

LINK

-ON- LINE



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TIPTOE

News from the churches **MAY 2020**

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- We Worship God in Spirit and Truth
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Full details of services and other activities during the week
are shown in the Diary for the month in LINK
and on the church website - www.hordleandtiptoechurch.org.uk

Enquiries

For all enquiries, please in the first instance contact the Church Office
Monday to Friday 9.30am—12.00 noon Tel: 01425 626565
Email: church.office@hordleandtiptoechurch.org.uk

This magazine is free ... and we hope you enjoy it.

But, if you wish to make a donation (minimum 50p) that will be gratefully received or you may like to make a one-off payment of £5-£10. Cheques payable to 'Hordle PCC'.

COPY DATE for the June issue is end of May.

All contributions please to: Christine Warren - christine@clarisound.co.uk

DISCLAIMER

Any view expressed by contributors or advertisers to LINK should not necessarily be taken to reflect the opinions of the Editors or the PCC and we do not hold responsibility for any of the contents.

Our Bible verse for 2020 is:

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit"

Galatians 5.25

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Welcome to the MAY Edition of LINK-on-LINE

I want to start by asking you a very personal question:

“How are you doing?” !

It is hard to ascertain how everyone is when we are isolated from each other during this COVID-19 crisis. I am appreciative of our small group leaders and others who are ringing people to check on them. They make weekly phone calls checking everyone is alright, have a chat, perhaps a prayer and also ask whether anyone needs any medicines or groceries collected. Or please do ring me for a chat on 01425 614428 as I am here, ready and willing to talk.

I hope that you have been able to follow our online worship services from our website. If you missed any, then these are still available to watch. Simply go to the website: <http://www.hordleandtiptoechurch.org.uk/> and then click on the link to: “Coronavirus Online Services”. Here you will be able to see all of the online worship services from 22nd March through to the most recent one.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have been involved in putting these together and especially Alastair Pickburn, who has spent hours formatting these services so that we can all enjoy them together.

Do please also check out a couple of Bible Apps that you can download to your phone. One is the “Bible in One Year” by Nicky Gumbel and the other is the “You Version Bible App” which sends a Bible verse to your phone each day. My verse for today as I write this is: Isaiah 25:8 which says:

“...He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove His people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.”

What an incredible verse of great promise for us to focus on in this challenging season of life.

May the Lord richly bless you and all whom you love.

Every blessing,

Paul





CHURCH SERVICES MAY 2020

In line with current Church of England guidance, all Church Services and Activities are suspended until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

If you have any questions, please give the Office a ring,
weekdays 9.30 am- 12 noon, or send an email.

Editorial

It is not my usual practise to write an editorial but in these extenuating circumstances it seemed appropriate. There were concerns: would there be enough material for a magazine, who would write for it, would it be read on line? However, this *is* a full-length magazine, people *have* written for it, and people *have* eventually found the April issue on the website! Thank you to all contributors ... and to those who plan to be!

So welcome to the first issue of LINK-ON-LINE!

The rationale behind this issue was not to dwell on Coronavirus - we hear more than enough about that on a daily basis - but equally we are where we are because of the virus, so it cannot be ignored. In the absence of the traditional reports of church events and advertising of forthcoming events, you *will* find in this issue the next in the various series in our magazine, but alongside them there are items to inform, to encourage, to stimulate thought, to amuse, and yes, even to Keep Fit! I hope there is something for all!

My aim has been to make this a 'personal' issue of LINK, helping to keep our church family in touch with each other even when we cannot meet. In that spirit, may I share the personal story behind our MAY cover picture. I came across this rainbow in the hedgerow on my walk before lockdown started. It was only later that I learnt that many children up and down the country were painting rainbows as a sign of hope.

To me a rainbow is a very personal sign. Years ago our family decided that my mother needed to move into a care home. I was the one who found that decision the hardest. As I drove away, leaving her in the home, with tears in my eyes, ahead of me I saw the most amazing rainbow. God spoke so clearly to me that day, in that rainbow ...

"All will be well"

And that surely is the reassurance we need now ... Editor.





