

The

Keston Magazine

News of your Parish and Village



June/July 2020

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Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Thought for the month

Where does my hope come from?



Well... goodness, how things have changed in the world since the last edition of this magazine! We offered support to our community in the last edition and we offer that to you now. We also continue as a church to offer worship and prayer through a variety of resources and short films, all of which can be found on our website www.kestonparishchurch.org.uk. I wonder if there is a way too, of offering some hope to each other in the midst of this current uncertain and challenging time.

I write this at the beginning of the week that the garden centres are opening again and am reminded of the hope that many of us have gained through seeing the natural world continue to blossom and thrive in these past weeks. The birds seem to be singing louder – or is that because there are fewer cars to drown out their song!

We now know, scientifically, that a scene from nature can enhance our wellbeing far more than a human built view. This may also be because some of our food comes from natural things too. There is hope to be found in the blossoming of nature, the new life, continuity, colour and life sustaining source that it offers.

We have become acutely aware of the vulnerable amongst us, people who are shielding, isolating or at risk due to the role they perform. In a way we have all become vulnerable, especially to fear and mental unease. We need hope – where does our hope come from? As Christians we place our hope in God who is a consistent presence throughout the ages. God, who we believe helps us through the challenges of life, and leads us to an inner peace.

The Bible reminds us that God has good plans for us, wants us to gain strength and peace from all that Jesus has done for us and gives us the comfort of knowing that even when we are alone, we are not alone! God is an ‘ever present help in times of trouble – a place we can go to for refuge and strength’ (Psalm 46). The prophet Jeremiah wrote: For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “Plans for wellbeing and not for trouble, to give you a future and a hope”.

At this moment in time we don’t quite know what the near future will look like, but we can hope, and pray, for a brighter one. Christopher Reeve, (remember – Superman), had a lot to say about hope, one thing was: “Once you choose hope anything’s possible”. We have the potential to make the future brighter by allowing our current situation shape that future. Nelson Mandela said: “May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears”.

May God grant you hope. ‘Only God can transform a valley of trouble into a gateway of hope!’ (Hosea 2:15).

Rev’d Carol Morrison

Cover Story

These pretty wildflowers were photographed last year in the Holwood estate. The Trust decided to try out a wildflower meadow a few years ago and it was well received. However, the cost of reseeding the area was very expensive, (over £2,000), so a smaller area was done in 2019. However, this year the decision was made not to go ahead with the usual seeding.

Some of the flowers pictured are European Toadflax (the pink and white ones at the front), Cornflower (the large blue one), Poppies (red and yellow) and Cuckoo flowers (the white ones under the Cornflower).

Churchyard Treasure

While out on a walk during lockdown, local resident, Bob Harrop, spotted a beautiful group of Meadow Saxifrage plants in Keston churchyard towards the road. It is only the second place he has found them in Keston – the other being just opposite the War Memorial. They were once very common in hay meadows, but due to habitat loss are now quite rare.



Development of the new church website



It's been my hope since I first came to Keston to help get the website updated and hopefully easier to navigate and something more in keeping as we move into this age dominated by technology! As I had previously worked in the design industry alongside people building websites, it seemed the obvious thing to do.

Fortunately, I have stayed in touch with a number of ex colleagues, one of whom is a very good website developer who now runs his own business. As he needed quite a bit of plumbing work carried out in his new house, I managed to negotiate a trade swap and agreed to do all the plumbing work in return for a brand new website for the church.

Rev'd Carol and myself have been working with him through this period of lockdown and we are pleased to announce that we should have the new website up and running and live by the end of May. Take a look at www.kestonparishchurch.org.uk.

Neil Morrison

A different Easter!



After the churches were closed on 24th March due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the congregation of Keston Parish church had to find new ways to be 'church', worship and keep in contact with and encourage one another. Rev'd Carol produced Sunday service sheets and some for Holy Week, for us each to follow at home, and these were sent out



by email to a small number of people who then forwarded them to their allocated group of people. Some were posted. Those with allocated groups keep in regular contact with those

people, to determine any needs and of course to chat.

During Holy Week, several of the congregation created Easter gardens which they put in their own front gardens for all to see. There was also a wooden cross decorated with flowers attached to the fence on the Westerham Road, outside the church, on Easter Day to mark the festival.

On Easter Sunday as well as the service sheet, Rev'd Carol did a short film in her garden which was sent to some by phone but also available to all on YouTube and this link was emailed out as well as being on the church website. She rose to the challenge and made a really good 'presenter'!

