



CHURCH AT HOME

Issue 5: April 18th 2020

Welcome, brothers and sisters to the fifth edition of "Church at Home".

Spring Harvest was very different this year. The team certainly did their best, but it was no substitute to being there, together with thousands of other fellow believers. If you enjoyed it and have never been, I can assure you, you can take what you experienced and times it by 10. It is also obvious that whatever we do in isolation as a church is a poor substitute for gathering as one body in worship. It has certainly given me an idea of what our persecuted brothers and sisters have to deal with permanently around the world, with restrictions on gathering to praise the Lord!

That being said we can still do our best to operate as a church in these difficult times. We are a few weeks in now and beginning to get used to the reality of lockdown. Please continue to ask if you need help. Continue to pray and speak to each other and make sure to worship the Lord as best as you can.

Follow the guidance, encourage each other, pray and stay safe.

Rev Clive

Church noticeboard

Following guidance from Bishop James all Churches are to be completely shut. Please speak to Clive or Colin if you need emergency access to our buildings.

Brenda Thompson-Murray who is the co-ordinator of the prayer ministry team has set up a WhatsApp group for shared prayer during the crisis. To join the group, download the WhatsApp app to your phone and send Brenda your number. brendat.bt87@gmail.com

Please put aside some food for our foodbank each week so our usual supply is still there when we come out of this crisis.

A big thank you to everyone for the sympathy cards and prayers sent to me on the death of my father on the 7th march. They helped me through a very difficult time. Thank you. Christine Rogers

I would like to say how grateful Bill and I are to our doctor's surgery and especially one of the nurses and also to our local chemist and staff. They have done everything they can to help with the nasty cyst on Bill's back, which is slowly starting to improve. We also thank our church family for their prayers and concern for Bill. Grace Allen

On the 1st April was my Dads funeral. It wasn't going to be the day which we would have liked with family and friends all there to say goodbye and to celebrate the lovely life of my Dad and for the lovely person he was. With this awful coronavirus we were only allowed 5 people, so the only ones to attend were Mum, my 2 sisters and myself which sounds very bleak but thanks to Lauraine, who took the service, we have a lovely memory of the day. She was so caring and compassionate in the short 20 mins we were allowed. With the lack of family there, she did all the readings and tributes that had been prepared with such feeling. Even though she didn't know my Dad it felt like she did. While keeping our distance at the end she was still able to offer words of comfort at such a sad time. So, thank you Lauraine for helping us send Dad on his last journey home to our Lord. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and from the whole family. God Bless You. Jackie R xx

Community Notices

Bexley Community Help

1. Helpline

The London Borough of Bexley has set up a phone line to assist people in need during the coronavirus pandemic. Whether you need someone to get shopping, pick up other essentials, or to give you information, guidance and advice, please call us on 020 3045 5398. The helpline will be open from 8am to 6pm.

2. Volunteer Hub

We at the London Borough of Bexley are working with Bexley Voluntary Services Council (BVSC) to support Bexley residents who are able to give their time to support the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are inviting people to register with the Bexley Volunteer Hub (<https://bvsc.co.uk/covid-19>) where willing volunteers will be matched to where they are most needed in Bexley at this time.

3. Keeping in touch

We are also keen to build up our understanding of what community support is already being mobilised locally by neighbours and communities and how we can help. If you are involved with a local neighbourhood support scheme, whether it on social media or 'off line' between a few neighbours, we would be really interested to know as we build up our knowledge of what support is on offer where across our borough and how we can support you in this.

We are looking to share the wonderful displays of community spirit on our twitter and facebook page @BexleyTogether so please do share with us what is happening near you and find us on there if you haven't already.

Community Notices continued

Contactless Payments

You can now pay using a Contactless Card for sums up to £45.

