

Holy Trinity

(without the walls)

Parish News



Norris Road, Blacon, Chester. CH1 5DZ

May 2020 40p

Church Within Our Own Home



Painted by Su (reproduction of work by LS Lowry)

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REACHING OUT WITH CHRIST TO ALL

Dear friends,

We live in very interesting times. Ordinarily you would see the diary details for the coming month on this and the following couple of pages. Instead you hold in your hands a very different magazine. This month there are articles from our church family about their experiences during this period of lockdown. We have the usual puzzles and features too.

We do not know how long this lockdown will go on for and we will continue to provide you with a printed magazine .

Have faith for God WILL see us through.

Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me,

For my soul takes refuge in You;

And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge

Until destruction passes by. (Psalm 57:1)

Jason Clarke (*Editor*)

If you would like to share your experiences during this time of crisis in a future parish News magazine, please email htcpneditor@gmail.com



WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US?

One word which has repeatedly been used nowadays equally by commentators, and folk I have held conversations with, is 'unprecedented'. Nothing like this has ever happened in our experience before. And yet, *'there is nothing new under the sun'* (Ecclesiastes 1.9).

The Church of England lectionary gives bible readings for use every day of the year – and in the last couple of weeks of Lent, in the mornings, readings follow the early chapters of Exodus. Moses, and the plagues, and pharaoh refusing to allow the Israelites out of captivity. The cry of 'set my people free' rang out through those passages. Then, we reach the Passover and the moment when the Israelites escape from captivity, crossing the Red Sea, en route to the Promised Land, at Easter. No coincidence in timing there. Freedom is why Jesus was sent, and died and rose to life

again, for us. *'For freedom Christ has set us free'* (Galatians 5.1).

As we live through our own plague, and the churches are locked shut for the first time in modern history, is it natural to ask whether God is saying something to us here in Blacon, today. We miss so much by not meeting together. We miss the fellowship (which is never the same if not face-to-face) the worship together, the praying together, the opportunities to encourage one another in our walk with God (which is why coming together in a congregation has always been a fundamental feature of the Christian life - see Hebrews 10.25), and we long for this time to be past. But I am not sure that everything happening right now is to be regretted.

Many people are finding their daily lives taking a different pattern, and that is causing them to re-evaluate their priorities.

Should as many car or plane or train journeys really be made? How much could work be done at home rather than in the office? And similar could apply to our life as Church. How many of the things that normally busy us, are really necessary? People have found they have extra time in a day, and so have used it for reading or indeed for praying. The change in daily routine is like a freedom, a release from the chores which bound us before.

There will be a time when the church building will reopen (at present, we do not have any idea when), and we will go back in through the doors. We will all be changed by this experience, so we will clearly not be exactly the same as we were before. But, in what ways will we be different? Will our worship be different? Will the way in which we are church together have changed? What is it about our church life that God has released us from?

It seems to me that this is an

important moment for everyone. Not only to think about what unnecessary meetings could be shed, or what changes could be made to our lifestyle. Not only to reconsider how we relate to one another, or spend our time together. But also, to re-evaluate how we relate to God, and spend time with Him. What new freedoms in Christ are we learning today? What yokes of slavery were we subject to in our previous ways of being as Church? Before we rush to return to how things used to be, let us consider carefully what God is saying to each of us today.

Tina Upton



Musings on the Lockdown

Well isn't it amazing how our world and everyday life can change in an instant? Less than a month ago my life and I'm sure most of yours too, was a busy one. My calendar and diary was full of meetings, church duties/ deadlines, volunteering, coffee and/or lunch dates with friends. Also family commitments; we look after our little grandson 1 or 2 days a week, and of course visiting my dear mum in her nursing home at least 3 times a week. So pretty much every day was accounted for. Every night before going to bed I would check the calendar for next day's commitments and set my alarm according to how early I needed to get up. Some nights I did think "Gosh how did I have time to go to work!" the old cliché!

Then came Lockdown and everyone's busy life came to a halt almost overnight. Except of course all the wonderful NHS staff and all frontline and keyworkers without whom this shutdown life could not continue. And of course we thank God for them daily, for their commitment, dedication and bravery. I know many of you have family members who are putting themselves at risk on a daily basis because they see it as their duty; we hold them all in our prayers.