We thank you, Rev'd Carol for all the work you put in for us and feel blessed with the technology we have to be able to keep in touch at such a difficult time.



Easter at Keston CE Primary School



Keston CE Primary has been open for children of essential key workers and others have been keeping their education and learning going with the home learning packs from the school. All children been having lots of fun participating in the variety of Easter activities they were set. Early Years Foundation Stage and KS1 children have loved making Easter bonnets. This year photos were sent in rather than the traditional parade. Consideration was given to how much the children had actually done themselves during the judging. Year 3 and 4 children have



entered a blown egg competition, (previous entries have included “Egg Factor”; “Egg-fast at Tiffany’s” – breakfast at Tiffany’s and “The Greatest Egg-man” – The Greatest Showman), and Year 5 and 6 children have entered the ‘Egg-mobile’ competition to make a vehicle that will carry a small cream egg. (How far will this travel?). Current and previous entries can be seen in these wonderful pictures.

Lisa Askew, Deputy Head



My Faith Journey

When I was a child going to Sunday School was something most children did, to be honest I am not sure it was because I was particularly religious, or because they had great Christmas parties and a couple of fabulous day trips in the summer, but for whatever reason I went along every weekend and enjoyed it. As I got older it wasn't 'cool' to go to Sunday School, hanging out with friends, playing records etc. was much more interesting. So there ended my worship, until I was in trouble, or needed something then I prayed and promised like there was no tomorrow!

As I got older I found myself sneaking back into church, sometimes to big services, sometimes just when I was passing for a private prayer, or time for quiet contemplation.

I moved to Biggin Hill in 1992, (I grew up in Leyton in East London), and I found Cudham church, which I attended now and again. It was my friends' 'church' where all their weddings, funerals and christenings took place. This included my two God daughters' christenings. When they both started at Cudham School, I could attend all sorts of Harvest Festivals, Nativity Plays and Carol Concerts etc. This is where I met Eric Heselwood – he is still my favourite Vicar, he has a very down to earth approach to religion which I find refreshing and he always has time for a chat, to help, and to put my mind at ease.



I also found the RAF Chapel, which has such a warm welcoming feeling, so I made that my church, but again only big services, or on special anniversaries.

In 2015 my dad died, he had been unwell so we had all prepared ourselves for his passing, but it still hit home very hard when it happened. One Sunday morning I had an overwhelming feeling that I had to go to church. I found myself at the RAF Chapel, and had that warm and welcoming feeling of comfort and coming home again.

The members of the congregation were very friendly, but I did sit at the back and I think I cried through most of the service. It was such a feeling of comfort and 'coming home'. I knew God had truly welcomed me back like a little lost sheep. It was like a flick of a switch and I was back to attending regular weekly services again.

By now Eric had moved from Cudham and he was the regular Vicar at the Chapel, he announced that there was to be a Confirmation service in Chislehurst and I immediately knew I wanted to be Confirmed. It seemed to be God showing me this was the next step in my religious life. So I had a chat with Eric after the service, and that was it – things were in motion. I could re-affirm my faith.

When the chapel had to close for the museum to be built I tried a few different churches, but none of them felt right until I found Keston, again

that welcoming feeling from the congregation, the church itself and that peaceful feeling, the feeling I could be with God was there.

I may not be or do a lot of things in life that I should but I do know that God is always with me, guiding me, listening to me, looking over me. I don't think he minds that I had quite a huge gap year in my worship, I feel he is smiling down on me that I found myself and rekindled my religious beliefs, even if it did take me quite a while.

Although I do believe you don't have to go to church to pray/worship or believe, everybody has their own way of doing it, I feel personally now I have found my church, (the RAF Chapel), and am nestled safely in God's embrace, it is a way of life for me, I can't see me having or wanting another break in my religious life, Sunday mornings are something I look forward to, a bit of me and my God's time – precious.