Musicals Online

Universal have come up with a great idea called 'The Shows Must Go On', the new YouTube Channel that will be streaming a full-length musical every Friday at 7pm GMT for free so you can bring the theatre home! It will be available for 48 hours, so you can tune in whenever you like over the weekend! youtube.com/theshowsmustgoon

Knitted Hearts

Darenth Valley Hospital are asking for donations of small knitted hearts that they place in patients' hands when they pass away. A second heart is then placed in a memory box for relatives. To donate please e-mail dgn-tr.wellbeing@nhs.net

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Want to advertise in these bulletins
Contact Clive -
revclive@hotmail.co.uk

This week's prayer

God of all Wisdom, we pray for our leaders: the World Health Organisation, national governments, and local leaders too - heads of schools, hospitals and other institutions. Since you have positioned these people in public service for this hour, we ask you to grant them wisdom beyond their own wisdom to contain this virus, faith beyond their own faith to fight this fear, and strength beyond their own strength to sustain vital institutions through this time of turmoil. God of all Wisdom and Counsel, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer. AMEN

From 24/7 Prayer.

Prayer

There a many who still need our prayers. Those who have asked for our prayers are : Andrew Bennett, Charles Brooke, Elizabeth Foster and Joan Handy. For Marjorie and Eileen Hoare, Monica Lindridge and Alex and Wai Ming Martin, Christine Meaton and Christine Minns. For little Orlagh, still very poorly. For Carol & John O'Connor, John Ralph and Amanda Ralph. For Jane & George Stafford. For Karen Vaughan (Cameo), Peggy Vidler, Jeanette Watts and Mark Williams.

Please pray for those key workers still having to go out to work, including Liam and Claire (scout leaders).

For Ann Easter's Friend Mary Woodbridge who's son, Karl has just died from Covid 19.

Access Church services online

A number of places are offering closed services online. If you are able why don't you try one of the following.

Holy Trinity Brompton – Nicky Gumbel

<https://www.htb.org/sundayonline>.

Freedom Church – Sim Dendy

<https://www.freedomchurch.uk>

All Souls Langham Place

<https://www.allsouls.org>

Watch on TV

TBN (Freeview 65 / Sky 582)

Hillsongs TV (Sky 595)

Resources for children and young people

Primary

VeggieTales (Netflix)

Superbook (Amazon Prime & Youtube)

Hillsongs: <https://www.youtube.com/user/hillsongkids>

Rend Collective: <https://rendcokids.com>

Bethel Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUmTiGOxKUOhwpvDtOI62mC4bs9JEUyFP>

Secondary

Bible society short videos - <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/study-the-bible/gnb-youth-edition/videos/>

Bible Game for Apple or Android - "The Guardians of Ancora"

<https://guardiansofancora.com>

What you're up to. – Pictures and messages



Sue & Tim Luff
With face masks at a premium, we have recycled these D cups as a two in one protection, hope you find them uplifting

Harley (Catherine & Dean)
We are keeping busy and active, lots of walks for Harley to wear her out. she is giving us her orders as the royal she is!



Judy Smith
Shall I share this with Colin? I think maybe not!



Ruby & Oliver Sampson
Celebrating Ruby's 8th Birthday



Jean Bennett
Ann surprising her Chocoholic mum on her regular food drop during lockdown



Monica Lindridge
This was taken last week during one of the lovely warm days. It is the first barbi of the year.



John O'Connor
Fun in the garden!



Tife Olabintan
Happy Birthday to Tife on Wednesday.

Please send me your pictures and messages to each other. Let's encourage each other and stay in touch. It will be good to see familiar faces each week.
revclive@hotmail.co.uk

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Any church leader will tell you, one of the hardest things to do is request money from church members. I can remember being on the other side and thinking "typical. the vicars looking for money again!" and "Why am I being asked – I give regularly already?" Furthermore, you all know the reasons for giving to your church. That what we have is already God's and we should give the first part back for ministry and then God lets us use the rest. That we should give joyfully and sacrificially just as the widow did when she gave much of what she had even though it was a mere mite. And you know that giving to your church is not the same as when we give to charities we support. The mission of our church is not just another on the list.

