

St John's and St Katharine's

WEEKLY EXTRA

Tuesday 31st March 2020



St Katharine's looking as lovely as ever on 22nd March Photo: Michael Joyce

Welcome!

For the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, we hope to publish this 'extra' weekly sheet at the beginning of every week apart from the last week of the month when *Inspire* is issued. We plan to include each week:

- a prayer or thought for the week
- an article from a parishioner – you'll see Lois Bushell has set the ball rolling with part 1 of an account of her recent cruise
- at least one puzzle – thank you to Colin for the crossword this week
- news items – locally and from around the world via our relatives, birthdays this week, tales from lockdown – what out-of-the-ordinary things are occupying our time at the moment.

So please do send contributions in to us under any of these headings. – or really anything that you think might interest other members of our congregations.

Elaine Gilbert (elainegilbert@live.co.uk)

Mandy Crook (amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk)

This week's news

- We miss singing 'Happy Birthday' after the 9.30am service in St John's, and we also missed the birthdays of Pam Fenton and Jane Bruges last week. Happy birthday to them and to Revd Andrew Saunders and Aileen Latham, who are celebrating their birthdays this week.
- It should have been St John's spring sale last Saturday. Despite the hard work involved, we missed doing it, as it's an opportunity to enjoy working together for something of benefit both to the church and to members of the local community, who love our bargains! And of course the church is poorer by at least £1000 because it couldn't happen. A big thank you to those who have sent in donations to help offset this loss – it is very much appreciated.
- Thank you to Janet Caudwell who has alerted us to the free weekly extra being published by *Church Times*. It is called *Lift up your Hearts* and it does exactly that. Googling 'Church Times Lift up your hearts' should take you to it.

Prayer of the week

Thank you to Ross Frooms, whose sister-in-law alerted her to this prayer – so very apt for the times we are living through

O God, our Father, beyond whose love and care we cannot drift, grant that when we are separated from each other, we may ever remember that, though we are absent from one another, we are still present with Thee. Keep us true and faithful to each other until we meet again: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

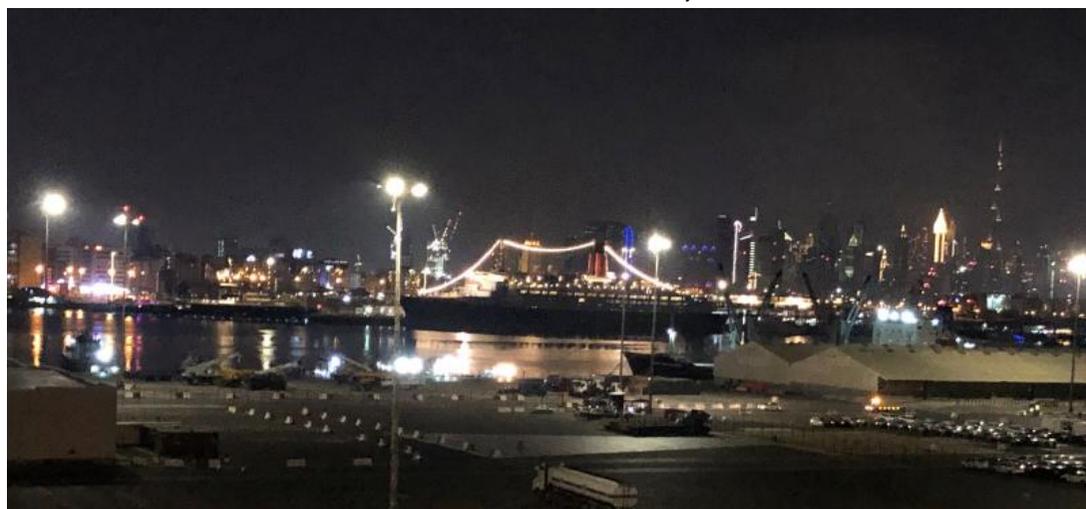
From William Barclay's The Plain Man's Book of Prayers

... and some more news

- While many of you have no doubt – like us – been using some of the enforced isolation to spring clean the house and get the garden ready for spring, David Daniels has been hard at work with a local writer to produce coronavirus information films that are being used by councils in the UK and by others as far afield as the USA. You can see five of them on David's Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/daviddanielsdesigns>

The view of the *QE2* in Dubai from the *Queen Mary 2* . Photo Lois Bushell



Life on the *Queen Mary 2*

Chapter 1: Getting aboard!

With many thanks to Lois Bushell for sharing some of the more carefree days in January at the beginning of their trip of a lifetime cruise to Australia – more next week!

Terry and I left Frome on the 29th January and flew British Airways Premium Economy for our overnight flight from Heathrow to Dubai. We upgraded because of the extra baggage allowance and as we were away for 6 weeks we needed this. We were able to print our boarding passes before we left and even booked and chose our meal for the flight. We were excited and also a bit concerned that 6 weeks might be rather a long period as we had only cruised for 2 weeks previously. We had a good flight, although the time difference was slightly challenging as we were woken for breakfast at 4am our time! On arrival in Dubai we were taken to a hotel for another breakfast and to await our transfer to *Queen Mary 2*. It was during this time we heard rumours that the ship was not going to stop at Singapore because of the coronavirus. It did not concern us as much as the people who were due to disembark there, and some were going back to their families.

