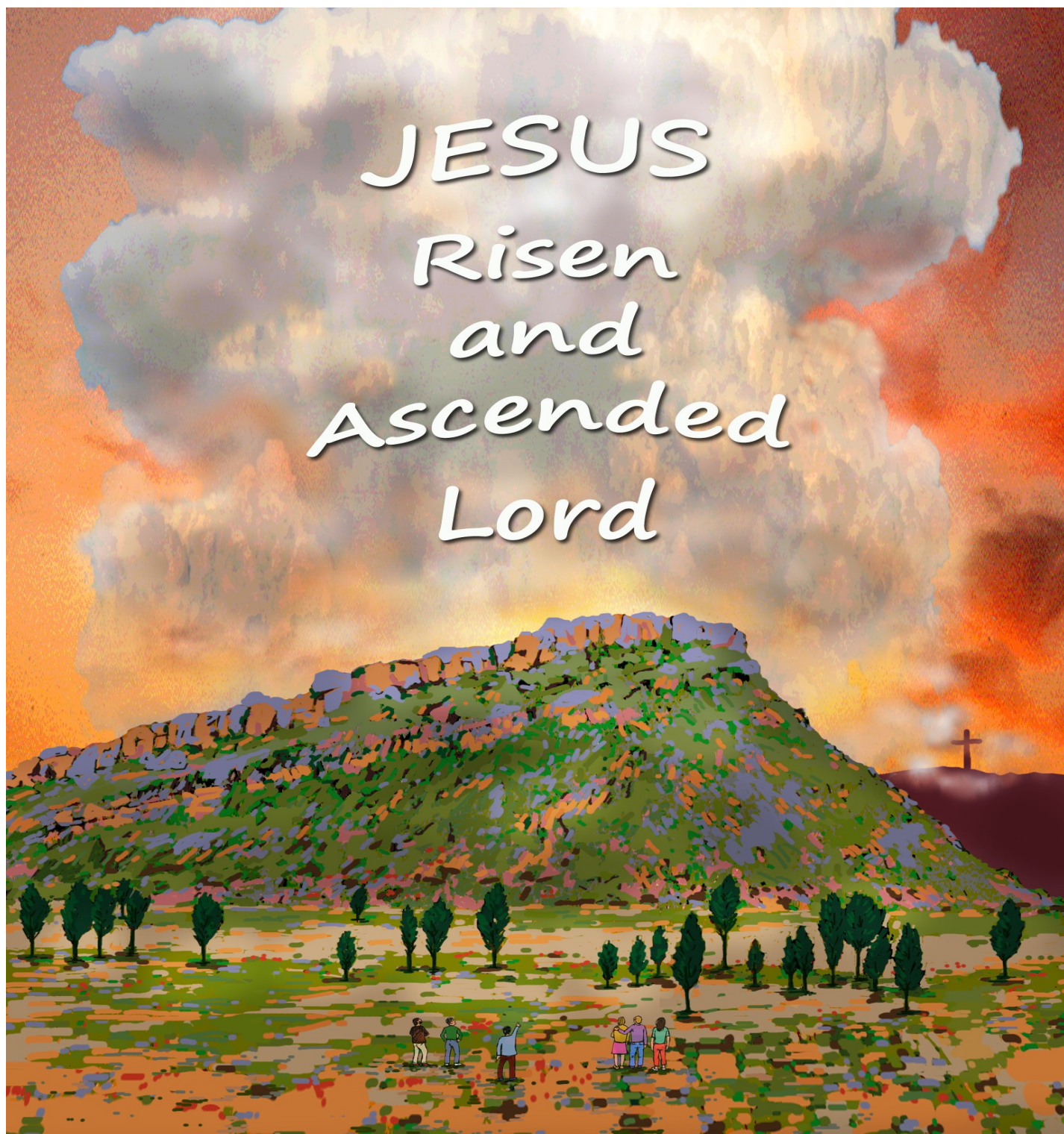


www.stpaulsale.co.uk

Sale, St. Paul's
'Serving God and the community'

'Virtual' Parish News

May 2020



From the Vicar

Dear Friends

I hope you are all keeping well, and that amid the uncertainty and the changes and chances of these strange days you are managing to keep a hold on the things that are unchanging and eternal especially the love of God who sent his Son in to the world that we might be saved.

