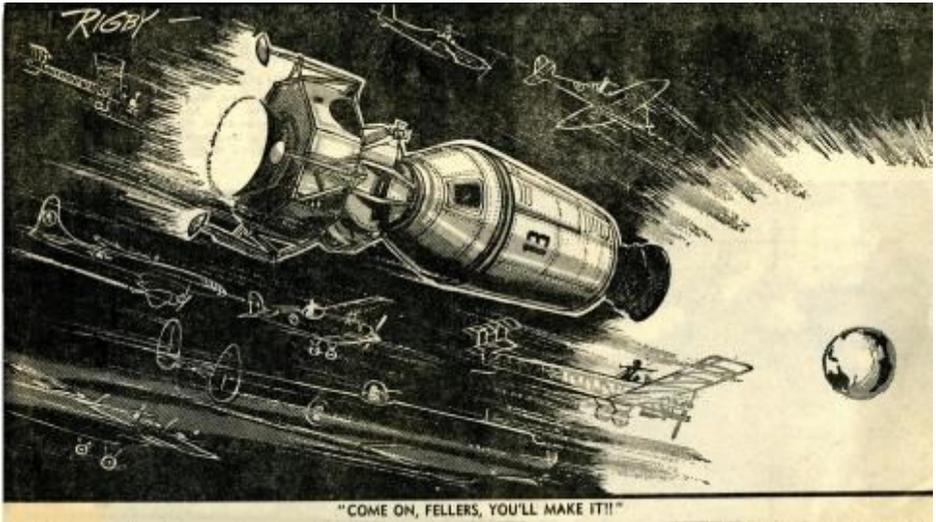
It may seem a surprise to us now but by the time of the third moon trip, the public was fairly jaded. Lovell, along with crewmates Jack Swiggert and Fred Haise, had performed a live TV broadcast which to their dismay had not been shown on any of the US networks. The world did though sit up to follow the fate of Apollo 13 as the three men had to use the lunar lander (Aquarius) as a sort of lifeboat while the Command Module (Odyssey) was effectively switched off to conserve enough battery power to allow key splashdown systems to work. The lunar lander was designed for only two people to use for a short time and a number of problems had to be overcome and suffered. There was no heat in the capsule for example and temperatures dropped to almost zero. Water was severely rationed to the extent that Haise developed a kidney infection.

On re-entering the Earth’s atmosphere, and just getting to that stage given the damage to the ship was remarkable, nobody knew if the heat shield was damaged or if the frozen parachute would defrost and work. During the re-entry the radio didn’t work, this was normal but given the concerns about the state of the capsule more stressful than normal. The stress increased as at the end of the expected six minutes blackout there was no communication. In what Flight Controller Gene Kranz described as ‘the toughest minute and a half we ever had’, Apollo 13 made contact ninety seconds after it should have done. Amazingly it splashed down closer to the recovery ship than any other Apollo mission.

Although a near disaster and failing to meet the objective to land on the moon, Apollo 13 is often described as NASA’s greatest triumph. For the full story listen to ‘13 Minutes to the Moon’, available on the BBC iPlayer. Well worth self-isolating for.

I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies  
I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief  
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody  
I raise a hallelujah, Heaven comes to fight for me.





The cartoon above was by Rigby, the famous Sun cartoonist and very different to his usual style. The ghosts of previous aviators shepherding the stricken capsule home was sufficiently poignant for me to remember it from half a century ago.

## Crux

The monthly Crux insert is no longer included in the magazine. It can be found online at <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/documents/category/crux/> If easier you can simply insert 'Crux Manchester' into your search engine.



I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises  
roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive.



## Christian Aid Week Sponsored Walk

Christian Aid Week is next month, running 10-16 May. Last year St John's raised £1,237 with a splendid £750 contributed by 11 friends in a Group Sponsored Walk around historical and interesting buildings in Central Manchester.

This year, virus restrictions permitting, we are joining a long established Christian Aid walk that takes place to scenic Lyme Park from Higher Poynton on Saturday morning, 9<sup>th</sup> May, with a choice of 3, 6 or 8 mile routes. Isabel Bryce (980 5762) will co-ordinate our entry.

Do join us.

Jill Chandler



Editors note: Even if this doesn't go ahead there is still a need for those of us who can to support Christian Aid's main fundraising



I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me  
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee  
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery  
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me.



## The big surprise lurking in your Granny's chicken soup

Granny always knew her chicken soup was good for you when you were poorly, but she did not realise quite *how* good. Now research has found that the traditional hot broths used in many cultures to battle flu and fevers pack a bigger punch than even the cooks realised.