Our Treasurer, Charles has looked at our finances and calculated that the impact on our church will be severe. He has estimated we will be in a deficit of between £13,000 – £22,000, depending on the length of the crisis. You can see his full report on our website www.spnh.org.uk.

So, in this time of crisis if it is within your means to do so, can I ask that you give an extra gift this year so we can be sure of our ministry going forward.

If you usually give by way of the collection can you consider setting up a standing order through your bank for your regular giving (see page 30) or put your contributions aside for when we are able to meet together again.

For those of you who have increased your giving recently thank you. If you haven't reviewed for a while may I ask you to do so.

I am sure the Lord will bless our faithfulness when we come through this.

God bless

Rev Clive Beazley-long

At Home with children & young people

Cheryl, Laura & Sarah from the Diocesan team have sent some ideas for worship at home.

Ministry @Home



These resources are to help equip & enable worship together as "family". They are intentionally intergenerational to allow space, conversation, activity & response together as the family of God. We encourage all ages to be participative & open, being responsive to God and each other.

Gather.....

- As you gather find a place that is comfortable and have the resources ready for the activities, prayer or response times ready.
- Choose 3 members to light the 3 candles (engage all ages)

Opening words of praise with lighting of 3 candles -

I will light a light
in the name of the Maker,
who lit the world
and gave everything life.

I will light a light
in the name of the Son,
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light
in the name of the Spirit,
who is present everywhere in the
world
and gives me strength.

Together:
**We will light three lights
for the trinity of love:**
God above us,
God beside us,
God beneath us;
The beginning,
The end
and the Everlasting one.

Welcome.....

Song: Crown Him With Many Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqy-gob13kA>
(can be sung, read aloud or listened to)

Reflection time: Our theme today is Breakfast with Jesus.

As you gather share amongst yourselves what's your favourite breakfast? Who do you like having breakfast with? Or who makes you the best breakfast & why? (share within your gathering).

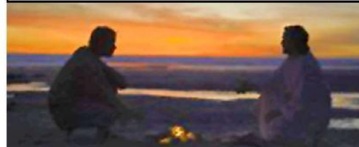
Today we are exploring and learning from John 21 where Jesus appears to the disciples & simply says "Come & Eat Breakfast". In most cultures to feed others is to give of your heart, to pledge peace and not harm your guests. To practice hospitality as wide as the arms of Jesus is to welcome Jesus to the table and into our lives.

If Jesus were to invite you to breakfast would you go or think of an excuse not to go/attend?

Bible passage: John 21:1-14 (ask a member to read the passage allowed & allow space to reflect)

AND/OR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nA14i1Bshdo>

Come & Eat Breakfast



Interactive Learning.....

The most amazing thing ever had just happened to Jesus – ***He had beaten death and conquered sin.***

But He chose to eat breakfast with His friends. He liked hanging out with them, maybe He knew they needed cheering up (they were still scared) but whatever the reason He spent time with them, they mattered to Him. You all matter to Jesus too.

Spend some time sharing what you think the disciples and Jesus chatted about with mouths full of fish and bread. Was it the last few days? Or the future? Or the past – when Jesus had filled their nets at the beginning of their journey together?

Now imagine Jesus is sharing breakfast with your family – cereal, toast - does He like Marmite?

Find some paper and cut out some simple fish shapes (make them fairly large).

Every person needs at least one fish – on yours write or draw a question you would ask Jesus if He was sat at your breakfast table. You may have more than one question so use more fish.

Place all the fish on a plate and take it in turns to pick one up. Whoever picks it up should try to answer the question. Ask others what they think Jesus would say to answer the question.

If it's a really tricky one think of a friend from church who may be able to help and ask them.

When you are finished why not decorate the other side? Or use a magazine to 'flap' the fish in a race?