Leslee Robbens

Registers

Baptism

9th February Alexander Vishal Bhadesia (born 3/5/2019)

Funerals

8th January Helen Rachel Dwyer née Abram (aged 55 years)

3rd February Michael John Behan (aged 81 years)

5th February Nellie May Robertson (aged 97 years)

10th February Richard Alan Wade (aged 59 years)



Helen Dwyer

Psalm 23

The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

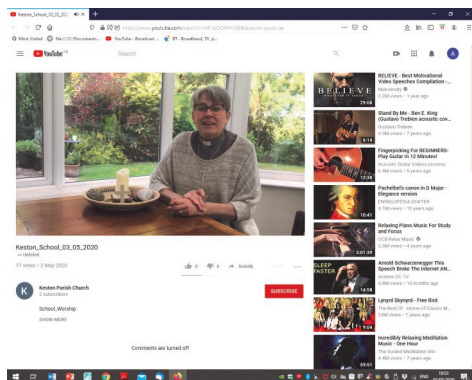
You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

New King James Version

From 'live' in the pulpit to virtual and streaming



Rev'd Carol on YouTube each week

Not being able to go to church is causing an awful lot of people to 'go' to church!

It started in late March, when the Archbishop kicked off with the first ever national virtual service, recorded in the crypt chapel of Lambeth Palace. It was seen or heard by about five million people. That figure included one million streaming on Facebook, and about two million tuned in to the 39 BBC local radio station broadcasts and BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship combined. The Facebook post had a further reach of two million and nearly 30% of those watching online were under the age of 34.

That compares with average of 871,000 people attending services and acts of worship each week in 2018, the latest figures that are available.

At the same time, hundreds of churches and cathedrals also had their first try at livestreaming services. Some attracted several thousand viewers on the stream and playback. As a

spokesperson for the Church of England said: "The Archbishops said that church would have to be reimagined. Across the country, local congregations did just that."

Resources available include those on kestonparishchurch.org.uk, with a link to Rev'd Carol's weekly film; services and reflections on our Diocese's website www.rochester.anglican.org; weekly Sunday services and more on and www.cofe.org and live streams on www.achurchnearyou.com. Radio 4 has Sunday Worship at 8.10am and a daily service on longwave at 9.45am on weekdays, while Radio 3 has Choral Evensong at 3.30pm on Wednesdays which is repeated on Sundays at 3pm. On TV, BBC1 has a church service on Sunday mornings and Songs of Praise at 1.15pm to watch live or available to catch up on BBC iPlayer.

The newest resource is the Daily Hope free phone line with a selection of hymns, reflections, prayers and services. It is aimed particularly at those unable to join online church services during the restrictions. It was launched by Archbishop Justin Welby on 26th April and callers will hear a special message from him before making their choice. He said "with many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are".



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



Poppies and daisies

We moved in to the house on the 11th April 1983, when the rear garden was very small with a narrow scrub wood behind and fields beyond. At that time, every day there were cows grazing in the fields behind the house. Later when the farm was sold we managed to acquire the two fields we now call meadows one and two.

The longest southern edge of both meadows included a public footpath. We were keen to screen the footpath so, matching the existing local trees and shrubs, we planted over 600 trees and shrubs alongside the public footpath to create a 'green lane'. The trees and shrubs which were planted in 1993 have now, some 26 years later, created a wonderful green lane for walkers using the footpath.

We incorporated a typical Kentish nuttery in our plans. 36 Cob and Hazel trees were planted as whips in 1993. These have been a great success and



Pyramidal Orchid

for the first time in 2017 they were coppiced producing numerous stakes for use on the land. Since coppicing growth has been very strong.

In July 1994 we installed a large (300m²) kidney shaped dew-pond. There is a geotextile polyfelt blanket covering the subsoil and underlying chalk and a pond liner covered with subsoil. Natural dew and rainfall alone has maintained the pond level over the years. The pond is regularly used by all manner of wildlife.

In 2010 we were considering fencing certain edges of the boundary area. A good friend and neighbour suggested that in place of fencing we may like to consider hugelkultur. This has been a brilliant idea adding corridors and nesting materials for small mammals as well as providing an area for the inevitable hay, branches and other compostable waste generated by the meadows and surrounds. Hugelkultur

Meadow in Keston



Pyramidal Orchid

is a mound created by stacking larger wood at the base and gradually adding smaller pieces of wood above. We add mowings and hay from the annual cut during the autumn.

We researched the mowing regime best needed to encourage natural wildflowers and have been following the accepted wisdom by removing the hay annually since 2008. Wildflowers need poor soil and will not compete well with vigorous grass. Yellow-rattle has been a great help as this feeds on the roots of grass and thus weakens it. The new regime has brought huge benefit with an ever-increasing variety and volume of wild flowers. We were fortunate to be offered a survey by Dr Judy John. The survey records some 111 varieties of trees, shrubs and wild flowers. Dr John records: 11 ancient woodland plants and flowers mainly in the top north eastern edge of meadow two and several wild orchids, one, a Man Orchid, being quite



Bee Orchid

rare and listed on 'The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain'.