A range of soups, ranging from vegetable to beef and chicken, were discovered to have the power to interrupt the life cycle of *Plasmodium falciparum*, which causes 99 per cent of deaths from malaria. Some of them were actually as effective as a leading antimalarial drug, dihydroartemisinin, in fighting malaria.

No one particular ingredient was found to be common to the broths, but there certainly seems to be "evidence that they contain antibiotic properties", according to one doctor. The study was carried out at the Imperial College London and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

So we all know what to eat over the next few months...



*Helen went to church three weeks running,  
so she was co-opted to the P.C.C.*

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive.



## From the Archives

### April 1920

Two key items are reported in this edition. The first is the formation of the Parochial Church Council. Notice of the meeting to appoint this was given with a PCC of 15 people being proposed. This included 10 members who would be elected by the meeting. Those nominated had to be communicants over the age of 21. At the time of writing the powers and responsibilities of the PCC had not been formally assigned by the National Assembly.

Readers will remember from last month the decision to hold a bazaar in November. A meeting was held to appoint an Executive Committee, which issued a request that “It will be of service if the ladies, who are responsible for the different stalls, will send in at once a completed list of stall holders and helpers either to the Vicar or the Hon. Secretary, as may be most convenient, so the preliminary circular may be issued immediately after Easter”. Very organised. The money raised was to be used to support parochial organisations, repair the organ and undertake some painting.

You might remember the target was £800. The Editor will keep you in suspense until the year-end over whether they made it.

### April 1970

Strangely the same two items featured above were key aspects of the April 1970 magazine as 50 years after the 1920 changes to governance in the Church there was a further set of changes. These introduced the Diocesan and Deanery Synods with an aim to streamline governance and better reflect the views of church members.

Sing a little louder  
In the presence of my enemies  
Sing a little louder  
Louder than the unbelief  
Sing a little louder  
My weapon is a melody  
Sing a little louder  
Heaven comes to fight for me.



Rev. Buckley asked for more participation and commented that in the previous year there hadn't been a single nomination before the Annual Meeting. In an echo of current discussions he commented though that, "there are, of course, many other ways of participating in the work of the church, even more desirable and far more necessary than attendance at an Annual Meeting. All that we do is dependant on the willing participation of people who will step in and shoulder responsibility. I shall be presenting a review of what we are doing to the Annual Meeting, together with an outline of some of the things we might do if there were the volunteers to participate".

The magazine also noted that there was to be a meeting of the Christmas Fair Committee with stall holders to have thought out the broad outlines of their stalls with requests for help to be published in June. 1970 was almost as well organised as 1920.



## Church Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for church flowers in memory of a loved one, a birthday or an anniversary, please contact Ruth Shaw on 973 9255 or Lynda Tattersall on 973 7140. A typical donation would be £35 for a flower pedestal.

**26 April**

**Flower pedestal donated by Wendy Higgins in memory of Philip Downing and Peter Smith.**

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive.

**I raise a hallelujah.**



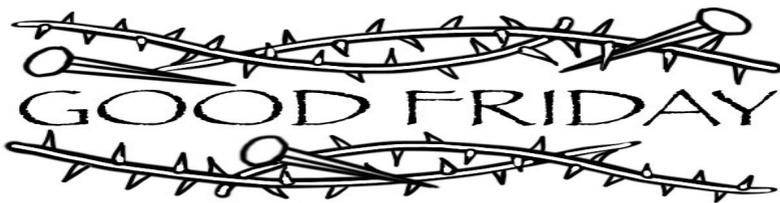
## Mothers' Union

Hello everyone I hope you are all well. First of all a Happy Easter to you when it comes.

We had our AGM in March and have decided to put the branch into abeyance for the time being, due to lack of support. This is disappointing, but not surprising.

Thank you to all who have supported us over the years notably Kay and Carol, Kath and Michael and of course all the members.

Sharon



## Saint Teresa of Los Andes 1900 -1920

Teresa was a Carmelite nun, born in South America and one of their most popular saints. She was known as Juantia in childhood and suffered from bad tempers, despite her piety.

Aged 14 she experienced a locution, with Christ, who said she must endure her appendixitis pain, in memory of his suffering. She joined the Carmelite nuns at 19, experiencing basic conditions, much prayer, love and suffering.

She wrote: " I wish to be holy, therefore I give myself to love .... whoever loves has no will except that of the beloved."