It was rather strange celebrating the Resurrection of God's Son in my own home. Holding the Vigil in my office rather than in the church by the Easter garden and lighting a candle to represent the new fire rather than having David Allen light the Easter Fire on the canal side felt quite alien. Nevertheless, I did feel the same sense of anticipation I get inside me each year as I read the vigil readings and wait to light the Easter Fire. That sense of joy and thankfulness that comes from knowing that God loved us enough to take all our faults and failings and to redeem them somehow, so that despite them God could keep the promise he made to us of a Saviour, a Messiah, one who could restore our broken relationship with our creator.

Knowing that God kept that promise does not lessen our worries or take away our fears, but it does mean we can know we are not left alone in all this, that God is walking alongside us, God is in the midst of us, is in messiness of this world with us, helping us bear our burdens and just as he said to his disciples, so I feel he is saying to us, 'Peace be with you.'

I can imagine him holding out his hands to us and offering us an assurance that God is alongside both those who work, strengthening and supporting them and with those who must stay at home and watch and wait. Those who are watching and waiting will, I feel sure, be offering up prayers on a daily basis on behalf of those key workers, and though I cannot fully know how prayer works I do not doubt the efficacy of it. So please keep on praying. You may wish to join in with me in each morning between 8.15-8.30am for daily prayer and join with me in lighting a candle at 7pm each evening or you may have your own pattern of prayer, but please do know how important and valued your prayers are by so many who are for whatever reason, maybe illness, unable to pray for themselves at this time. If you wonder how I can be sure of that, it is through the comments and the sheer number of people who have been joining in and watching when I stream them, and there have been comments from all over the world, a sobering reminder that this is indeed a worldwide problem.

If you managed during your daily exercise to get to the church you will hopefully have seen the Cross and the Easter Garden which were prepared and displayed by Jean and David Law and Michael Riley, many, many thanks to them for doing this. It has had many very positive comments and ensured that the local community

know that though not able to use our building at present we are still church, and we are still working to serve both God and the community.

If you managed to get there on Easter Sunday you may also have noticed that the Easter bunny in the form of Jane and Sheldon Gigner-Hollies left a basket of eggs for people to help themselves to a big thank you to them. And also a big thank you to Anne and Rosie Allen and Kevin Drury for the Music that have streamed to enhance our services.

This month a few more people have told us about their experiences of 'lock-down', maybe for next month you would like to submit a few words about yours for next month's magazine.

Finally, a request....

Our income at the moment because of loss of rent and loss of Sunday



collection is very much reduced and that is rather worrying. Brian Hirst, our treasurer, has negotiated with the Diocese and for the time being they will not collect the full Parish Share, however this debt will mean we slip further into debt. So I am asking that if you can you get in contact with Brian or myself and arrange for your usual contribution to be made electronically and if you can you can make an extra contribution to help cover our costs we would be most grateful. We have of course done what we can to reduce our costs.

Yours in Christ
Barbara

Give us strength

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.



Our church warden is not letting people into the church just now

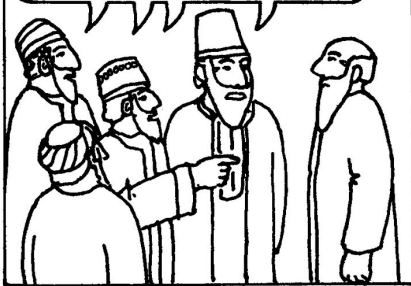
Bible Bite

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.

