

# Together as One

Newsletter of the Methodist Churches in Hungerford, Lambourn, Newbury and Thatcham during Coronavirus Pandemic

## Verse for the week

Praise him, heaven and earth! Sea and everything in it, praise him! (Psalm 69:34)

## Run for the sea!

How I long to return to the seashore. Lulworth Cove would be perfect! To listen to the crashing (or gently lapping) waves, watching children paddling and dogs swimming in the water, me struggling to walk around the pebbly beached cove in my walking boots, getting a "leg up" from Richard so that I can clamber up the cliff path (for much of it is missing), to then walk along the headland towards the fossil forest, avoiding the army tank firing range and on to Tyneham village. I'll take in the fresh sea air, view a peregrine falcon in flight and hopefully bask in some warm sunshine. Are you walking with me? I expect some of you can picture exactly the places to which I refer and may have walked this part of the Jurassic coast. The cross in the photograph, which hangs on my office wall, is made from driftwood and seashells collected from around that area. As I look up from my desk it's wonderful to be reminded of one of my favourite places in God's world and how I feel so close to God when I'm there.



Photo: Karen Frost

Last week I came across a hymn which mentions a seashore. It was written by Cesáreo Gabaráin (1936-1991), a Spanish priest and one of the best-known composers of Spanish liturgical music. Inspired by the feelings and actions of the humble people he met during his ministry, his songs capture the deepest emotions of the human spirit. Perhaps you know the hymn?

"Lord you have come to the seashore, neither searching for the rich nor the wise  
Desiring only that I should follow.

### *REFRAIN:*

Oh Lord with your eyes set upon me, gently smiling, you have spoken my name  
All I longed for I have found by the water, at your side I will seek other shores.

Lord, see my goods my possessions, in my boat you find no power, no wealth  
Will you accept then, my nets and labour?

Lord, take my hands and direct them, help me spend myself in seeking the lost  
Returning love for the love you gave me.

Lord, as I drift on the waters, be the resting place of my restless heart  
My life's companion, my friend and refuge."

As we go forward in the coming months with our gradual return to normality, I pray you will find Jesus to be your resting place, your companion, friend and refuge.

With my love and prayers, Karen

## Search Dog Heroes

Somebody is reported missing every 90 seconds in the UK, and for some, the risk of going missing is high. People living with dementia, or learning disabilities, or a condition that affects orientation, can sometimes leave home and struggle to find their way back. Contributing factors such as extreme weather and other medical conditions or needs could increase their risk of coming to harm whilst away.

Search Dog Heroes, in partnership with Search and Rescue teams across the UK, are training trailing search dogs to follow an article of a person's scent (in an easy to use Scent Kit), which could drastically reduce search areas and quickly find a missing person.

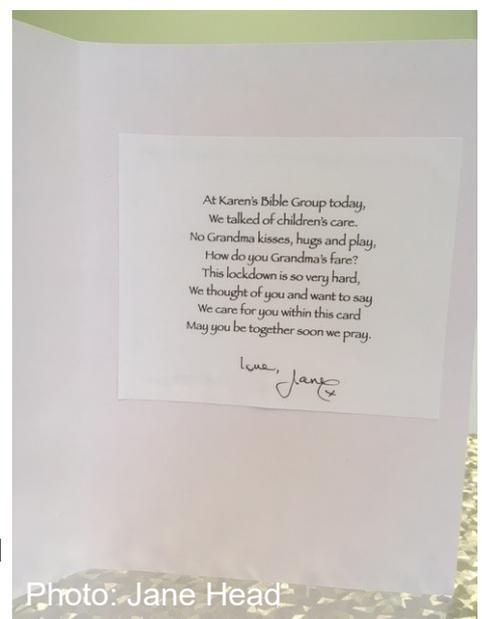
If you'd like to know more about this service go to <https://searchdogheroes.org.uk> or contact Karen Frost on 07444 851606 who is happy to order a Scent Kit for you or a relative.



## Thatcham's Lent Study Group

For seven weeks three of us met weekly with Karen via Zoom. We explored 7 topics: Christenings and Dedications, Processions and Parades, Feasts and Special Occasions, Special Places, Miscarriage of Justice, Separation and Sorrow and finishing with Good News!

Each session included prayer, Bible study, discussion and craft/activity. Over the weeks our journey followed Jesus from his presentation as a baby in the temple to the empty tomb. Karen sent us current news articles before each session which we discussed and sought the relevance between now and then. In normal times we would have met together in church or one of our homes, but thanks to Karen's deliveries, for which we are all grateful, we made cards, banners, decorated cakes, planted seeds, completed crosswords, sent a 'how are you?' notelet to a friend and finished with a cream tea, a real treat, provided and delivered by Karen. We would like to thank Karen for all her delivery visits, organisation, encouragement and support.



## Prayer for Prince Philip — by President & Vice President of Conference

Lord God, We give thanks for the long life of Prince Philip, for all that he has contributed to our nation and beyond, and for his support of our Queen. We pray that he will be at rest trusting in the grace of God.

We remember before you Her Majesty the Queen and her family praying that they will know your comfort and strength in the days to come.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## And finally

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mum, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."