It only gradually dawned on Rob and I that we would not be able to see our grandson or our daughters, one of whom is soon expecting our second grandchild. Or worse still not able to see mum who so looks forwards to the visits and would she really understand why I had

stopped going? All of us have family we are concerned about and wish we could visit and give them a hug. But for the time being we must talk to them on the phone, video call or Zoom but mainly just commit them to God's safe keeping and ask Him to be with them where we cannot. We are so blessed to have a faith, to know that God doesn't change, and is the same today, tomorrow and forever.

I've come to quite enjoy the slower pace of life, to have time to stand and stare, to notice the changes every day of Nature in all her Springtime glory. The blossom, the singing and nesting birds, the hedgerows full of blackthorn and lush green growth. And the weather has been kind too, enabling those of us who can, to get out on our daily walks or exercise in the garden. I

often get up early before breakfast for my walk, there is no one else about except me and the birds; such a beautiful time of day and I find it a lovely time to talk and walk with God, thanking Him for this beauty and goodness and praying for all those in need. I can see the Welsh Hills across the fields



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'The Week That Changed the World' is an audio journey through Holy Week. The story of 'holy week' retold by Dr Peter Walker in 12 instalments is an ideal audio-companion after the first 'underground' Holy Week for over 1,650 years.

The journey can be listened to online, but for those who don't have access to the internet, provision has been made for them to be able to dial in from their telephone. So if you are reading this and know of someone who would be interested, please pass them the information.

People without internet access are able to call **01244 257535** (usual call charges apply) to take part. To find out more and sign up visit the website or just call the number to join in straight away – it continues to be available after Easter.

CONTINUING OUR MISSION IN BLACON

Holy Trinity Church relies on donations to provide care and support to everyone in this community. Now more than ever, please consider giving generously to support our mission and ministry. You may wish to take the opportunity to set up a Standing Order with your bank to ensure we continue to receive regular donations at this time. A form is on the opposite page, which you should pass to your bank.

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PRAYERS FOR USE AT THIS TIME

from the Church of England website)

Prayers about the outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

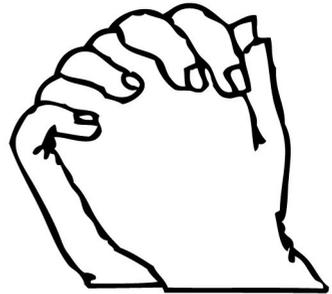
Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,



knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.



My friend died during the lockdown,
taken from us by the virus.

My friend rejoiced in two sons
of whom he spoke with enthusiasm and pride,
who worked with him as they grew
and whom he taught all he knew

DIY

I have another friend
of whom his Father also spoke
with enthusiasm and pride,
and who worked with him to create the universe

DIY

and who used two pieces of wood

DIY

to free us one day from death
and recreate the world
free from viruses,
free from mourning,
free from crying,
free from pain
a world where there will be
all who have given him their allegiance,
a world where we'll go out and leap
like calves released from the stall,
released from lockdown!

Clive U

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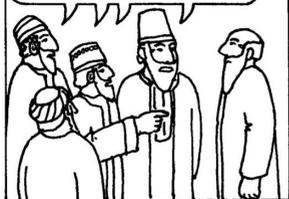
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1 - 10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...

We want a king like all the other countries



God told Samuel

It's not you they are rejecting but Me



If you have a king, he will take your sons to be his army and your daughters to work in his palace.



He will take the best of your land, your crops and your animals



We still want a king.

Samuel sent them home.



I was hoping he would choose me..

Saul and his servant were looking for some donkeys that had run off.



They decided to ask Samuel to ask God where the donkeys were



God told Samuel that Saul was to be the king



Samuel called everyone to a meeting and told them that God had chosen a king.



God told them that Saul was to be their king...



but Saul was hiding.

He's behind the luggage.



and they found Saul.

The people cheered!



Long live the King!

Happy isolation!

By Su C

Hello to everyone in my church family and Risen love in our amazing God at this most unusual and historic time.

I really feel for those who are struggling with the lockdown and whilst I am really missing my children and grandchildren I am so grateful for video call and the technology that has meant we can see each other daily – we probably never did daily before the crisis!