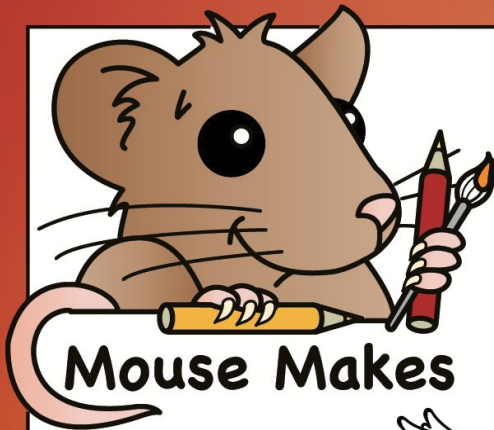


and they found Saul.

The people cheered!



Long live the King!



"The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness
gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also
behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read
Galatians
5:13-26



How many
other words can you find
using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT?**



Which
symbol goes
with which fruit?



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

A M E N
G C H H
R R H E O D
J E E E A P O



LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
GOODWILL • GENEROSTITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

Thoughts from some of our members

I hope you're all keeping well and coping with the lockdown. Thanks must go to everyone at the church for keeping things going and looking after our congregation at this time. Particular thanks to Barbara for broadcasting services via Facebook, which at least provides a semblance of normality for those of us who are able to watch.

I've been spending my time manning the Sale Community Response Hub with my friends Lynne and Bev. The Hub is based at Sale West Youth Centre and is providing food parcels, prescription collections and basic shops for local residents who are elderly or vulnerable. If you, or anyone you know needs this service, please contact the central number for Trafford on 0300 330 9073, and they will point you in our direction. Please do not be too proud to ask for help – we're in unprecedented times, and that's what we're here for.

We have been working with local churches to help our residents, and this is yet one more example of our strong Churches Together ethos in Sale. Please keep tuning in to church on Facebook if you are able – I look forward to seeing you all soon. I am available on 07817888593 if anyone needs to talk or catch up.

Rob Chilton

What have I been doing during the lockdown? Well, nothing exciting, that's for sure. I've been walking up and down the garden 20 - 30 times twice a day, walked round the house (inside), hoovered round, wiped down all sorts of surfaces - again - and made a start on the chocolate I couldn't eat during Lent!! I've read books, done crosswords and phoned people to make sure they are ok. Fortunately I've been able to keep in touch with family and friends via phone, text or whatsapp, otherwise I'd be going spare!!

A really interesting life (not) but getting through, and another 3 weeks of the same (at least). Help!!!!

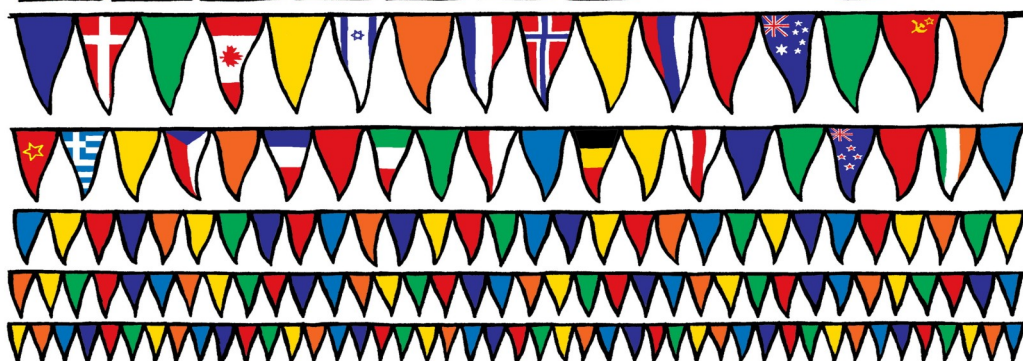
Hilary Moore



VE DAY

75TH

ANNIVERSARY



St. Paul's VE Day Live

To mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day

Join us on Friday 8th May 2020

Streaming at: 1:30pm, 1:45pm, 2:00pm
and 2:15pm

Facebook @stpaulssale

More thoughts from some of our members

Well I suspect the Lee family experience of lockdown is very similar to that of many, many families across the country. We've had to become, home schoolers and full-time caterers and entertainers at the same time as juggling working from home in paid employment. Add in keeping in touch with anxious family members, who seem to have forgotten that our standard office hours are 9-5pm and ring at all times of the day and it all makes for a rather hectic schedule.