Using standard mowing equipment will not produce the best results so in 2010 we invested in a two-wheel tractor with scythe and rake attachments. This allows low level cutting and maximum seed release as raked rows of hay are allowed to dry and are turned to optimise the opportunity for seeds to disperse. The grandchildren are now helping with this back-breaking work!

We have really enjoyed creating our meadows and seeing the wild flowers and wildlife flourish. You don't need a big area, why not to set aside a small wild area in your garden?

David Clapham

David's meadow was awarded 'Highly Commended' in the 'Resident Environmentally Friendly Garden' category in the Bromley in Bloom competition 2019.

Anti-Slavery Walk starts at Keston Church

The diocesan Anti-Slavery Champions are a super group of people from all walks of life from parents with young children, to grandparents; secular to clergy; and everyone in between. All are passionate about ending modern slavery. We've been raising awareness non-stop not just to congregations, but to the general public, agencies and other organisations too, leading to a massive rise in reporting from ordinary people spotting the signs of modern slavery in their own communities and making the call. This is leading to traffickers being arrested and victims being rescued. Such good news. At our recent Wilberforce Walk, Bishop Simon said: "Between the 15th and 19th century, it is believed that 13 million people were captured and sold as slaves. It is estimated that there are 45 million slaves in the world today.

Ten million of these are children. These slaves are forced into agriculture, construction, hospitality, manufacturing, retail, domestic settings, sexual exploitation. They clean houses, make clothes, pick fruit and veg, dig minerals for our smartphones, trawl the seas for food. And slaves are making the stadiums that will host the 2022 Qatar World Cup. In the UK, most slaves are drawn from five nations: Albania, Vietnam, Nigeria, Romania and Poland. Campaigners learn as much as they can about the issues, are willing to stand out, (like William Wilberforce), believe that change is possible and that their own contribution is valuable".

If you would like to join the Anti-Slavery Champions team, or receive the Anti-Slavery E-News, please email caroline.clarke@rochester.anglican.org.



Walkers arriving at the Wilberforce Oak on 14/3/2020



Grand tea party in the Village Hall for all the children in the parish

I was asked recently if I knew of any street parties or celebrations which took place in the parish following the end of the war in 1945. Being confined to barracks with first the wet weather and now the Coronavirus pandemic gave me the opportunity to compose another article for Sally!

I have a vague recollection of being transported from Keston School by

Royal Air Force truck, along with other classmates and being taken to 'The Cedars', a large house close to Keston Mark, (now remembered by Cedar Crescent). The two things I can recall from that visit are: brightly coloured balloons which up till then I had only seen in pictures in children's books and delicious mouth-watering chewing gum! This occasion coincided with the ending

of hostilities and possibly brought about by the number of children at the school from families stationed at the R.A.F. Camp, Biggin Hill.

Although by 1945 the Home Guard had been disbanded they reunited in Keston and, with the help of volunteers, put on a grand tea party in the Village Hall to which all the boys and girls who lived within the parish were invited. With rationing still in force it took a great deal of co-operation to bake enough cakes and other party food for over 150 children – but a happy tea party was enjoyed by all although I have no recollection only that I appear in the photograph, and the camera never lies!

The only evidence I have of a street party is a photograph taken alongside the then Methodist church in Croydon Road. An occasion purely for the children residing in that area!

There may have been other parties as well as family celebrations to welcome home service men and women. Sadly there would have been those families who had little to celebrate having lost loved ones in another World War.



Street party alongside the Methodist church

Obituary

Frank Parker 1/5/1926 - 2/4/2020



Sadly dad, Frank died on 2nd April this year having been in a Care Home for 18 months. Dad was a Christian and attended Coney Hill Baptist Church. Although the funeral was a strange event due to Covid restrictions, it was a joyous one. Dad loved his snooker and so was welcomed in by the BBC snooker theme tune. Nine of us sang 'What a friend we have in Jesus' and 'How great Thou art'. As we departed we sang 'You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace'. We can be assured that dad was welcomed by a throng of angels as his journey home was finalised in the presence of his Lord and Saviour who would have had said 'Welcome my true and faithful servant'. Dad and mum lived in Blackness Lane since they married in 1953. I believe they are the longest residents down the lane. Mum was very touched that so many came to stand at the end of their drives to bid dad farewell. She would like to thank you all.

