

St John's and St Katharine's

WEEKLY EXTRA

Monday 6th April 2020



On Karolyn's last visit to the office before lockdown, the daffodils outside St John's were looking superb – many thanks to Pam Fenton and Peter Bartholomew for planting and tending them. *Photo: Karolyn Curle*

Welcome!

A bumper issue of *Weekly Extra* this week—fittingly, as Holy Week is such an important and (normally) busy week in our churches' lives.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles, ideas and photos. We see *Weekly Extra* as something which will evolve over the coming weeks – so please keep the ideas coming. We are mindful of the fact that some of our readers are completely housebound and others able to get out and about for their daily exercise or weekly shop, so some photos of springtime in your gardens or of local landmarks/scenery seen on your walks would be lovely.

The Thought for the Week will be coming initially from our retired clergy and readers – thank you to Pat for starting the ball rolling – Kevin's will be next week. We also plan to feature a poem of the week and a photo illustrating 'self-isolation' or 'working from home'.

Elaine Gilbert (elainegilbert@live.co.uk)

Mandy Crook (amandacrook@blueyonder.co.uk)

Happy Birthday to Peter Bartholomew and Leo Hudson this week.

Hymns for Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Youtube clips with words on-screen are included so you can join in if you want to!

- For Passiontide Elaine suggests: 'In Christ Alone':
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWiFYJMGas0>
- For Easter Sunday, Rosemary suggests 'Thine be the Glory', words by Edmond Budry, Tune: 'Judas Maccabaeus' by Handel. A truly uplifting hymn – Easter wouldn't be the same without it:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=RbBOOmKMLmI>

Look out for 'Hymn for the week' in future issues.

Workouts from home!

Workouts from home have been developed by Darebee in collaboration with the NHS – Google '*Darebee NHS collaboration*'.

A Holy Week like no other ...

Usually Holy Week is one of our busiest times. Years ago, we made the decision that we would have a different service every day during Holy Week, at 7.00pm at St John's, and, of course, the Three Hour Service on Good Friday, and the very nature of these services has often involved rushing round getting readers, printing material, setting up things in church. This year the preparation has been rather different.

The **Monday** of Holy Week has become, in the past, the time for the final session of the Lent Course. This year we have prepared a brief time of reflection and prayer on the theme of Doubt that is available as a pdf download from the parish website www.stjohnsfrome.com (you'll find the link near the ones for the weekly notice sheet and parish magazine).

Tuesday in Holy Week has always been reserved for Stations of the Cross. Sadly, we have never, to our knowledge, made a photographic record of St John's Stations of the Cross, painted for us by the Revd John Huggins. We are suggesting therefore, that we use the link to the film produced by the Revd Canon Dr Rob James, Chancellor of Wells Cathedral, which enables us to walk the way of the cross around Wells Cathedral – it can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdHAMNKDihY>

On the **Wednesday** of Holy week, we had planned to hold a Tenebrae service in St John's. In its place you will find the readings we would have used in the form of a service of Darkness and Light, most beautifully read by Colin and Beth Alsbury available on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxdkMOQklvI>

On **Maundy Thursday** our evening service on this day involves foot-washing, stripping of the altars and the reading of Psalm 51. There's a beautiful rendition of Allegri's setting of this Psalm, Miserere mei, by Voces8 on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VoQsXkOrZA>

The first **Good Friday** service takes place outside St John's open double-doors, where we set up the wooden cross and a small number from different churches gather to make our preparations for all the services we are going to be taking during the day.

There will be no Three Hours this year – the theme was going to be based on Jesus's words in Luke's Gospel where he speaks of his coming death as

his 'exodus'. Some related material will be available on our parish website at www.stjohnsfrome.com

The final service of Good Friday is at Woodlands where the choir and congregation lead us through the events of that day in words and music. This year we suggest making use of the many broadcast and on-line resources to lead us in reflection and prayer.