We've had some work from school for Ben & Isabel to complete, although our combined efforts at the Penguin comprehension exercise won't win 'work of the week' and I've become more familiar with 'fronted adverbials' than I'd like to have done, given the choice.

When I hear of people being bored, I can't help but feel a little of the green eyed monster coming into view and wishing I might have time to read those books I've bought with good

intentions, or that I might be able to play a piano piece in the next music concert. Alas, both are far from my sights at the moment.

But there are so many things to be thankful for, not least all the key workers who care for us when we're sick, empty our bins and work the background of the food chain, keeping food on our plates. The spring weather and flowers in the garden helps lift our moods daily. And for those of us with outside spaces, playing, gardening and planting seeds are activities as a family we're enjoying greatly and thankful to have some time for.

So even if I'm not ready for a solo piano performance when Anne asks for volunteers, we might have some beans, sweetcorn and courgettes in time for the harvest festival.

Rachel Lee

We are your people

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.

A month on from my last letter and some things have changed but a lot stays the same and in some ways that is good as the changelessness can provide stability and security.

For instance, I'm still working from home but despite the limitations I face and a yearning to be working amidst my colleagues again, I know that the safest thing is to be at home to protect myself, others and most importantly the NHS.

The people that I've been speaking to pastorally, from church, all seem to be coping well with staying at home, to varying degrees and many have found new things to keep them occupied by either engaging in hobbies, doing those 'long overdue' chores or attempting new skills and of course, keeping in contact with friends and family including members of our church family. Some church people have also learnt new IT skills to help them keep in touch with others.

Below is an extract from part of the Archdeacon of Chester's Easter reflection on the desperate words of Psalm 142.

"Lament is part of the human condition and encourages us not to rush from Good Friday to Easter Day, but to stop on Holy Saturday and remember that the Bible speaks of every kind of human experience, not just the times of rejoicing, but the times of lament when we're scared and alone. Because God knows we go through those times and he's with us when we do".

Of course, it is Easter season now and we are Easter people but that doesn't stop us from being human and experiencing times when we're not as upbeat as we could be and that's inevitable at this time of being, mostly, confined to our homes. It is during such times, even though we may not

always sense God's presence, that we can be certain that we are not alone and that God is there right in the midst of our individual situations with us and alongside us – be sure to remember that God knows, loves us and cares.

As I've mentioned to some of you that I have spoken to on the phone, we live opposite a green and on Easter Saturday a neighbour set up an Easter garden on the green with an arch trellis covered with artificial flowers of all colours, greenery and brightly coloured chiffon scarves. She planted various greenery with plaques in different areas on the green with the words, faith, hope, love and joy for everyone in the neighbourhood to enjoy.

Some of us painted stones to put on the green. Ours was a yellow cross, with love hearts and flowers and the word Easter at the bottom. It wasn't a work of art but it kept us busy and meant that we could contribute to the creativity. It was so lovely of our neighbour and has brought much needed positivity and joy to those passing by, including many families with small children who spend time skipping around the green.

As well as wishing everyone a happy and peace filled Easter season, keep connected with us all and others, by whatever means you can and continue being Easter people, people of hope, confident in the good news of Jesus' resurrection – God with us now and for ever.

Yours in Christ

Yvonne

Licensed Pastoral Worker

0161 962 4066

Life in quarantine

Full marks to Jamie Oliver for his Channel 4 series, 'Keep Cooking and Carry On'. He showed us how to make tasty meals with basic ingredients and a minimum of fuss.

The pandemic prompted other encouraging responses. One mother in the 'at risk' category said her adult children thought she was immortal until now. Now they ring her every day to see how she's getting on. An elderly clergyman had offers to shop from two new neighbours whom he hardly knew. The whole nation stopped taking the National Health Service for granted and started showing gratitude. Telephone, television, the internet and email prevented many from going stir-crazy. Some even tried the cryptic crossword, though newcomers should be warned it takes years to learn its secrets!