And then look on pinterest and see how many different type of fish you can make?



Activity 2: Print and cut up the picture on page 4 into Jigsaw pieces (depending on the age and group size of your gathering you may need several sets. As small groups solve the puzzle and encourage the questions below.



Whilst creating chat about the following questions & share stories.....

- How long has it been since you stopped everything just to be with Jesus and enjoy his company?
- What frustrations, concerns or responsibilities do you need to set aside or put down to just sit and be with Jesus?
- Can you remember a time when you sat and experienced the presence of Jesus or felt him close?

Reflection & Prayer Time.....

Song: I Give You My Heart, Hillsong Worship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHMjhz8aHTw>
(can be sung, read aloud or listened to)

As we reflect on the days Jesus spent on the earth after his resurrection & before his ascension into heaven, consider having "breakfast on the beach" with Jesus. May he refresh, restore & free us up to love & serve him with a glad heart.

Encourage members to silently pray or say aloud their prayers asking to Jesus to show us where we need give him more time and space and how we might do that this coming week. Other prayers can be said at this time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**



Celebration....

If any of your members celebrate a birthday within the next week – sing

Happy birthday to you
To Jesus be true
May God's richest blessings
Be showered on you.



Closing.....

The Grace (with "Messy" actions)

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore. Amen.**

Closing Responses.....

Song: Who you say I am, Hillsong Kids
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOLHTDVy5CO>
can be sung/read aloud or listened to)

From where we are
to where you need us.

Jesus, now lead on!

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you reveal.


Jesus, now lead on!

To make this world
look more like your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on!

**Ask different members to blow out the
candles.....until you meet again**

Extra Ideas

- Jesus has breakfast on the Shore
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/153755774749320288/>
- Build a  model
- Decide on your favourite breakfast all together, find a time to make it.

Experiments with Zoom

Two weeks ago, Louise Terry organised our first virtual home group, using “Zoom” to connect us. It allowed us to see each other as well as speak to each other and we chatted and prayed together.

The free version of Zoom restricts calls to 40 minutes but the paid for version allows calls to run for 24 hours. Even our home group can’t talk for that long!

Ideally you need a computer, laptop or smartphone with a microphone and a camera to get the best out of Zoom. Of course, if you don’t have a camera, no one can see you but you can still see them on your computer. If you don’t have a microphone, people cannot hear you but you can still join a Zoom meeting using an ordinary phone. Zoom offers an option to find a local telephone number that you can use to join by phone only. One of our group can see us on his computer but phones Louise and she puts her phone on speaker so everyone can hear him.

Some of our group have not been able to connect fully so far. Once a Zoom session is started, not all of the buttons you need to click are easy to see and this has made it difficult for some of our group to join us.

There have been some reports of security issues with people joining Zoom meetings who are not supposed to be there. This can be avoided by requiring people to use a password to join the meeting.

For Zoom to work, it needs to load software onto your computer or device. If you are not happy with this, it may be better to use Skype instead. Skype is free. It allows up to 50 people on a conference call. The length of the meeting is not limited. However, although Skype is good for one to one meetings, Louise says that people report that Skype frequently breaks down during conference calls which is why they prefer Zoom.

So far, everyone who has been able to attend the Zoom meetings has found them useful. If you are in a home group, it might be worth trying.

Lessons from Geese

Sent by Paul Wright, Archdeacon of Bexley and Bromley

Fact 1: As each goose flaps its wings it creates an “uplift” for the birds that follow. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common sense of direction and community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact 3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership, as with geese, people are interdependent on each other’s skill, capabilities and unique arrangement of gifts, talents or resources.

Fact 4: The gees flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the productivity is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one’s heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact 5: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until it dies or can fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

What it all amounts to

by A Soule

Most of us are taught the right things by our parents; be good, don't fight, play fair, don't show off unnecessarily, and so on. But some things fall off along the way as we grow older. And how different it is when we try to find our way around the world. The unspoken message which one hears echoed around us is that you need to look after Number One - that is you yourself.

