

St John's and St Katharine's

WEEKLY EXTRA

Monday 4th May 2020



Wreath: Elaine Gilbert. Photo Chris Gilbert



St Katharine's war memorial plaque



St John's war memorial

Thought for the week

Some notes from self-isolation



When Ross and I talked about what we thought was the purpose of this Thought for the Week, we agreed that while we felt that we had some responsibility to try to lift people's spirits, we admitted that constant cheerfulness can be wearying. So in a spirit of balance I offer the following:

Small pleasures: two loads of washing blowing vigorously in the bright sun on the first of May; the unexpected appearance of an aquilegia (I'm still getting surprises in our new garden); finding out how to read the newspaper online; finding out that the first of the Bishop's Palace cygnets has hatched.

Somewhat larger pleasures: reaching the end of Hilary Mantel's *The Mirror and the Light* and then realising that I had the time and the opportunity to re-visit the whole Thomas Cromwell experience by reading, again, *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies*; the ritual of drawing back the blind and knocking on the window to greet the little family from the end of the road (mother with baby in sling, father on crutches) on their slow daily walk; re-discovering various walks along either bank of the river Frome

Inevitable displeasures: the realisation that the garage is no nearer being cleared of Stuff: current excuse (superseding previous one of not enough time) is no room to put the inevitable rubbish which will be generated; trying to understand/work/interpret a home blood pressure test (not good for the blood pressure!); a sense of having no real purpose in life apart from not being a burden to the NHS...

I write from a position of material comfort, in comparative good health. From my desk I look across at an array of trees – lilac, hawthorn, horse chestnut all in blossom – white clouds race across the sky, Mozart is playing on Radio3 at my elbow. But around me, I know, people are experiencing fear, anger, grief, despair – the so-called lockdown may be shielding us from Covid-19 but it brings its own miseries and anxieties. And what can I do? I can send and receive phone calls, texts and emails. I can forward the increasingly mad videos I'm sent. I can feed the birds (and the cat). I can send money to charities in desperate need. And I can pray.

This is the closing reflection shared with the Julian prayer group this week:

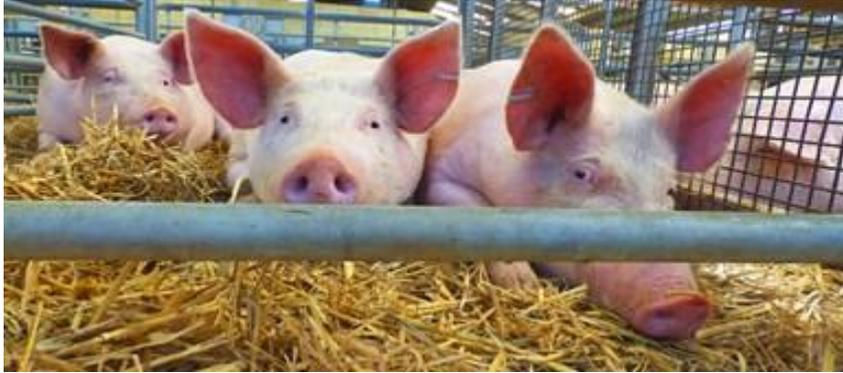
The best prayer is to rest in the goodness of God, knowing that that goodness can reach right down, to our lowest depths of need.

Janet Caudwell

Tributes to the fallen would have taken place up and down the country as part of the 75th anniversary commemorations of Victory in Europe next Friday – so let this be ours ...

This Little Piggy Had To Stay At Home

Thank you to Michael Joyce for giving us this insight into life at the livestock market during virus outbreaks past and present



My involvement with the farming industry and Frome Livestock Market has led me to think about comparisons between the current Coronavirus pandemic and the 2001 Foot-and-Mouth epizootic.

In fact my first experience of Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) was the autumn 1967 outbreak. I was then in my early teens and growing up on a farm in North Dorset. I recall my father sending me to undertake some of the extra daily checks on groups of beef cattle, looking for the tell-tale symptoms of frothing at mouth and lameness, and with strict instructions to count the animals twice to be sure I had seen every individual. Fortunately, our locality escaped any infection.

The 2001 FMD outbreak started in mid February with the first reported case occurring in Essex. Three days later draconian restrictions on animal movements and a total ban on livestock markets and shows were imposed throughout the UK. The impact came home to me in the first week when two colleagues were called out to value a large number of pigs awaiting compulsory slaughter at an infected unit. Whilst there one colleague phoned me to say that under instructions from the Ministry vet he could not return to the offices at Frome Market but would have to go straight into two weeks' quarantine at home. Foot-and-Mouth is not transmissible by humans, but it can survive for quite some time on clothing, footwear, vehicle tyres etc. After a couple of months with nil public activity on site the Frome

Market restaurant was allowed to re-open. Although there were no livestock or auction sales, the restaurant was packed and buzzing at lunchtimes with farmers anxious to meet up and share concerns. This was proof, if proof were needed, that the traditional function of a market as a rural community hub was still vitally important. When restrictions on animal movements outside high-risk areas were eased in the summer, we were able to arrange some private sales of breeding and store stock for our clients and to experiment with video sales. It was not until the late autumn that most controls were lifted.