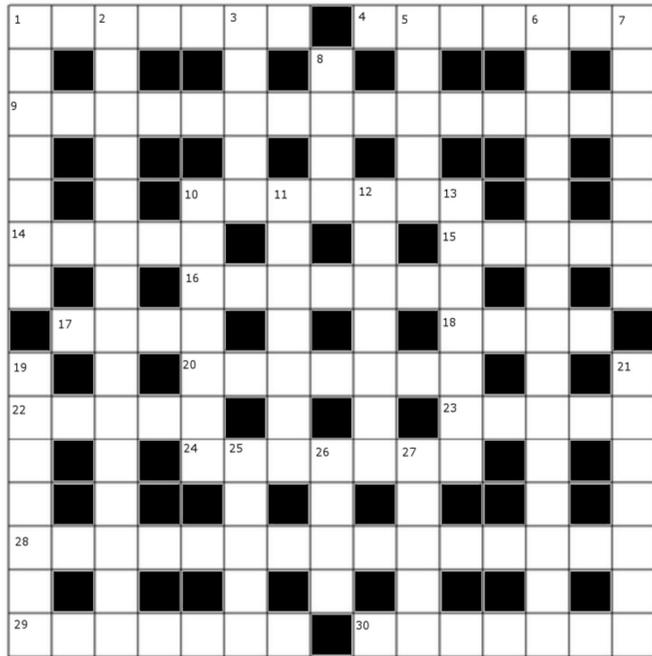
We were transferred by coach – some 500 of us – and went through a strict customs check by Dubai officials – for some reason we are always picked on and we were searched twice. We then joined the queue for Cunard to take our photo, which then automatically showed up on our stateroom key every time we embarked or disembarked. We arrived at 1 pm and went straight to our stateroom to find one of our cases outside the door, with a bottle of champagne on ice waiting for us inside the room and a programme informing us of a compulsory emergency drill at 5pm for all new guests regardless of whether we had sailed before.

The ship was at full capacity: 2695 passengers, of which 1300 were World Voyagers who had joined at either Southampton (for a 14-week trip) or New York (for a 16-week trip) – this was a surprise to us as we had thought our 6-week trip was a long time. There were also 1292 crew plus the Captain looking after us!

Our stateroom had a balcony and we were on the portside (left hand) aft, the first of this section D, which whilst docked in Dubai overlooked the harbour and the *QE2*, which is now a floating hotel. See the photo opposite, which was taken that night. Chapter 2 to follow!

Lois Bushell

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD by Revd Colin Alsbury (answers next week)



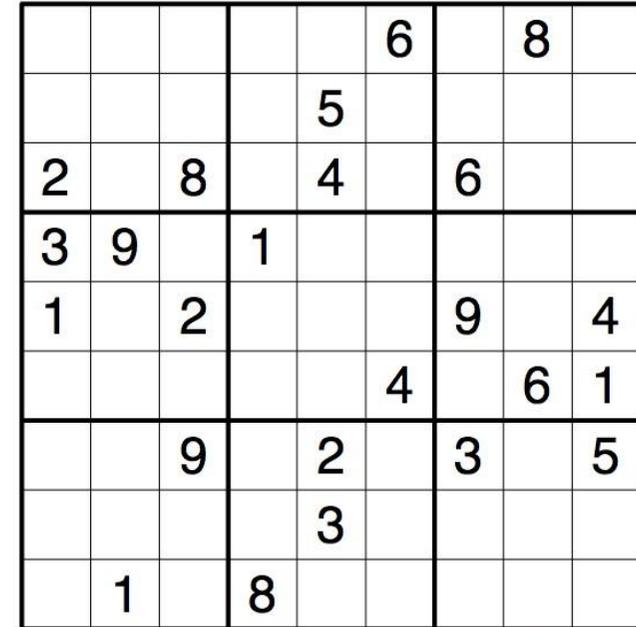
Across:

- 1 Artful trimming (7)
- 4 Anvil or hammer – but not in smithy (7)
- 9 Minister sent to live in play pen (15)
- 10 Had apt editorial change in text (7)
- 14 Where the swine begged not to go (5)
- 15 Castor bean extract does no good (5)
- 16 We hear two types of support provided by this responsible person (7)
- 17 Lead in the romantic novel (4)
- 18 Corner off Ave Maria Lane (4)
- 20 Messy? Get the chlorine out it's said (7)
- 22 Boeotian starring in Job 9 and 38 (5)
- 23 Omit sound from denied soul (5)
- 24 Detectives in act made their minds up (7)
- 28 Missional App on Ice in this tradition (15)
- 29 Barrier gets older and causes harm (7)
- 30 Absorption as criminal methods replace heart of Egyptian god (7)

Down:

- 1 Equatorial climate not right but relevant (7)
- 2 Sins betray prime tradition (15)
- 3 11 feature involving turbulent descent (5)
- 5 Cardinals meaning (5)
- 6 Here French cast charters properties (15)
- 7 Former words (7)
- 8 Block aperture (4)
- 10 Stagger (7)
- 11 Tailless scorpion may be such a sign (7)
- 12 Instructed by leading teacher in detour (7)
- 13 Locked or feared? (7)
- 19 Praise 1000 Roman men in *Call of Duty* (7)
- 21 Turned visionary embraces all and carries on (7)
- 25 Clear of all knots (5)
- 26 Part of pilgrim clothing (4)
- 27 Tales full of 17's and anti-17's (5)

Lots of you like Sudokus, we know, so here's an extra one—there will still be one in every edition of *Inspire* as well—don't worry!



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... And finally, a photo to make you smile (we hope!)



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