“Put your hand into the hand of God”

As the Coronavirus outbreak began, this was Davena Shelley's advice. She followed it up with the story behind the poem from which that line comes ...

A message to a troubled nation

In December 1939 Great Britain was at war. The nation was gripped in the clutches of fear. King George VI addressed the nation on Christmas Day and spoke words of peace to calm the people. He reminded them of the only true King, the One who can provide true peace and real rest in such troubled times. He concluded his message with the preamble of a poem that had been brought to his attention by his 13 year old daughter, Princess Elizabeth. King George read the preamble to reassure the people of England that their future was secure ... in the hands of God.

Words of Truth and Hope

Upon the death of King George in 1952, Princess Elizabeth became Queen. Remembering the poem her father had read so many years before, she had the words engraved on brass plaques and attached to the gates of the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle. When The Queen Mother died in 2002, Queen Elizabeth had *The Gate of the Year* read at her funeral. The words are also inscribed in a window at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy.

The words of this poem were a message of assurance to a nation at war. They were words of comfort in the loss of loved ones. They were words of truth that our God is in control and we need not fear. He will lead and direct our lives when we put our trust in Him.

The Gate of the Year

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown”.*

And he replied:

*“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
And safer than a known way.”*



Anne's 'Thoughts from the Tiptoe Triangle'



While we continue to adapt to new ways of living, and new ways of coping, the hours, days and seasons of the year continue as usual (as far as seasons go with British weather!) This is just one way in which we are reminded that God, who created our world and established day and night and seasons for sowing and harvest, is also unchanging. He remains faithful to us, constant in his love and care for us, whatever befalls us in the world around us or in our personal lives. What a wonderful promise and how precious in these times of uncertainty around us.

There is a lovely song which describes this so well:

*Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on you
I call out to you, again and again
I call out to you, again and again
You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm
Your love is the anchor
My hope is in You alone*

How ever we are feeling, whether we are on an 'up' day or a 'down', these words provide the 'anchor' for us to hold on to. Even when we feel we are drifting, God remains stable and trustworthy, and we need never be alone. Let's all continue to keep in contact with each other too, as we move forward together in changing times, holding fast to all that is *unchanging*: the days, the seasons, and above all **God**.

Keep safe, *Anne*

Tiptoe May Fayre This popular village event had to be cancelled this year. However, Nick Lodge has created a miscellany of high points from over the years, has set them to music and has posted them on Youtube. So if you want to visit the 'virtual' May Fayre this year, just Google Tiptoe May Fayre 2020 and follow the link to Youtube.



You're Not Alone

*Coronavirus is a threat
It limits all we do,
It forces us to isolate,
Behave in ways anew;
By six feet must we separate;
But hark - you're not alone.*

*This virus, though of world-wide fame,
And looks to wear us down,
"Corona" may well be its name:
It shall not wear the crown,
The King of Kings gives us his word:
"Trust me, you're not alone".*

*The hygiene rules tempt you to moan,
You're not sure what to do;
Maybe outside your safety-zone;
Your freedoms now so few.
As part of God's great family:
"Be still - you're not alone"*

*For us our Saviour went before,
He knows full well our plight,
He took our sins, our guilt he bore,
Deserted left and right;
Forsaken by his Father God;
Insists: "You're not alone:*

*Death destroyed, I'll set you free
From loneliness and fear;
If you're my child I'll always be
Beside you, ever near.
From now until the end of time
You'll never be alone."*



Meet the PCC - 7 Ed Hood



I was born and grew up in Staines, Middlesex, the youngest of 4 children. My parents didn't go to church but we all went to Sunday School. My sisters left as soon as they could but my brother, who was 10 years older than me, had a very strong faith in Jesus and he was a great influence on me. I was very involved in Covenanters for many years.

I always wanted to work in wood, so when I left school I took up an apprenticeship as a Pattern maker, making all the things to be cast in metal out of wood first.

Over the next few years I drifted away from Church and eventually stopped going. I met and married Pat and soon discovered we that we had both made commitments to Christ but had lapsed in our faith.

We had three children, two boys from my first marriage and one girl, plus another on the way. Our house in Staines was too small, so we moved to Wokingham in Berkshire where our youngest daughter was born.