I spend most of all my days by myself and am loathe to go out in case I fall or become unwell but will venture out if I'm low on milk or bread and the like! I can't say I am finding it hard when my normal life means I am at home with just the cat, Jasper and my long list of hobbies and pastimes keep me busy when I am well enough to indulge my creative passions. Since I was nine I have written poetry and my love of language and a kind of need to write means I'm usually jotting

down a line or idea for the next one. I write daily and although mainly spiritual works, I don't limit where the ideas take me. Also aged nine I first joined the church choir and my ability to remember words and tunes was a source of deep annoyance to my eldest sister as I sang all day and every day. My first solo was holding a brass candlestick stood on a dining chair, singing Edelweiss, so you can guess what film had inspired that performance! I know that I was five then as my youngest sister was newly born. I also performed it for Uncle W who lived next door but one for the princely reward of a tangerine. I am also a passionate artist although I can struggle to find the time this needs from making a drawing ready to become painted and I'm sure some of you know, it is mainly the works of Lawrence Stephen Lowry I prefer having done about 35 in the last six years. My lounge is often full of brushes, paints, sketches, pencils and all manner of equipment and everything else goes out of the

window until the painting is done! It is a great excuse to not cook, dust, clean or Hoover until the more important work is completed. Nurturing a creative task can be thoroughly spiritual; bringing something to completion from a blank piece of paper and a couple of pencils, and thinking about the gift of the ability to do it has very often then produced poetry and prayer to boot and that then blesses me over and over again. The price to be paid sadly is it is often a physically draining process for my arthritis and spinal conditions but I would never give it up. That would be too distressing.

My other great passion and daily discipline is studying the Bible. I am a contemplative sort and need the comfort of a structured (loosely) prayer routine, hoping most days to do Morning or Evening Prayer in the Celtic tradition, journeying with our older saints from the Northumbria community. The rhythm and cycle of the seasons over many centuries nourishes me so much even though I am allegedly a

completely modern woman and product of my own time and place.

'Tis mystery all!

I pray that for all of us at HTBWW, our time of isolation may bring each day a moment spent in wonder and/or study of our amazing Creator God, prayer for those serving through the crisis, waiting for our day of release; our walking away from the tomb of isolation and journeying once again together into our Resurrection life as the people of God in love in Blacon!!



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Our advertising charges for one insert each month for a year, starting at any time, are quite modest:

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Praying for Blacon



“When right-living people bless the city, it flourishes”

*Prov 11:11
The Message*

As part of an inter-church prayer focus for Blacon, please could you pray, commencing on these Sundays, for the residents living in these roads:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 3 May | Bowyer’s Close, Ashfield Crescent, Glenside Close & Longdale Drive |
| 10 May | Wavertree Road, Western Avenue, Lloyd Place & Adelaide Road |
| 17 May | Maitland Way, Canberra Way, Roebourne Rise & Melbourne Road |
| 24 May | Cairns Crescent, Hobart Way, Auckland Road & Wyndham Road |
| 31 May | Brisbane Road, Darwin Road, Chevron Hey & Chevron Close |



The **June issue** of the Parish News will be available on or about Sunday, 31st May 2020.

All contributions should be submitted to htcpneditor@gmail.com by **Thursday, 14th**

May 2020. Thank you.

If you would like to subscribe to our magazine please contact the Parish Office on 01244

376085 - annual cost is £4.00.



Reflecting on the Lockdown

June and Jim M

It is difficult to imagine how all our lives have changed so much over the last few weeks.

It has been a sobering and depressing experience with so many lives lost and families devastated by this virus.

On a more personal level, we have missed our families and friends so much. However, we are fortunate to live in a technological age where it is possible to stay in touch by phone, text, Messenger etc.

This was so important to us a couple of weeks ago when our Granddaughter was taken ill with

the virus. She was taken into hospital in Oxford and tests confirmed that she had Covid19. She was really poorly for a while but thankfully, she is on the road to recovery.

We have been keeping in touch with our Church family by phone and email and are extremely grateful to Tina and Clive for their wonderful videos on Facebook during Holy Week, reminding us of this special time of the year.

We realise it is so important to do what the Government asks of us to protect the NHS and save lives by staying at home and following guidelines.

The glorious weather has been a bonus and has given us the opportunity to sit in the garden and hear the beautiful sounds of birdsong. *We realise that we and others are very lucky to have outdoor space to work and move around in.*

Jim has been keeping himself busy in the garden and will reap the benefits later when the

tomatoes and vegetables are ready to harvest.

June has been catching up on her reading and knitting for the Knit and Natter group.

There are plenty of free online courses to explore and some ideas to keep children and young people occupied. E.g. sow some herb seeds and make an indoor garden. Play board games and jigsaws; bake cakes or cookies to help with maths – weighing and measuring; keep a daily journal; have a reading challenge; build a den indoors

– our Great granddaughters did this a couple of weeks ago – great fun!; make a memory box; arts and crafts the possibilities are endless.

How communities have responded to the challenge has been amazing and there are hundreds of stories of how people have helped the vulnerable members of our community.