Chris Parker

Take one day at a time; after all, today is the tomorrow
you worried about yesterday. *(Billy Graham)*

Obituary

John Goldby 28/6/1922 - 23/4/2020

Born in June 1922, John grew up in Sidcup with two younger sisters. In every spare moment he played golf, winning many trophies in his lifetime. On leaving school he joined a merchant bank, then in 1941 enlisted in the RAF.

He trained as a navigator and bomb-aimer, then was an instructor in navigation. He served in Bomber Command and took part in the third of the “Thousand-bomber raids” on 25th June 1942. That December an engine caught fire on take-off from an operation over Italy causing the aircraft to ditch in the North Sea.

The crew were rescued by fishermen. More serious was an attack on John’s Halifax by anti-aircraft fire in September 1944. One engine was hit, three petrol tanks were holed and a shell entered the bomb-aimer’s compartment, damaging the equipment. “Despite intense physical discomfort and shock (John) continued to direct the Pilot-Captain on to the target (a synthetic oil-plant). This determination and skill resulted in a successful attack... (John) has been a source of inspiration for his section as Bombing-Leader...” – part of the wording in the citation with the DFC John was awarded. His war was cut short on 6th December 1944 when his aircraft was hit over Germany and broke up. John and three of the seven man crew survived, parachuted down and were arrested. John was sent to Stalag Luft 1 POW Camp, remaining there until 13th May 1945.

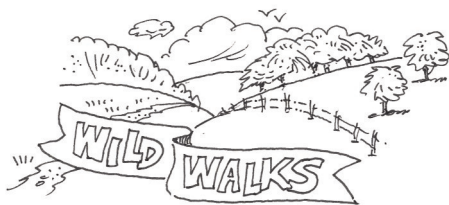


Back home John served as an Air Traffic Controller until demobbed in September 1946. He disliked civilian life, first with an air-freight company, then in insurance, so he rejoined the RAF with a permanent commission as a navigator. On 3rd June 1953 he marched with the RAF Coastal Command contingent in the Queen’s Coronation Parade. He married Jean in October 1955, Richard was born in 1957, and John was appointed Assistant Air Attaché at the British Embassy in Paris, where Vanessa was born in 1961. Retiring from the RAF in May 1962, John joined Shell (UK), and the family settled in Keston, where Michael was

born in 1966. At Keston Parish Church John served as Sidesman, a member of the PCC and 10 years as Churchwarden. He retired in 1982, and golf remained his passion. For a spell he was on the committee of the local Conservative Association. He and Jean

enjoyed walking their miniature Schnauzers around the Common, and he was a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for many years. He and Jean organised annual appeals for clothing and other goods for the charity Bless the Children (UK), helping deprived children and their families in Romania. In 2010 John broke a hip, then the other in 2015, resulting in his inability to walk, confined to a wheelchair. Latterly his eyesight was failing, but his mind remained keen, and he delighted in his three granddaughters. He would have been 98 this June.

Jean Goldby



Sunday 10th May and we're all still in 'lockdown'! Our illustrious leader has told us that if we're good then he'll allow us out a little. The trouble is that nobody wants to go out now for pleasure 'coz winter has returned!

Last Monday, the 4th May, I went out on my bicycle across the back field towards the airfield where a track from the quaintly named Milking Lane farm runs toward the gas pumping station at the runway's end. The winter's rain had made the track almost impassable, with huge sunken bits where the soft earth had yielded to the passing of the giant tractor as it endeavoured to prepare the fields for sowing. We forget how wet the winter was!

As I came around the hedge to this point at the airfield's perimeter I was heartened to see a little house martin collecting mud from the edges of the puddles. Shocked to be ambushed like this it rapidly rose into the air and zoomed off across the field, where, to my delight, its mate was skimming across the wide field of growing winter corn. I only glimpsed this little aerial acrobat as it twisted and turned, seeking its prey. Hooray! Summer's arrived.

Wrong – Monday 11th May and arctic air had descended upon us. I made the same trip but now the track is dry. The house martins are wondering why they came and hopefully are tucked up in their snug nest: probably at the now deserted farm.