Pat's faith was rekindled and she started going to St. Sebastian's where I soon joined her and we took on the role of Youth work in the church. We moved to several different churches over a period of several years, wherever we felt God wanted us to go, doing youth work and Pat leading worship.

We moved to Hordle in December 2014 to be near the sea and also to have a bungalow. One of the criteria we set ourselves was to be able to walk to church, whatever the denomination, so we tried All Saints' and received a very warm welcome, especially from Netty and John Shea who we discovered we had known from our days in Wokingham.

I still enjoy working in wood, spending time in my garage wood-turning on my lathe, and twice a week I play golf at Burley.

I have been on the PCC for several years; I am also deputy church warden and run the sound desk at the 10:15 am service.



Church Family News

Golden Wedding - On 9th May Viv and Arthur Binns will have been married for 50 years. We congratulate them both, send them our best wishes, and sympathise that any celebrations they had planned now have to be on hold.

New Arrival - Richard and Erica Nunn are celebrating the safe arrival of their tenth grandchild - but are longing to visit him and welcome him properly.

Socially-distanced celebrations - Mark Strode reached his 50th birthday, and Paul and Ali Taylor celebrated their Silver Wedding at the end of April. Sadly the Jungle Drums are suffering from lockdown, and these dates reached the Editor too late for the April LINK. Nevertheless we congratulate them all.

Church Family Members working on the 'front line' - please pray for all working in the NHS, but we especially remember Angus Wood, Neil Moody-Jones, Karen Freeman and Ali Taylor and Rachel (nee Taylor) Barnett in their demanding and stressful work at this time.

Helen Piper - passed away at the end of March.

Helen and Eric, her husband of nearly 71 years, were members of Hordle Church for many years until they retired to Taunton to live halfway between their two sons. She will be remembered by many.

Helen worked in young adulthood as a nursery nurse and always particularly loved small children. At various churches throughout the years, such as in Chelmsford and in Hordle, she took a leading role in running different departments of Sunday Schools, as well as helping at Little Angels.

Helen's faith was very strong and sustained her through some tough times. Helen was lit with the light of Christ. She talked of God and prayed with a natural ease. Sometimes, latterly, she would be heard talking aloud and when asked, would simply say "I'm talking to God." The two most important presences in her life were God and Eric. Her eyesight worsened severely in recent years, and she would often be heard to say, "Are you there, Eric?" ... but she never doubted that God was there.

Now Helen is beyond the reach of our hands but she is held within the loving grasp of the God she loved, worshipped and prayed to. She had complete confidence in Jesus who promised his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them. For her, he was the way to life and truth. And she was at peace with that.





**The Leprosy
Mission**
England and Wales

**We focus on the fourth Mission
which we, as a Parish, support ...**

In the 1870's Wellesley Bailey and his wife returned to Ireland from India and in response to the suffering of the leprosy-affected people they had seen, they founded The Leprosy Mission in 1874. By 1917, the Mission was running 87 programmes in 12 countries funded by support offices in eight countries.

TLM is an international Christian development organisation that diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care, including reconstructive surgery, to leprosy patients. Their aim is to transform and empower the lives of people affected by leprosy.

World Health Organisation figures reveal that globally there were 208,619 new cases of leprosy diagnosed in 2018. More than three million people are living with irreversible disabilities, including blindness, as a result of the late treatment of leprosy.

The work of the Leprosy Mission is broad and far-reaching. The combination of a disease that has a severely debilitating effect on the body, and the stigma surrounding it, means a unique and holistic approach is required to care for a person's needs. There is a focus on the physical, social, spiritual and psychological needs of a leprosy-affected person. The support provided over several decades means thousands of people globally have had a springboard to restored health, self-sufficiency, renewed hope and seen their lives transformed.

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease associated with poverty. It is easily cured. As well as providing healthcare, rehabilitation, education, vocational training, small business loans, housing and fresh water supplies and sanitation services are offered to tens of thousands of people each year. These services are provided regardless of religion or ethnicity, promoting equality and social justice.

The Leprosy Mission is very grateful for all the support it receives from our community. More information can be found on their website <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/> Below is a link to their Leprosy Mission Day service which has been provided on line as church services are currently suspended.