We pray that this will continue when we finally come out of this nightmare.

Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation: FIVE TOP TIPS**



- 1. Pray - light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.**



- 2. Talk about how you feel.**

This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but use the phone, internet and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor, this can be arranged by your GP, local agencies or privately. Samaritans are there 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.



- 3. Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.**



- 4. Look after yourself - physically, emotionally, spiritually.**

Plan things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.



- 5. Look after others – even if only in small ways, but do what you can: a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.**

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Dennis Harrison, Cybercentre Secretary

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The Bible is a big and complicated book to read, and for many it can be difficult to know where to start. The Bible course is a great resource, whether you are familiar with the Bible, or just starting out.

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teaching, course guide and daily readings will help you grow in confidence as you read the Bible for yourself.

Put together by The Bible Society, we will be running this course over 8 weeks at Holy Trinity starting on Thursday 7th May at 2pm. Because of the lockdown, this will be run 'virtually' with videos and discussions online – you will just need internet connection (through your phone or computer). If you would like to take part, please contact Rev Louise Annison 07861 490410 or louise.htblacon@btinternet.com

Easy

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

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Sudoku

Medium

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

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Crossword

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
				8								
9								10				
11						12						
												13
14		15						16				
	17			18				19		20		
21												
22								23				
24										25		

Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)

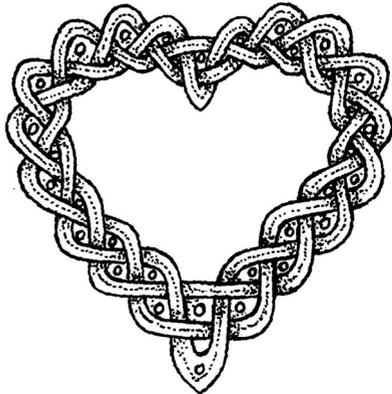
Crossword Clues

- 12
12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
19 Attend to (3,2)
22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
24 Rule of sovereign (8)
25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
2 'The playing of the merry —, sweet singing in the choir' (5)
4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
6 Port at which Paul landed

- on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
8 Minister of religion (6)
13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
20 Establish by law (5)
21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties





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Sudoku Solutions

Easy

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

Medium

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

S	T	O	P	C	A	L	L	U	P	O	N
T	R	C	B	L	U	O					
R	E	G	U	L	A	R	O	C	T	E	T
A	A	E	A	Y	E	E					
I	N	N	E	R	H	U	D	S	O	N	
G			I	A			L				I
H	O	L	Y	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O
T	A			S	S						N
	M	Y	S	E	L	F	S	E	E	T	O
B	D	N	A	H	N	C					
A	B	O	U	T	I	T	E	R	A	T	E
L	W	E	T	R	C	N					
M	O	N	A	R	C	H	S	T	E	T	



...er... the good news is the youth-group have made a great start by pressure-washing the west window...

Lord, hold my hand

I so need your loving kindness;

Lord, hold my hand

All through life, in joy or grief.

Lord, hold my hand

When I'm sick with fear and anxious;

Lord, hold my hand

In the wonder of relief.

Lord, hold my hand

When it's dark and storms are raging;

Lord, hold my hand

And help me live it through

Lord, hold my hand

When I'm lifted, joyful, loving;

Lord, hold my hand

When I'm trying something new.

Lord, hold my hand

When I fail or faint or waver;

Lord, hold my hand

For I know your love is true.

Lord, hold my hand

When I'm lonely, weary, ageing,

Lord, hold my hand

When there's only me – and you.

Anon—thanks to Christine L for providing this

FEEDING THOSE IN NEED

After the business of handing out and delivering packages of food to those in need in the community on Thursday (16th March), one of our volunteers sat down and did a calculation, and we discovered to our amazement that Blacon Action Team had within 3 weeks provided food for over 1000 people in Blacon. Blacon Action Team is a collaboration between Holy Trinity Church, Blacon Beacon, Cheshire West Communities Together, Blacon Community Store, West Cheshire Foodbank, The Welcome Network, and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Since the lockdown began, the church hall has been laid out with tressel tables, so that food stored in the Blacon Beacon room (which has been built where the stage used to be) can be assembled into parcels for individuals and families needing them. Those who are able come to the hall (or

the Community Store on Western Avenue) at specified times; those who are unable have food delivered by our fabulous volunteers. *(See back cover)*

If you know somebody who is struggling to get by at this time, they can register for food using the form on our church website www.holytrinityblacon.org – there is also just below that link a form to sign up as a volunteer for us.