A long-time friend of mine, let's call him John, once talking about his difficult childhood (being abandoned by his father when he was growing up) summed up his philosophy of life neatly: 'I knew the score, John will look after John'. He is now a very successful businessman. He has gone up and down in business, but nothing seems to unsettle him, for long. He always comes out on top - John looks after John, and does it quite well it seems.

On the face of it, looking after Number One does seem the sensible thing to do. The argument goes - if everyone looked after themselves, we would all do well and fulfil our dreams. And there is some truth in this; after all even to help others one has first to be in a position to do so.

A crisis can come out of the blue. If at all you have the time to prepare, you can plan for that logistically; but how we face it largely depends on what our approach to life is then. And every once in a while, we come across instances which can make us think that there is more to human nature than anyone could have predicted.

Sometime ago I read about such an individual action of a sailor in a book (by AG Gardiner) which has stuck with me ever since. This happened around the First World War. On a cold January night in 1915, an English Naval ship named 'Formidable'¹ had been torpedoed in the seas, and it became inevitable that the ship would go down. Ballots were cast for who should board the rescue boats there, and this young sailor had won. The ship would sink with all left on board but he would be saved.

The author in describing the incident tried to imagine what would have been going on in the sailor's mind at that point. As the boat awaits for him to take him to security and comfort from a certain and a horrifying death, he also sees his fellow sailors, looking at him, perhaps not with envy but with resignation of men who see death hovering over them - and I like to imagine, wishing him well in the end. He also looks across at the cold, dark sea which would surely be their watery grave. The sailor hesitates a bit, not certain how he should bid them goodbye. He looks at one of the older sailors smiling at him trying to make it easier for him to leave.

He cannot do it. In one of those supreme moments, when one has to choose between life and death, he makes his choice. He looks at one of his fellow sailors saying, "You've got parents," then swiftly adds. "I haven't." He makes that sailor take his place in the boat and chooses to die with all the rest.

There were no long drawn melodramatic speeches or rationalisations but only a straightforward simple decision was made. He understood that he wouldn't be able to live with himself knowing he could have saved someone but hadn't. For all what the world teaches about looking after Number One, he didn't.

I am pretty sure anyone reading about this incident will not fail to conclude that there is something more to human nature than simply a two plus two equals four approach. What happens to others affects us all. And as none other than the greatest of those who laid his life for others said, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'.

Acts of sacrifice and compassion, somewhat similar to that made by the sailor are also happening here and now. Which of us hasn't felt the tumult of feelings at seeing the NHS staff now battling a very deadly enemy at close quarters. Whilst we rightly stay at home, they are at the front, witnessing death at close quarters, holding hands of people in their last moments. How many of us have clapped for them with in awe of the sheer magnitude of their service.

This is humanity at its best, with acts of heroism happening every day in hospital wards and communities across the country. This is who we can be when called upon. We are definitely more than those just looking after Number One.

Looking for rainbows



Reading Lauraine's answer to the question Colin and I posed about how Noah fed the animals on the ark, I was suddenly struck by the similarity between his situation and what we are experiencing. His whole world had been turned upside down, just as ours is now. He'd stockpiled dried food (pasta!) and he probably worried that he wouldn't have enough to feed everybody, because like us, he didn't know exactly how long he would be in isolation for. He had no need to panic about stockpiling toilet rolls, sanitary arrangement being somewhat different in his situation! Although Noah may have had momentary doubts and worries, he knew that God would never let him down. He trusted God and knew He would be with him throughout this difficult time. His faith was strong. When the flood eventually subsided and the land was dry again God chose as His symbol of hope and promise a beautiful rainbow.