The isolation was tough for many. Isolated families had to get used to each other's company and foibles for long periods, away from the park or beach. Couples were parted from each other by distance or illness. Those living alone were cut off from visitors and communal activities. Churchgoers missed Holy Communion at Easter for the first time. That should help us identify with millions of Christians across the world who have to pray in secret because their neighbours would persecute them if they did so publicly.

Alone-ness, rather than loneliness, can be productive. Albert Einstein valued time alone, when he could "go for long walks on the beach so that I can listen to what is going on inside my head." Isaac Newton's greatest discoveries began when he escaped the effects of the bubonic plague, by returning home to the family farm in Lincolnshire. He had time to observe what was going on around him and, yes, that did include watching the famous apple fall.

When the bubonic plague was at its peak, the Reformer Martin Luther wrote:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, He will surely find me and I have done what He has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others."



Memories of St Paul's Players

Whilst spending time at home in lockdown I have been sorting through some old folders in the loft. I came across several items relating to St Paul's Players which I joined in 1975.

One particular memory is of our production of Zack in 1977. I had seen Zack at the Royal Exchange the year before as one of the first play's produced at the new venue. The play was so good I thought it would be a good one for our Players. Unfortunately there were no

scripts available so I went to Manchester Central Library to investigate. In the cellar they discovered nine large volumes of plays by Harold Brighouse including Zack but there were no stage directions. I took these books to the committee and it was agreed that we should perform it. As a consequence we were the first amateurs to put on Zack after the Exchange revival and had several societies enquiring about the scripts afterwards.

Rodney Hadwen

GUARDIAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1977 10



● The cast for the St Paul's Players production of Harold Brighouse's "Zack". Front row, from left to right: Zack Munning (Rodney Hadwen), Virginia Cavender (Jean Jones) and Paul Munning (Chris Brayford). (Photo No. K920/3.)

St Paul's have another 'hit'

THE CLASSIC tale of the misused and little loved Lancashire underdog attracted an enthusiastic first night audience for the St Paul's Players production of 'Zack'.

By the same author as the legendary 'Hobson's Choice', the play centres on life in the Lancashire village of Little Hulton, at the turn of the century.

The lead role was a gift for Rodney Hadwen, who skilfully portrayed the ungainly son, condemned to an arranged marriage. Virginia, the saviour for Zack's misfortune, was cleverly played by Jean Jones. Ron Guy gave a fine performance as the intrepid

Joe Wrigley, and the scheming Mrs Munning was well played by Shirley Higgins. Throughout the production the witty script was nicely timed.

The production maintained the fine record the St Paul's Players proudly hold. This, their ninth year as an amateur company, was possibly one of their most successful and the choice of play suited both cast and audience.

Credit must go to Jessica Leah, as producer, and to Alf Johnson for the attention to detail on the stage.

Proceeds from a raffle, and the three night production, went towards a fund for the new St Anne's Hospice, aptly to be built in the Lancashire town of Little Hulton.

CAST

Paul Munning	---	Chris Brayford
Zachariah Munning	---	Rodney Hadwen
Joe Wrigley	---	Ron Guy
James Abbott	---	Gerry Ibbotson
Thomas Mowatt	---	Bill Grant
Harry Shoebridge	---	Jim Moore
Mrs Munning	---	Shirley Higgins
Virginia Cavender	---	Jean Jones
Martha Wrigley	---	Michelle Guy
Sally Teal	---	Sally Lightbown

PRODUCED BY JESSICA LEAH

Stage Manager	---	Alf Johnson
Assistants	---	John Greenwood
		Bill Grant
		Bob Higgins
Props	---	Mary Clarkson
		Barbara Newlove
Make up	---	Margaret Garner
Prompt	---	Dorothy Pollard
Hall Manager	---	Donald Gregory
Publicity	---	Eddie Tullock

May is the month of flowers. Why not invite your congregation to email you pix of their gardens at this most beautiful time of year, for you to put up on your church website? Invite them to choose a verse from the Bible to go with their photograph. Remember that by now a lot of people will need cheering up and reminding of God's care for them.