The 2001 crisis caused huge damage to rural and tourism economies, and severe emotional injury to farmers who lost their herds. However, a positive consequence was the introduction of greater precautionary measures that remain in place today, including comprehensive animal movement recording, a standstill period between new animals going on to a farm and others leaving same, and strengthened biosecurity regimes at farms, markets and abattoirs.

19 years later and the tables are turned; now it is the two-legged species that is at risk and under severe restrictions. As key elements in the home produced food supply chain, livestock markets are allowed to still operate subject to strict social distancing and other special rules. Farmers and hauliers must leave market as soon as they have dropped off their stock, with only bona fide buyers allowed to enter the sale rings. All other visitors are banned, and at Frome Market the restaurant is shut and our Market Chaplain, an invaluable asset, is unable to tend his flock in person. So, in contrast to 2001 there is some present economic activity but, sadly, the community facet is currently absent. But once again there will be positive outcomes. Reflecting on 2001 and the present, a connected future benefit may be somewhat similar steps to avoid a repeat disaster, such as a new norm of human biosecurity measures (sanitising; temperature testing etc.) at all transport hubs and mass gathering venues, together with health protection recording of our longer distance movements and perhaps compulsory 'standstill' periods between cross-border human journeys. An obvious common legacy of great benefit will be the recognition and appreciation of the various 'communities' that underpin our shared wellbeing.

Michael Joyce

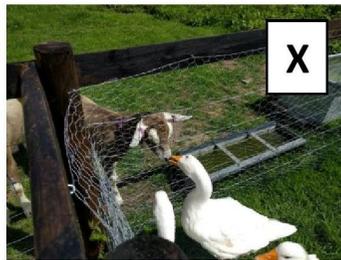
Lockdown around the world

ANIMALS IN LOCKDOWN

Our thanks to Pam & Joe Fenton and Peter Bartholomew for sharing their family (and other animals) photos. More from their collection next week.



Time to get out those old puzzles, games and toys ...



Visitors are not to be encouraged ...



... but family groups from the same household are fine

Chris Lewis reports: My wife has three siblings, six nieces/nephews, and two grand nephews living in various parts of **Thailand**. Deaths from the virus have been limited to 54, partly because of the heat but also because of strong surveillance and contact tracing. Schools are closed and immigration very limited but most people are working normally. A niece who temporarily moved in with her sister before lockdown now can't move out again because the housing market has dried up. Grandmother has also moved in, leading to a very crowded house. A nephew's girl-friend, who has to return to Laos every month to renew her visa, is now stuck in Laos as Thailand refuses to let her back in.

My wife's youngest niece lives in **Singapore**, and is at home looking after her sons. Her husband's work, fitting out kitchens and restaurants, has been unaffected so far. Singapore suffered badly from the SARS virus in 2003 and put strong preparations in place for another attack. By extensive use of testing Singapore has kept the number of deaths down to 18.

My brother lives in **Germany** – in Bavaria. When lockdown started he and his German wife were in Frankfurt, 300 miles away, and he has not been able to go home because Bavaria closed its borders to non-Germans. There are now 8 people in a small Frankfurt house, with the two parents working at home for the ECB on financing issues connected with funding the virus crisis. German arrangements are working, though, as deaths so far are a quarter of the UK's and for a country with a higher population.

Ross Frooms reports: **New Zealand** has done lockdown well in that as I write on April 25th they are about to come out of lockdown 4 to lockdown 3. This means that some folks will be able to go back to work. Whilst in lockdown my daughter, Claire, has had to make home more like 'kindy', where Annabelle (now aged 17 months) is used to



spending her mornings. My other daughter in New Zealand, Jane, spends hours of her time supporting Red Cross volunteers as a volunteer herself. When not working for Red Cross she has been picking apples to cook down and freeze.



Life on the *Queen Mary 2*

Chapter 5: Fremantle to the Great Barrier Reef

In Fremantle, over 500 passengers – mostly Australians – embarked. It was great to hear about the best places to visit from the two couples who joined us at dinner. Our next port was Darwin, which took us five days to reach – the time zones changed regularly, and sometimes we had to put our clocks forward just by a half an hour. One of the musical entertainment events was a 'Last Night of the Proms' performed by a choir of passengers; we were given English flags to wave, which we put outside our door afterwards to help locate our corridor and room; others had put out balloons and pictures for the same reason. We constantly got lost: the buffet restaurant was so big you could walk around for ages trying to find your table – very different from the numbered tables of the Britannia Restaurant in the evening.