Peddalling along the track was hard work; straight into the north easterly wind. Ugh! Returning an hour later was pure delight as the wind pushed me along and as it's a gradual climb I wasn't complaining. As I neared the hedge which I'd rounded a week ago, there, hovered a beautiful hawk. The slight incline of the land and the strong wind gave it perfect conditions to hover and scan the hedge for mice or sparrows. Only its tail feathers would twitch as it maintained its station in the air. It would suddenly drop and soar upwards again above another section of hedge. Eventually it decided 'nothing doing' and skimmed off across the runway to try elsewhere.

a little house martin collecting mud from the edges of the puddles

I arrived back in my garden at about 11am and decided to have my morning coffee sitting on the seat which I incorporated into my motorcycle shed years ago. It's like being in a seaside shelter on the promenade with its back to the cold north wind and the sun streaming in. No sea view though! What's this suddenly appearing? It's a little willy wagtail, and it hasn't seen me as it marches proudly by. I watch it tripping this way and that with its characteristic long bobbing tail. I always think they look like a hand carved and painted wooden toy from an old elfin toymaker somewhere in the forest! I do actually know where it lives, along with numerous other rare birds such as reed warblers etc., I'll tell you another time.

Richard Geiger

Huge Thanks!



During this time of anxiety over shopping, and the worry over whether to risk going to the supermarket and (possibly) queueing for a long time, I would like to pay tribute to our very local Keston Village Stores.

Deepak and Susannah have worked hard to keep the shop filled with the produce that we all need. There is a huge range of fresh fruit and vegetables. Deepak has made a great effort to source those goods that have been in short supply – toilet rolls, kitchen roll and all cleaning and sanitising products, (even masks and vinyl gloves). I understand he has often queued for an hour or more to be able to source them for us. In addition, of course, they sell their lovely fresh bread, eggs and milk, and (I am told) their doughnuts are the best in the world! Plus you always receive a lovely smile from Susannah, and from Sue in the early morning.

Aren't we grateful, also, to have the Post Office in the village? Thanks to Ravi and Elayne for the ability to send birthday gifts to friends and family whom we can't visit! Not to mention all the other services they offer.

I understand that Holwood Farm Shop is offering 'click and collect'

facilities for their produce, and also a delivery service, (by volunteers), for vulnerable people.

I am so thankful for these local services, and let's not forget, (when things ease a bit), to support our hard working and wonderful local shops.

Angela Godfrey

Sponge Pudding and Custard Wanted!

With unprecedented demand at the moment, we are collecting items at three sites for Bromley Borough Foodbank: at 40 The Dale, 103 Gravel Rd. and the Village Stores. Items most needed are: long life milk, long life fruit juice, rice pudding, jam, cold tinned meat, tinned potatoes, rice and sponge puddings and custard! They do not need beans, pasta, soup, cereal or chilled items. Thank you.

Money raised by KVRA for PRUH

Thank you very much to all the residents who made donations to our appeal, there were many of you, and we have raised £1,080 to date! We are in contact with the Staff Well Being Centre at the PRUH and have already bought some snacks, drinks and toiletries for staff.

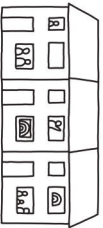
Laughlines

☺ My friend's wife left him last week. She said she was going out for milk and never came back. I asked him how he was coping. He said, "Not bad, I've been using some of that powdered stuff!"

☺ Anyone want to buy 100 Scotch eggs and 150 bite size sausage rolls? I misread the headlines and thought everyone was picnic buying.

BEATTITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS

FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS



BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED

FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT



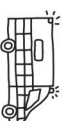
BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS

FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS



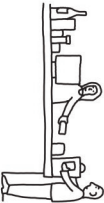
BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY WORKERS DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS

FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS



BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS

FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAME, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS



BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS

FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION



BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS

FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE



BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS

FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES



BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS, THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS

FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD



BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS,

FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.

FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY



BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.

FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS

FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY- THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY



BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY

MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM, AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

In the Time of Pandemic by Kitty O'Meara

And the people stayed home.

And they listened, and read books, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.

And they listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Kitty is a 64 year old retired teacher and chaplain in Madison, Wisconsin. She said "I do not take credit for this. I know that a greater power than I seized my words, my spirit, the moment and put it out there" (on the Internet).

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Tel: 01689 854373 or
Rev'd Carol Morrison on rector@kestonparishchurch.org.uk
Tel: 01689 853186. We will do our best to try and help.

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