<https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/get-involved/worldleprosyday2020.aspx>



Have sent this prayer request ...

During this pandemic, please especially remember in your prayers those millions, throughout the developing world, living in cramped conditions in shanty towns and refugee camps - for whom physical distancing is impossible and sanitation and drinking water are already unsafe."



Hordle School ask us ...

Please can you donate gifts to our school food bank. There is a box outside school during normal working hours to receive people's gifts.

Peter Johnson from St Andrew's has sent in his uplifting 'lockdown thoughts'

One of the more pleasant side effects of the lockdown for me has been the therapeutic value of spending more time sitting in the sunroom of my bungalow. On a daily basis, I have been able to gaze out over the vista of the

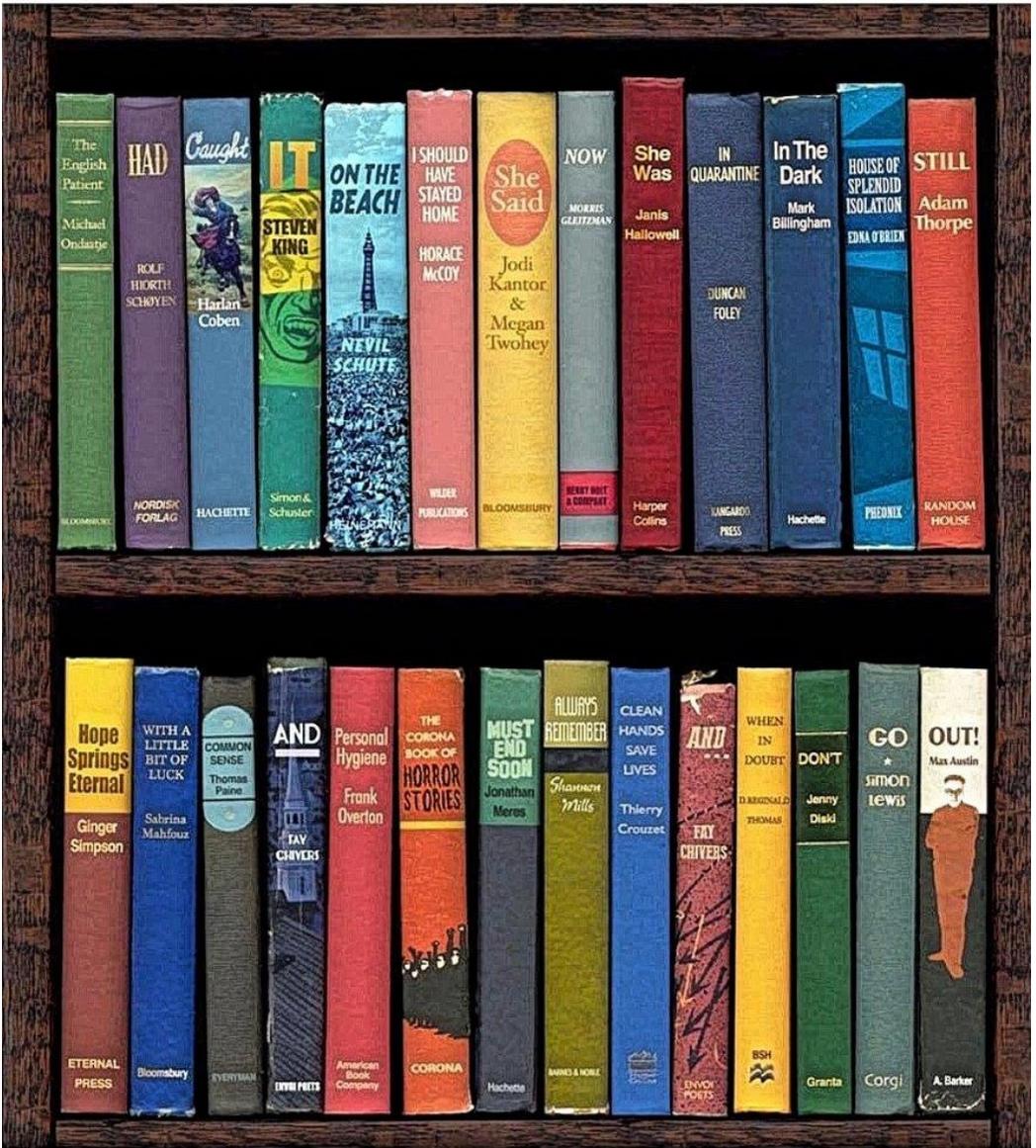


garden and observe the changing values of the flora and fauna. The emergence of blossom on the fruit tree: the unfolding of the petals on the roses: the bare branches on the trees gradually turning green as leaves evolve: the acrobatics of the squirrels as they gambol from place to place: the mating ritual of a pair of pigeons, completely oblivious to the blackbirds foraging in the rockery, and even the bumble bee who has flown in through the open window.

Truly Spring has arrived.



One of the many 'funnies' circulating at present to keep us smiling!



Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote at Easter ...

***“Jesus says ‘where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.’
They don’t even have to be physically gathered. Jesus is up to date on all this
(technical) stuff!”***



On a more serious 'Book Note', Peregrine Bruce recommends this book this month ...



Sisters of Sinai by Janet Soskice

“The hunt for early Bible manuscripts was among the most romantic of all the 19th century ‘grand quests’. At the heart of this lively, inspiring double biography is the story of how a pair of spirited Presbyterian women made their own extraordinary discovery.” (*Sunday Times*)

Surely this is not a book your reviewer would normally choose to read. It seems enigmatic that God would choose these Scottish twins to detect ancient evidence, without stealing the original, to refute scholarly claims concerning the age and integrity of St John’s Gospel.

High-minded senior scholars were not incapable of low-minded tactics. Before the fifth century, using the written language of Christ, the four gospels were written on vellum in Syriac. Before the eighth century, the unintelligible script was rubbed out and overwritten with stories of saints. This ‘palimpsest’ was, and is, preserved in St Catherine’s Convent in Sinai to this day.