Teresa, contacted typhus, aged 20 and died on the 12 of April.  
Feast 12 April



**SANTA TERESA DE JESUS  
DE LOS ANDES  
Carmelita Descalza**

## God in the Arts ‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Murillo’s ‘St John the Baptist with the Lamb’

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on animals and birds as seen in art and Scripture... this will run throughout 2020.*

The nursery rhymes we learnt as children often focused on lambs: Mary had a little lamb, Baa baa black sheep, Little Bo-Peep and Little Boy Blue. They come to mind in springtime when we see lambs in the field jumping for joy or bleating as they run to the ewes for warmth and safety.

Murillo, a 17th century artist from Seville, had that world of childhood in mind when he painted ‘St John the Baptist with the Lamb.’ He looks back to the little child of Isaiah 11 leading the animals, but also we are called to think of the adult John the Baptist, who sees Jesus walking by and exclaims, “Look, here is the Lamb of God.” In the painting, St John is a child with his arms around the lamb. He stands on rocky ground with a reed cross at his feet that has the words ‘Behold the Lamb of God’ on the ribbon.

The painting hangs in the National Gallery, and it certainly lacks the strength and brilliance of other Spanish artists. But Murillo is telling us how the drama of salvation is played out by children and lambs. He is inviting us to look from that world of childhood to another part of Isaiah’s prophecy, where he talks of the Messiah led like a lamb to the slaughter. We enter that drama of salvation in Holy Week this month. On Good Friday Jesus was led to His crucifixion, just as the lambs were being killed for the Passover.

We think of the world of Old Testament sacrifice, where the high priest on the day of Atonement would enter the Holy of Holies and sacrifice a ram. And we focus on Jesus who is for us both priest and sacrifice, and realise that there is a divine chemistry at work that leads us from Good Friday to Easter Day.

The writer of Hebrews meditates on this theme and proclaims that in Jesus we have a high priest of the good things that have come - eternal redemption. We are invited to appropriate that great gift for ourselves in this Holy Week of our salvation. So, we journey from the childhood days of Murillo’s painting to Calvary and the Easter garden. And we can also journey beyond to the heavenly city, where Revelation tells us that all the nations walk by the light of that Lamb - the Lamb of God.



## **General Synod calls on Government to act over 'pauper' funerals**

The General Synod has called on the Government to end the 'cruel' experience of so-called 'pauper' funerals, after hearing of the plight of those unable to afford funeral costs. Members voted to back a call for the Government to oversee the development of basic standards for public health funerals, run by local authorities.

Sam Margrave, a General Synod member from the Diocese of Coventry, introducing a motion to the General Synod, said bereaved families unable to afford funeral costs experienced a 'postcode lottery' of different practices. These included no one being allowed to be present at a service; service times that make attendance impossible; ashes often not returned; pastoral care rarely provided to support the bereaved and no headstone allowed, enforcing a policy of unmarked graves, he told the Synod.

He said there had been a 70% increase in the number of public health funerals between 2015 and 2018 with this figure expected to grow. This presented a 'major public policy issue' he said, adding that "the Church of England reaches into every community and can make a profound difference if we choose to".

The General Synod backed a motion put by Mr Margrave calling for the Government to develop, with council leaders, a national plan and basic standards for 'pauper' funerals.

## **Online Version**

The online version has full colour and some added content. Do take a look and please pass on the link to friends and family via whatever social media you use. It can be found on the Church website.

[Stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk](http://Stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk) and click on the magazine tab at the top.

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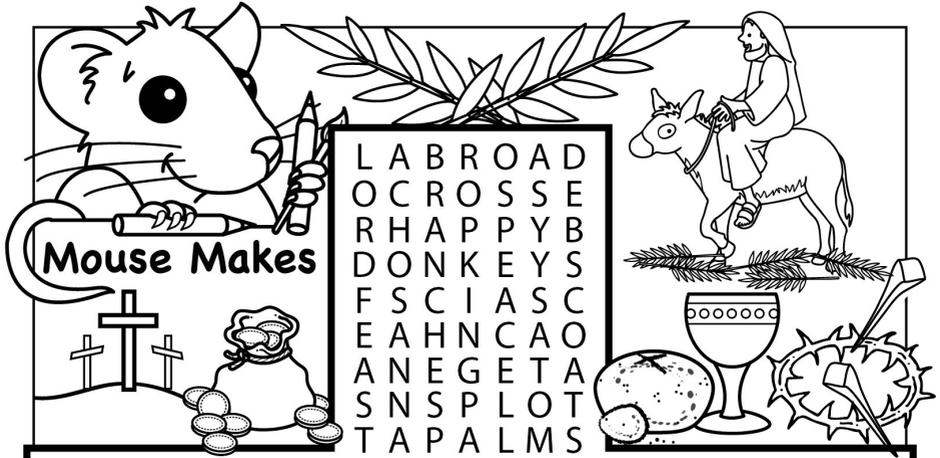
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 HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD  
 GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE  
 PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