Loneliness at the Virtual Chelsea Flower Show, 19th – 23rd May

All sorts of themes are chosen for the Chelsea Flower Show, but this year's theme turned out to be scarily appropriate for the Spring of 2020: loneliness and mental health.

For, according to Sue Briggs, RHS Director General, "many feel they need gardening in their life now more than ever before, for their mental and physical wellbeing during this national emergency."

Writing on RHS website (www.rhs.org.uk), Sue Briggs says: "This applies to everyone from those who are having to self-isolate to families planning, maybe for the first time, to grow their own food."



And so, "for these reasons, and to do more to support the industry, the RHS will create a Virtual RHS Chelsea Flower Show, to celebrate our great horticultural industry and gardening heritage." The Virtual Show will run from Tuesday 19th May to Saturday 23rd May.

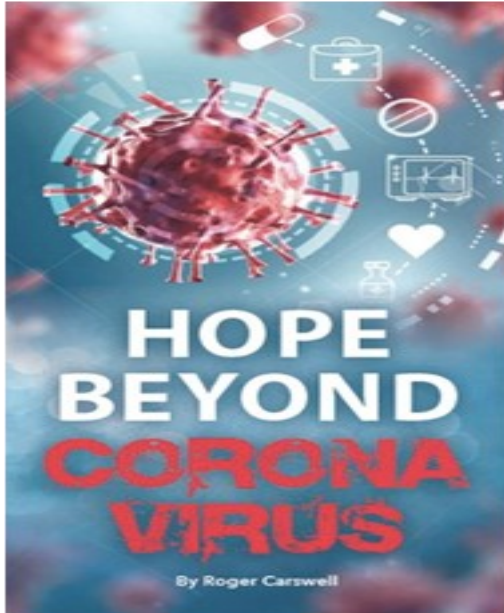
Guy Barker, chief horticulturalist at the RHS said: "Nurturing plants can make you less lonely and release you from troubles."

Take exercise for even half an hour a day – and lower depression!

Here is some good news for us all: if you are feeling low, get moving. A recent study at Harvard has found that even just half an hour of exercise a day can lower the risk of depression by 17 per cent.

So – even though we are told to stay home at present, do a work-out in your living room, run around the garden a dozen times, or run up and down your staircase 20 times -anything to get your heart pounding and your body moving!

Book Reviews



Hope Beyond Coronavirus
By Roger Carswell, 10Publishing,
various prices

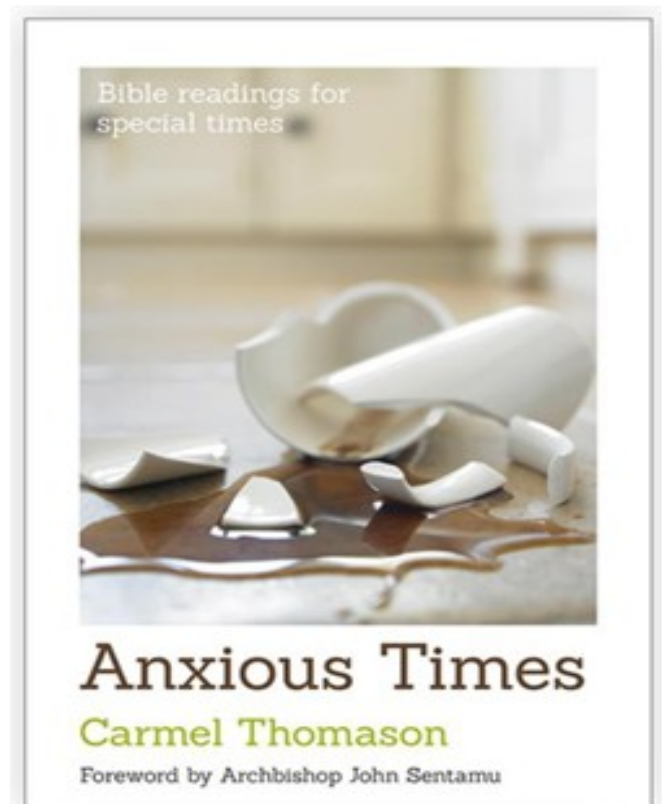
This is a very helpful evangelistic tract you can bulk-order to share around, or you can download it free in an A4 pdf at:

<https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/26464/hope-beyond-coronavirus#summary>

Worth a look

Anxious Times – positive help for those facing uncertainty
By Carmel Thomason, BRF, £4.99

A book of 24 undated reflections drawing on a range of relevant Bible passages to offer genuine hope and encouragement in anxious times. Encompassing the very human emotions of fear and anxiety, the reflections encourage us to draw comfort and strength from God's Word even in those times when He seems silent to us. This book acknowledges that trust and hope in God's goodness doesn't always come easily, but when embraced we gain the strength to face our fear with courage and confidence.



What have you read during this lockdown period?? Fiction, religious, reference—why not send in a review, last week I found the Steve Higgs 'Patricia Fisher' series—free on Kindle Unlimited great entertaining read, if you like cruises and crime solving then check them out. Karen



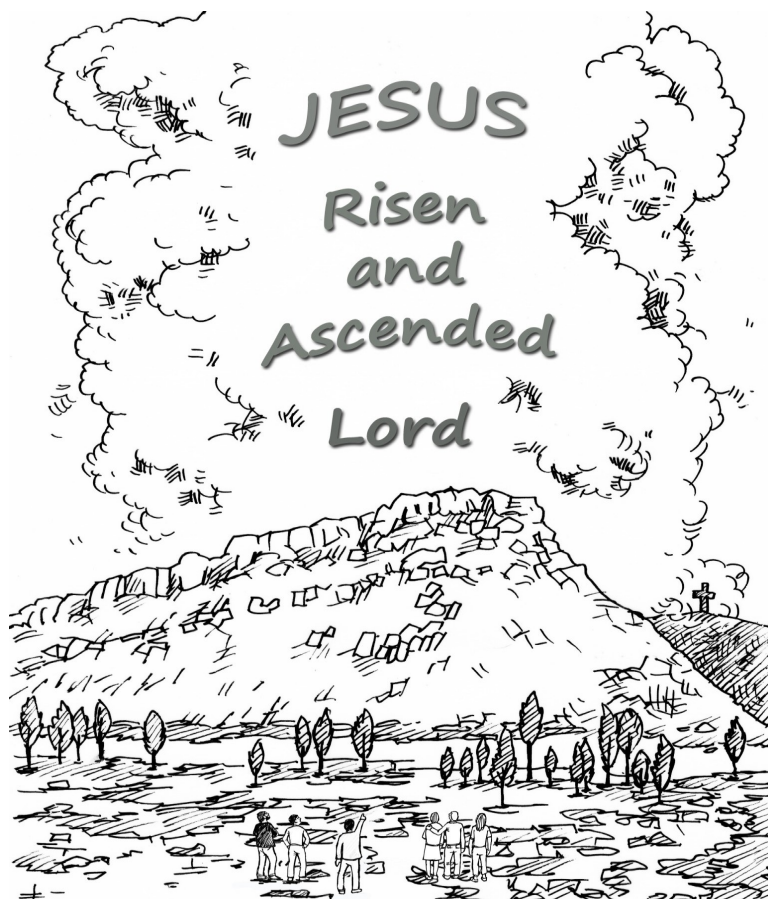
May 2020

1st May	Friday	2.00pm	Virtual Community Choir on Facebook
2nd May	Saturday		
3rd May	Sunday	8,30am 10.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion Parish Eucharist Evensong
4th May	Monday		
5th May	Tuesday		
6th May	Wednesday		
7th May	Thursday	10.00am	BCP Communion
VE Day Bank Holiday			
8th May	Friday	1.30pm, 1.45pm, 2.00pm and 2.15pm	Live Streaming on Facebook (<i>see page 7</i>)
9th May	Saturday		
10th May	Sunday	8,30am 10.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion Parish Eucharist Evensong
11th May	Monday		
12th May	Tuesday		
13th May	Wednesday		
14th May	Thursday	10.00am	BCP Communion
15th May	Friday	2.00pm	Virtual Community Choir on Facebook
16th May	Saturday		
17th May	Sunday	8,30am 10.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion Parish Eucharist Evensong
Deadline for June Parish News			
18th May	Monday		
19th May	Tuesday		
20th May	Wednesday		
21st May	Thursday	10.00am	BCP Communion
22nd May	Friday	2.00pm	Virtual Community Choir on Facebook
23rd May	Saturday		