It needed faith, a fortune, self-taught language skills, photographic, survival and detective expertise to disclose, record and reveal the significance of these ladies’ findings.

Sister of Sinai is an unexpected historical account. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did; for me, more convincing than any Indiana Jones!



Thoughts from my Garden ...

I have just walked around my garden after the first rain for several weeks; plants do seem to like rain better than the hose pipe. Everything looks green and growing, the potatoes are up, the broad beans look good and a pair of blackbirds are searching for worms. In the past, I have had blackbirds close to me - how do they pick up another worm when their beaks are full?

The runner beans are coming up in the greenhouse. I stagger planting so that at the end of the season, hopefully I will have younger beans - works sometimes! I have lots of flowers ready for planting out when it is warm enough; usually I need the space and it is a case of 'out you go'. The dahlias over winter in a polystyrene box given away by the Farm Shop. They are planted up in pots to go out in later May. Some I have left in the ground - I think this is their second winter out. They have started to grow so now I must watch out for slugs. The plants which survive and are flowering early just show what mild winters we are having. Do you remember when winters were colder and the temperature sometimes did not go above freezing during daylight hours?

I am trying to tidy up - I have grass growing where it should not - lack of tidying up last Autumn. Normally, I would be making several journeys to the Efford tip but now the grassy bits are piled up to rot and the weed roots will be burnt. I have had one bonfire when the wind was blowing away from my neighbours.

The dog was having a duvet day because of the rain and the car needed a run, so we went for a ride and managed to find a parking space with no other cars or gates to open, and had a pleasant walk as the sun reappeared. I was hoping the cuckoo would be about as we were where he normally is at Wootton, but no luck.

I know I am lucky in these difficult times to have a garden in which to enjoy the beautiful God-given sunshine, a dog to talk to and a daughter to look after me. Look after yourselves - we will get through this. Take care.





Dear God ...

I'm in a rush again, sorry I haven't been in touch. I remember I thought maybe I could talk to you, as a friend, but it hasn't happened. I need to fix a time for a chat, make it more regular. Can you suggest how I can do it?



Dear Carolyn....