## With Holy Week and Easter in mind...

- ◆ The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. E Thomson
- ◆ Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless. Charles M. Crowe
- ◆ Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime. Martin Luther
- ◆ Spring bursts to-day, for Christ is risen and all the earth's at play. Christina G. Rossetti
- ◆ Easter tells us that life is to be interpreted not simply in terms of things but in terms of ideals. Charles M. Crowe
- ◆ Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life. S.D. Gordon
- ◆ If Easter says anything to us today, it says this: You can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise! Clarence W. Hall
- ◆ Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. Pope John Paul II
- ◆ All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. Anon
- ◆ The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the Church. WR Nicoll



# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest

But I'm the oldest!

I've given up the most to follow him!



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...



The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the foot washing...



Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.



He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.

Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!

Are you really going to wash my feet?



You will understand later why I am doing this.

I can't ever let you serve me like this!



If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple

Then wash all of me!



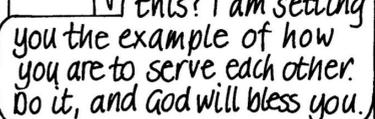
If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!



Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.



Do you understand why, your teacher, did this? I am setting you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.



## ***And in case you thought there were no funnies...***

### **The Lord is my Shepherd**

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd..." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

### **Environmentally friendly transport**

While driving in the countryside, a family caught up to an old farmer and his horse-drawn cart. The farmer obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: 'Ecologically efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

### **What God looks like**

An infants teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. One little girl was working away furiously, and so she asked her what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."

### ***From church notice-sheets:***

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our children's minister, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Baptisms: after Easter, the North and South ends of the church will be utilised. Children will be baptised at both ends.

*Coming up:* Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.

Next Sunday Mrs Brown will sing a solo at the morning service before the vicar preaches on the subject of 'Terrible experiences and how to survive them'.

Players picked for St Andrew's darts team will be pinned to the board on Thursday.

## **“Have you a computer problem?”**

If so, I am local and here to help...”

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## Parish Diary April 2020

5<sup>th</sup> *Palm Sunday*

9<sup>th</sup> *Maundy Thursday*

10<sup>th</sup> *Good Friday*

12<sup>th</sup> *Easter Day*

19<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> *Sunday of Easter*

26<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> *Sunday of Easter*

*Even if there are no services, we can still remind ourselves of key dates.*

## Sanctuary Guild

*Volunteers in the Sanctuary Guild take turns to clean the brasses in church, such as the altar cross, candlesticks, offertory plates and lecterns.*



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9<sup>th</sup> Mrs D. Ellerton  
Mrs Z. Spark (For Easter)



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"The organist isn't too sure about it,  
he says he can't play that fast."

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after  
so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few  
weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with  
fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of  
Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family  
around them.  
They say that a hotel in the  
West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and de-  
livery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with  
her number  
through the neighbourhood  
So that the elders may have  
someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues,  
Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the  
sick, the weary

All over the world people are  
slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are  
looking at their neighbours in a  
new way  
All over the world people are  
waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really  
have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember  
that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be  
hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be  
loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be  
meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be  
disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a re-  
birth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make  
as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises  
of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encom-  
passed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be  
able  
to touch across the empty  
square,  
Sing.

-from Richard Hendric

# The Parish Church of

*St. John the Divine, Brooklands*

*In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester,  
In the Province of York*

Website: [www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

9.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Family Communion  
(Second Sunday of the Month All-Age Worship)  
6.30pm Choral Evensong (First Sunday in the month only)

Holy Communion is celebrated on Holy Days and Saints Days as announced  
and at 10.00 on  
The second Wednesday of each month..

## POINTS OF CONTACT

		<u>Telephone</u>
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	<a href="mailto:vicarbrooklands@gmail.com">vicarbrooklands@gmail.com</a>	
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CHURCH WARDEN	Caroline Windle	610 3956
CHURCH WARDEN	Philip Dykes	905 2212
ASSISTANT WARDEN	Janet Hunter	
ASSISTANT WARDEN	Angela Mather	282 7656
ASSISTANT WARDEN (Health And Safety)	Simon Mather	282 7656
AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS (PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY)		
	Isabel Bryce	980 5762
	Sue Withenshaw	969 2521
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Vacancy	
ORGANISTS	Katie Jones	
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BROWNIES	Janet Shaw	973 8238
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