On **Holy Saturday, Easter Eve**, we usually pause in the busyness of preparing to bring St John's from its Passiontide solemnity into the brilliance and fragrance of Easter Day, by going outside and walking the Via Crucis. This year we will be all be able to follow that particular way of the cross, via the film on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cr3VBcbZIGI>

On **Easter Day**, we usually gather for the lighting of the Paschal Candle, the first Communion (at dawn – 6.00am this year!) followed by breakfast and the traditional Easter *Alleluia* performed at the open doors by the McCormick family. How we shall miss all of that! But again, the resources devised by our own Diocesan clergy and others will all be available for personal use. You might follow the service of Ante-Communion at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6e3kgVa4uqM> with the Easter readings added from the weekly sheet, or follow the service that will be available through the Church of England website at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has launched Sing Resurrection, an initiative which encourages people to sing an Easter hymn from a doorstep or balcony at 10am on Easter Day, as a 'counter-infection of joy' on Easter morning. Go to: <https://ctbi.org.uk/sing-resurrection/>

It is inspiring, in these days of enforced separateness, to feel that we are joining together in reflection and prayer at our usual times, so we invite you to set aside the time you would have been in St John's or St Katharine's and, during this Holy Week like no other, to worship with us.

Colin, Janet and Ross



Thought for the week

It seems to me that two threads running parallel to each other affect our lives in these present days. At times we seem to be living in a strange, rather threatening, world. Let me explain!

The first time I went to a food shop after the coronavirus 'lockdown', the doors were closed and a guardian was on duty inside. He let customers in one at a time to a maximum of four people. Once inside we had to follow a route marked out with arrows and footprints pasted on the floor. As we made our way around, we had to take our purchases off the relevant shelves as we passed them *en route*.

On getting to the till, I waited behind another arrow until the customer in front of me had handed over her purchases, been told the cost, paid and walked out. Only then could I move forward the decreed distance to pay for my goods. As I stepped forward the assistant stepped back from the till until I had laid my basket by the till and stepped back. It was like some sort of stately dance process and altogether rather surreal, reminding me of *Animal Farm* or the once futuristic book *1984*.

The second thread in this experience revealed itself in the garden back at home. The spring flowers were in full bloom, the blackbirds were chasing each other as they vied for nesting sites, a robin was singing his feathers off in the flowering cherry tree – it was all familiar, and part of the centuries-old continuity of spring life in an English garden. For, despite the new disturbing life thrust upon us by COVID-19, there is still the reassuring recreation of life and energy at the start of a new year. God is in his heaven and sharing his creation with us all.

Revd Pat Lawless



For years I have pleaded with people to come forward with grape hyacinths to decorate the Easter Garden. This year – new house, new garden – I find we have a front lawn full of grape hyacinths ... but no Easter Garden at St John's to decorate. I shall create a small one at home, and on Easter Day surround it with vivid blue flowers. **Janet Caudwell**

What I did in the ~~Week~~ Coronavirus

As we come to the end of the second week of lockdown I have been reflecting on what it means to my everyday life, and top of that list is not seeing friends over coffee on a Sunday, so with a mug of coffee by my side I thought I'd write down a few observations (in no particular order)

- Not having a pattern to the week: The lack of a weekly routine (Days at different schools, Parish lunch on Wednesday, Choir Practice on Fridays, Standing on the side of a muddy lacrosse pitch on Saturdays, Church on Sundays) leaves me very disorientated and I find I am constantly having to ask what day it is.
- Learning new skills: who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? I have been meeting colleagues on Zoom and am preparing to deliver lessons through TEAMS when term starts again. We have had to re-organise our domestic wi-fi to facilitate being able to work from home.
- Catching up with all those long-term goals: "If only I had more time I would": Spend it in the garden/Sort out those boxes that came from my Mother's attic/Deep clean the house. The garden is planted with vegetables, we have emptied lots of boxes and I took down the kitchen curtains and washed them! The trouble is that with the recycling centre closed and no prospect of a bric-a-brac sale in the near future we haven't been able to get things out of the house yet.
- Quality family time: We have not been together as a family under the same roof for so long since Celia started boarding school in 2008! So far it is working very well! We all have work to do during the day (Celia has a part-time job in the Co-op!) but we come together for meals and evenings which so far have included a Quiz Night, a No-Screens night and we are planning a Come Dine with Me experience!
- My book of the week: *Tombland* by CJ Sansom: the most recent, and in my opinion the best yet, of the Shardlake series.
- TV programme of the week: *Belgravia* – written by Julian Fellowes and starring Tamsin Greig – you can catch it on the ITV hub.
- Guilty Pleasure! – Binge watching *Big Bang Theory* while doing the ironing! I am up to season 4 (there's been a lot of ironing).