I'm here all the time, so all that is important is that you **do it**, have a word and don't just think about having a word. I agree, it may help to fix a time like other regular events in the day, meal times, the six o'clock news or getting up. In fact you can use those events to actually be the time, say grace before the meal, speak about the news and ask me to be there in the situation you see, or ask for blessing for the day ahead as you wash and dress. There is no one way, because everyone is different, but I do hear many prayers first thing in the morning or last thing at night. It depends when you are at your best - are you a lark, bright in the morning, or an owl, wide awake at night? A regular time together is more important than how much you say or how you say it.

Dear God....

Thank you, I'll have to think about that.



An envelope from MAF arrived at the editorial house recently, emblazoned with the following text. Wonder how the postman reacted?

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
The Lord Almighty is with us!

PSALM 46:7



Scrub Adventure

I saw desperate pleas for Scrubs at the beginning of the pandemic and thought it was maybe something I could make.

After local enquiries I wasn't sure where to send them. I mentioned it to a friend who then exclaimed her son-in-law, a consultant psychiatrist, was desperate for some.

Locating a pattern was tricky so I eventually found a fetching pyjama pattern! Having received the necessary dimensions, plus a scrub bag, I set to!

After enjoying making little girls dresses I was rather overcome with 4XL quantity of fabric! Each seam needed neatening and fastening ... our lounge took on sweat shop proportions ...

After a week and an amazing delivery service, the Doc is modelling to his executive committee! Everyone needs this protection in any area of the hospital. Subsequently I have more fabric on order so the Doc can have a change, plus now I have been asked by a lady now working in an ICU dept!

I praise God to be able to help in anyway at all and that the dear Doc doesn't have to walk like Quasi Modo since the Scrubs actually fit! Hallelujah!

Jackie Brown

For those of you who can't work out social distancing, this is two meters apart.



The most useless purchase
of 2019 ...

A 2020 Year planner!



NOT THE FIRST LOCK-DOWN IN THIS CENTURY

On 19 February 2001 the future of the British countryside and agriculture changed forever! A case of Foot and Mouth was reported in Essex. By the end of the week there were cases of this highly contagious disease throughout the country with Devon and Cumbria suffering the worst. It would be the Spring of 2002 before all restrictions were finally lifted from the UK countryside.

What caught the, then, Ministry of Agriculture, totally wrong-footed was the incredible pace at which the disease spread. The British Countryside went into lock-down. Total quarantine restrictions were implemented in the affected areas. Country based social life was cancelled. In Cumbria many communities spent nearly 12 months in total or near total lock-down. Rigid travel and hygiene restrictions were enforced in the Country.

So why am I sharing this tale of doom and gloom with you at this time when we have enough of our own to deal with?

The short answer is it is a story of **HOPE AND RECOVERY**. Agriculture recovered, with massive support from the Government. The cost had been immense. Farmers adapted. Communities, who had rediscovered a real community spirit, recovered. Most businesses weathered the storm and adapted to a changing world. Of course, there were casualties. There was a surge of health issues particularly in the farming community. Strict controls were implemented so our food is now totally traceable.

The Church in Devon was very involved throughout this period and played a major role in supporting those affected. A new Bishop, The Right Reverend Michael Langrish, had been appointed to the Exeter Diocese in the previous year. As the leader of the Church in Devon, he made it his personal crusade to support and encourage the rural communities. He was popular with the regional press and maintained a very high profile, encouraging us all to support our rural communities.

Clearly there are many similarities with our current situation. My memories are that local communities weathered the immediate shock wave, adapted, worked together, particularly caring for those most affected and successfully moved ahead.

The most amazing thing that I recall was that recovery happened so relatively quickly.

I believe that there is a message in this experience for us all.

Tim Cosby



Communion? Where's your token?

That was the question from the late sixteenth century onwards in Scottish Presbyterian churches.

So where did this practice originate? Well, the earliest Christian Church, in times of persecution, used tokens as identity passes for admission to their meetings as a safeguard against non-believers or hangers-on taking advantage of what support the church offered. This continued when Christianity became a sanctioned Roman religion. The practice seems to have been very intermittent until Calvin's influence.