Darwin (photo below) is named after Charles Darwin and is the most populated city of the Northern Territory. It has a tropical climate and it was nearly 40 degrees and very humid when we were there. The bulk of Australia's Aboriginal population live in the Northern Territory. Australia has very strict laws regarding liquor, and even the liquor shop on board was closed all the time we were in Australia. We tried to buy a bottle of wine in Darwin, but were refused as we did not have our passports or driving licences. The local authorities have challenges with some of the Aboriginal people getting drunk, and security people were constantly on the lookout to ensure our safety; however we did not feel threatened in any way – indeed, we were welcomed as Australia relies very heavily on tourism, and the headline of a local paper read 'Retailers rejoice as QM2



arrives'. We visited a wildlife park and saw lots of local birds and wildlife. Some passengers visited the hairdressers, which we would have done too if we had known what was to come!

We then sailed for three days to Yorkeys Knob, Cairns, Queensland, to The Great Barrier Reef, which stretches 1200 miles down the Queensland coast. Queensland is 7 times the size of the UK. The colours of the sea were amazing and it was so calm (see photo below). We anchored at Trinity Bay, so named as it was discovered on Trinity Sunday in 1770, and went ashore by tender. I took a 90-minute boat trip to a pontoon on The Great Barrier Reef and went snorkelling. You had to wear a stinger suit (see photo right) which covered your whole body including head and hands to protect you from the sting of a box jellyfish, which can prove fatal. I was a little apprehensive but needless to say I



thoroughly enjoyed it—I felt very comfortable and stayed in for over an hour. The coral was amazing – so many different colours and types and so many species of fish too; the further you went out the better it got, so I snorkelled around the farthest point by the ropes. To have this opportunity was really very special and something I will always remember. Unfortunately I did not have an underwater camera, so instead I've included a photo of knitted coral which we saw in Darwin.

Lois Bushell



BIBLE NUMBERS QUIZ

Try first from memory: later you can search for the answers

1	How many epistles in the New Testament?	
2	How many sons did Jacob have?	
3	In Revelation John writes to the churches of the province of Asia. How many were there?	
4	How many of the Ten Commandments start 'Thou shall not'?	
5	How many times did Jesus tell Peter that he should forgive his brother?	
6	We all know Methuselah lived for 969 years but how old was Abraham when he died?	
7	How many letters did Paul write to the Corinthians?	
8	David was Jesse's youngest son but how many sons did Jesse have in total?	
9	How large was the miraculous draft of fishes?	
10	How many talents of gold did the Queen of Sheba give King Solomon?	
11	We know David killed the giant Goliath. But how tall was Goliath?	
12	How many disciples did Jesus have?	
13	In the Sermon on the Mount how many types of people did Jesus say would be Blessed?	
14	What was the Number of the Beast in the Book of Revelation?	
15	How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves and two small fishes, according to Matthew?	
16	How many Psalms are there?	
17	According to Matthew how many generations were there from Abraham to David?	
18	How long was Noah's Ark?	
19	Writing on religious hypocrisy Browning talks about 'a great text in Galatians, once you trip on it entails ...-... distinct damnations, one sure if another fails.' How many damnations?	
20	How much did the Chief Priests pay Judas?	
21	How many Books in the Old Testament?	
22	How many wise men came to see the baby Jesus?	
23	According to Luke how old was Jesus when he left his parents to talk with the priests in the temple at Jerusalem?	
24	How long did God take to 'create the heaven and the earth'?	



Swanwatch – latest news from the Bishop's Palace in Wells:

Four cygnets have now hatched! Two of them have escaped the nest already. A teacher friend and I who are watching live agree that Grace has poor discipline ...

and of course the father is nowhere to be seen! **Janet** Keep an eye on progress by viewing the swancam at <https://www.bishopspalace.org.uk/>



Houston, Texas: Phillio from next door still insists on calling during lockdown!

Something to lift your spirits!

Administrator Karolyn belongs to Songbirds. She says 'Last week we recorded a song together, whilst apart! Caroline taught it via two videos she put online and gave us instructions to record ourselves. It was quite a challenge! Here's the link – I'm on the second row down, towards the right of the screen...

<https://youtu.be/oTuFkq3vNyE>

Books of the Bible puzzle

Answers in alphabetical order:

Amos, Acts, Daniel, Esther, Ezra, Genesis, Haggai, Hebrews, Isaiah, James, Job, Joel, Judges, Kings I, Kings II, Lamentations, Luke, Mark, Micah, Numbers, Psalms, Peter, Revelation, Ruth, Titus, Tobit, Wisdom.

Eds: Please let us know if you'd like us to email out the whole passage with the books highlighted—it was too big to reproduce here.

This week's SUDOKU:

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2			5		1			9
7								
		5		9		6		
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