Keep well everyone!

Rosemary McCormick

Life on the *Queen Mary 2*

Chapter 2: Dubai to Kuala Lumpur

Lois and Terry's voyage continues – but substantially modified

We returned to our stateroom after our first dinner on board (still in Dubai) to find not only the daily programme for the following day and daily news sheet but also a letter informing us that because of the coronavirus, we would not be visiting Hong Kong, instead making a second call to Singapore, and anyone due to disembark in Hong Kong would leave the ship in Singapore. In addition, the visit to Bitung (Indonesia) was being replaced with a call to Bali. We were rather disappointed as we have never been to Hong Kong – our daughter-in-law comes from there and our grandchildren have visited many times. We were not too disappointed about Bitung, although I had a typhoid jab especially, but we had never been to Bali so that was a bonus.

From Dubai, our first port of call was Muscat, Oman (*see photo below*). We took a trip on the excellent 'Hop on Hop off' Bus as it toured the city pointing out (in English) all the items of interest.

Next there were three days at sea. One evening was a Gala Night Black & White Ball – but we had forgotten to bring Terry's dress shirts, though I had remembered studs, cuff links, bow ties etc. Terry did not like the ones in the onboard shop so the one white shirt we did have with us had to suffice for the 11 gala nights. Thankfully there were laundrettes on board!

Our next port of call, Colombo, Sri Lanka, was very hot and humid, also noisy, dirty and overcrowded (*see photo opposite*). However in

contrast there are some clean green spaces, especially around the temples. We were advised NOT to wear any jewellery, and to carry very little money, keep our shoulders and legs covered to the knee and wear socks, as when visiting temples we had to remove our shoes. Cows are sacred, and all traffic stops if there's a cow in the road – but not for a dog of which there are many roaming the streets.

Whilst in the theatre one evening Captain Aseem Hashmi announced that we were now not able to go to Phuket (Thailand) or Penang (Malaysia) but would be going straight to Kuala Lumpur to take on supplies and fuel and where anyone wishing to could disembark and fly home. No one else – passengers or crew – would be allowed off – passengers due to disembark at Singapore could stay on board free of charge and continue onto Fremantle Western Australia (a cheer went up across the theatre), which would be our next port. We also would not be calling at Singapore, Ho Chi Minh and Nha Trang (Vietnam) or Bali. He apologised profusely but stressed it was beyond his control as the safety of us all was of the utmost importance.

Lois Bushell



Palace at Muscat, Oman



Buddha at Asokaramaya Buddhist Temple



A street in Colombo

From: To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings

Thank you to Jane Bruges for sending us our first poem – you may have heard Fergal Keane reading it on Radio 4 a few days ago

This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

John O'Donoghue

This week's
Sudoku
puzzle

	5		8			4	6	
		1				3	7	
			2					
		8	6	7				
7								9
				5	9	2		
				6				
	2	3				5		
	7	4			2		9	

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**HYMN
EMOJI
CHALLENGE**

Thank you to
Chris Lewis for
this puzzle—
answers next
week

Answers to Colin's cryptic crossword last week

Across: 1. Topiary; 4. Ossicle; 9. Plenipotentiary; 10. Adapted; 14. Abyss; 15. Risin; 16. Trustee; 17. Hero; 18. Amen; 20. Uttered; 22. Orion; 23. Elide; 24. Decided; 28. Episcopalianism; 29. Damages; 30. Osmosis

Down: 1. Topical; 2. Presbyterianism; 3. Rapid; 5. Sense; 6. Characteristics; 7. Etymons; 8. Stop; 10. Astound; 11. Aquatic; 12. Tutored; 13. Dreaded; 19. Commend; 21. Resumes; 25. Enode; 26. Izar; 27. Epics



And finally: this is
Wilson—working from
home!