24th May	Sunday	8,30am 10.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion Parish Eucharist Evensong
25th May	Monday		
26th May	Tuesday		
27th May	Wednesday		
28th May	Thursday	10.00am	BCP Communion
29th May	Friday	2.00pm	Virtual Community Choir on Facebook
30th May	Saturday		
31st May	Sunday	8,30am 10.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion Parish Eucharist Evensong
1st June	Monday		
2nd June	Tuesday		
3rd June	Wednesday		
4th June	Thursday	10.00am	BCP Communion
5th June	Friday	21.00pm	Virtual Community Choir on Facebook
6th June	Saturday		
7th June	Sunday	8,30am 10.00am 6.00pm	BCP Communion Parish Eucharist Evensong

Please feel free to join Barbara on Facebook daily at about 8-15am for Morning Worship and again about 7pm for Evening Worship.

There is a considerable amount of different service traditions and styles currently available and well worth a 'dip' into. See what you can find and why not let us know what you have enjoyed—so far I have tried traditional worship — the RSCM are doing a hymn a day, (joined in—luckily only me here) Compline (loved it) modern evangelical style (nice for a change) - go on give it a try! Don't forget to let us know what you thought (salestpaul@aol.com)



St. Paul's Parish Directory

Incumbent	Revd. Barbara Sharp *	973-1042 07779319167
Reader	Michael Riley *	969-2795
Reader In Training	Rob Chilton *	905-2507
Reader Emeritus	Ann Morris *	973-1042
Pastoral Workers:	Yvonne Kerridge *	962-4066
	Karen Salisbury *	283-8309
Churchwardens:	Harry Thomas *	969-4397
	Yvonne Stevenson *	2831065
Treasurer to the PCC:	Brian Hirst *	969-8463
Secretary to the PCC:		
Parish Assistant:	Anne Ibbotson *	962-1727
Director of Music:	Anne Allen *	01925-763103
Assistant Organists:	John Clisset	962-2096
	Kevin Drury	962-7963
Junior Church	David Allen	01925-763103
Parish Giving Officer	Brian Kerridge *	962-4066
Electoral Roll Officer:	Yvonne Stevenson *	283-1065
Parish News Editor:	Karen Salisbury *	283-8309
Bible Reading Fellowship:	Rachel Lee	973-1282
Men's Society:	Michael Riley *	969-2795
Women's Tuesday Group:	Diana Kelly *	973-4578
St. Paul's Babes & Tots	Rachel Lee	973-1282
Tower Warden:	Ian Moore	
Christian Aid:	Anita Evans	973-4679
Children's Society:	Sheila Clarke *	962-4678
Church Hall Bookings:	Eileen Craven *	283 7668
Badminton Group:	Brian Walker	962-4502
4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Brownies:	Vicky Williams	07986 525898
4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Guides:	As above	

Parish Office

962-0082

Parish Office e-mail

salestpaul@aol.com

Hall Bookings

salestpaulshall@gmail.com

*Names above marked with * are members of the Parochial Church Council*

Parish Organisations

Monday		
Tuesday	9.30am	St. Paul's Babes & Tots
	6.15pm	4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Brownies
	7.30pm	4 th Sale Central (St. Paul's) Guides
	1.00pm	Women's Tuesday Group (2 nd of every month)
Wednesday	8.00pm	Badminton Group
Thursday	9.30am	St. Paul's Babes & Tots
	7.30pm	Chorister Training and Choir Practice
	8.00pm	Men's Society (last of every month Sept to May but not Dec)
Friday	1.00pm	Community Choir
Saturday	9.30am	Open Church
	10.30am	Charity Coffee Morning