In the Presbyterian case, when a new minister was appointed to a kirk, new tokens were often minted with his initials with the name of the parish on them. Some Highland church tokens even had their wording in the local Gaelic. Redundant tokens were melted down to prevent them from falling into 'unhallowed hands', those unworthy of them. The Lord's Table and the Host were reserved for 'deserving souls'.

So, how did parishioners qualify as these souls? The distribution of the lead tokens was a solemn occasion in kirks. They were handed out to those who attended the preparatory services held on the Friday or Saturday before the Sunday communion. If folk missed a preparatory service, they might still be given a token if they were deemed worthy enough by the Elders and Minister.

Tokens were normally proffered by would-be communicants to an Elder before Communion took place in the service.

Sometimes a 'K' was stamped onto the tokens for 'Kirk'. In England, an 'M' could be used for 'Meeting House'. As far as I know, the Anglican Church never adopted the practice. The use of tokens was changed to cards, to be brought to communion, and by the early twentieth century, the custom was largely discontinued. So, the faithful were no longer expected to attend the preparatory services. What a relief for many!



Tokens from various churches

Dunblane Museum has a collection of six thousand Communion tokens, so it's a 'Mecca' (a word from another religion!) for Presbyterians and collectors of tokens. It seems that most of Scotland had been populated with the devout.



Joan Rymell does not forget us when she is away!
She brought this back ... especially for LINK. Thank you Joan!

Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day, I saw a sign that said "Heaven's Grocery Store,"
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care."
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for
more.

First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row.
Further, down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that wherever
you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.
I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run
this race.

By then, my basket was getting full, but I remembered some GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free.
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.
As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and just had to put it in,
For I know when it's tough outside, I would run right into sin.
PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I helped myself.
Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said, "Just take them wherever you go."
Again I said, "How much do I really owe?"

He smiled again and said,
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"



Many of us have had to cancel longed-for holidays this year ... so let's enjoy a virtual holiday with Martin and Geraldine Scott as we head off to Alaska!



ALASKA 2019

Last year Geraldine and I celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary. We decided to celebrate with a special holiday, taking up an invitation from a friend to visit her and her husband at their home in Alaska. Geraldine and Jan met in a Border Terrier owners' group, and had not met in real life!

On Saturday June 8th our son Jon and we were up at the crack of dawn. Our flight left just after 10.00 am, and after a change of flight at Vancouver we landed in Anchorage (a spectacular approach over snowy mountains!) at about 4.30pm local time. We were met at the airport and driven to our hotel.

On the Monday, after recovering from jet lag on the Sunday, we boarded a day cruise to see 26 of the many glaciers in that part of the world. It was an amazing day. The weather was glorious, and we saw sea otters (so cute!), a whale, a couple of bald eagles, and lots and lots of kittiwakes. The scenery was just spectacular; we were surrounded by huge mountains and glaciers.

The next day we left Anchorage, and travelled by train to Denali, a national park in Alaska. We had seats in the viewing carriage from which we could enjoy the scenery at its very best. Because of the melting permafrost, the railway lines are constantly needing attention, and therefore the trains have to travel at quite a slow speed. There were views of Mt Denali (which used to be called Mt McKinley), the highest mountain in N. America, so the train stopped a couple of times giving passengers photo opportunities. Mt Denali is usually shrouded in cloud, so getting a view of it is quite special.

After an eight hour journey, we arrived at Denali, where we met Geraldine's friend Jan and her hubby Stan. Fortunately we all got on so well. We stayed in a hotel overnight, and on the Wednesday we took a bus trip through the vast park – 20% larger than Wales but only one road which is just 90 miles long. To keep it as natural as possible, only tour buses are allowed. More wildlife – caribou, wild sheep, ground squirrels (more cuteness!), and to our great



excitement a young Grizzly bear, which just ambled around while we watched quietly from the bus. There was also plenty of spectacular scenery.

From Denali, Jan and Stan drove us to their lovely home in Fairbanks, in the middle of Alaska, for the rest of our holiday. Jan was the perfect hostess, and a very good tour guide! We visited many interesting places, including a walk with reindeer. We visited a small town called North Pole where we spent a while in a wonderful shop selling all you could possibly need for Christmas!

You may be wondering about the weather! Having been advised that packing as if we were going to the Lake District would be appropriate, we had virtually wall to wall sunshine for the whole time, with temperatures in the upper 20's ! The atmosphere is very dry, with very low humidity. During the short summer season it is daylight for virtually 24 hours, so we were grateful for the blackout blinds at our bedroom windows.

But all good things come to an end ... Jan drove us to Fairbanks airport and we said our fond farewells before the flight back to Anchorage. From the aircraft we had the most amazing views of the summit of Mt Denali! The



conditions were perfect, and the pilot flew a figure of eight just above the summit for the benefit of the photographers!

The next day we returned to the UK. So ended a wonderful holiday, which we will never forget.

Here are a few bits of trivia with which to finish this travelogue!

- 1) Alaska is 456 times bigger than Hampshire.
- 2) Its population is 732,000, which is only 53% of Hampshire's.
- 3) The main city is Anchorage, which has a population of 300,000.
- 4) The capital of Alaska is Juneau, only accessible by air or water.
- 5) 1 in 57 Alaskans has a pilot's licence, and 1 in 79 owns a plane.



HORDLE VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Hordle W.I. meets on first Tuesdays at 2pm in the W.I. Hall, Ashley Lane, Hordle.

Contact: Lesley Hogbourne, **01425 627942**

Hordle Gardening Club meets on Fridays at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Ashley Lane, Hordle. Contact: Secretary, Sue Winter, **01425 610171**

Hordle Flower Club meets 2nd Wednesday in the month at The Pavilion, Vaggs Lane. 7pm for 7.30pm. Contact: Denise Gibb **01590 642804**

Hordle Photographic Club meets on 2nd and 4th Mondays in the Church Room at All Saints'. Contact: Ian Blundell **01425 629838**

Hordle Voluntary Care Group provides transport for people in Tiptoe, Hordle and Everton to medical appointments when they cannot use public transport and for relatives to visit in-patients at hospital. We take clients to the St John's Ambulance bathing service at Gordleton Industrial Estate. We urgently need more drivers to support our clients. Can you help with just a couple of hours a month? Contact our co-ordinator on **0845 388 9063** to book a driver or find out more about volunteering.

Dial-A-Ride provides a door to door shopping service for people who find it difficult to use the bus service. Lymington on Tuesday and New Milton on Friday. To book the service ring **0845 602 4326** (local call).

TIPTOE VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Butterflies Pre-school (term time only). 9.15-12.15 Mon and Fri; 9.15—3 Tues, Wed Thurs in St. Andrew's Church Hall. Contact: Louisa Parsons 01425 615566

Tiptoe Brownies (term time only). 4.30-6.00 for girls 7-10 years. Meet in the school. Contact: Rachael Garman, 01425 615683

SCARF Youth Club, 6.30-8.00 for children with special needs aged 11-16. Contact: Lucinda, 07874 221249

Young Farmers' Club, Tiptoe Contact: brock.hantsyfc@gmail.com

Tiptoe Community Coffee Morning 10am - 11.30am on Wednesdays at Life Centre.

Mobile Library. Young Farmers' Club, Wootton Road, 4th Thursdays, 2-2.30pm.

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary.
To one without faith, no explanation is possible.

Thomas Aquinas



Much has been made of the need for us to **KEEP FIT** during the **LOCKDOWN**. You might want to try this ...

'Here's a little secret for building arm and shoulder muscles. You might want to adopt the regime for yourself - but be careful to take it gradually. Three days a week works well.



Begin by standing straight, with a 5lb potato sack in each hand. Extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Eventually try to reach a full minute. Relax.

After a few weeks, move up to 10lb potato sacks, and then 50lb potato sacks.



Eventually get to where you can lift a 100lb potato sack in each hand and hold arms straight out for more than a minute.



After you feel confident at that level, start putting a couple of potatoes in each sack, but **be careful not to overdo it.**'



Jon Dowdeswell FMAAT

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The Church Office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30-12.00, for enquiries and both Hall Bookings.

E-mail: church.office@hordleandtiptoechurch.org.uk