Today, in the midst of our crisis pictures of rainbows are appearing in windows everywhere, as signs of hope and gratitude to the people who are risking everything to help us in so many ways. This was originally meant to be a fun game for children prevented from going to school, but has come to mean so much more. We all know the 7 colours of the rainbow, but rainbows actually contain many more colours, not visible to the human eye. If the visible colours represent our human visible help, then wouldn't it be lovely to think that the colours we cannot see, but know are there, represent our loving and ever-present God? He is in the crisis with us, we cannot see Him but we can feel His presence.

Judy Smith

Mission

A message from one of our mission partners, Tearfund



Lives are being changed because of your faithful gifts and prayers. We wanted to share with you another incredible story of how you've made a lasting difference.

Meet Azrah* from Pakistan

Azrah is 26 and lives with her four children. She felt isolated – most of her time was spent on housework and looking after her children. In the monsoon season there was lots of extra work in the fields which she had to help out with too.

Tearfund's local partner invited Azrah to join a Women's Empowerment Group in her local village. These groups bring women together to learn, socialise and grow in confidence. They are vital in helping people to overcome poverty as they give women the tools needed to transform their own lives and the lives of those around them.

At her group, Azrah was taught sanitation practices – like handwashing and boiling water before cooking – to protect her family against preventable diseases. She also learnt about how to prepare for and keep her family safe in emergencies. This is because Pakistan is a high risk country for natural disasters. Azrah also learnt how to prevent child marriage and received teaching on her rights as a woman.

Azrah's life is now unrecognisable. Our local partners appointed her to support and oversee groups in 16 villages near where she lives. In one group, she taught women advocacy skills so the women could apply for a local government grant and transform their community. 'By attending training, I have started to believe in my own capabilities,' Azrah says. 'I aim to transform the lives of women in the villages I visit, so that they can live their life with liberty, and in the pursuit of happiness.'

PLEASE PRAY

- Thank God for women like Azrah who want to use the skills they've been taught to lift other women out of poverty.
- Lift up groups like these that Tearfund and our partners run around the world and pray they will continue to help women realise their own potential.
- Pray against barriers that people in poverty are facing that lead them to be isolated and marginalised, such as child marriage, poverty, low self-esteem and lack of education.

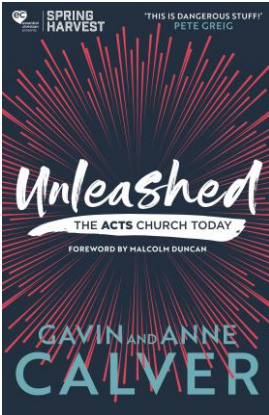
This is what your gifts look like in action: people given training and skills to change their circumstances for the better. And lives utterly transformed. Thank you for your continued support and for partnering with us to follow Jesus where the need is greatest.

Khawar Gull – Tearfund Pakistan

**All names have been changed to protect identities.*

Books

This week's book suggestions come from Spring Harvest



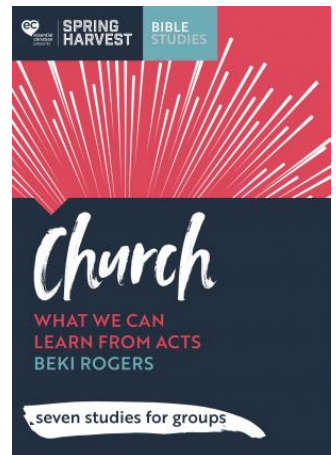
Unleashed: The Acts Church Today By Gavin & Anne Calver

The early church spread with remarkable speed, impelled by joy, urgency, profound compassion, and the day-to-day experience of working in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gavin and Anne Calver explore what this extraordinary historical account means for believers today, considering themes including: The Holy Spirit in the life of the church; taking risks; living together in the power of the Spirit; works and wonders; hearing from God; responding to the call of God; miracles then and now.

Church: What We Can Learn From Acts by Beki Rogers

In the book of Acts, we see the church unleashed on society to make God's kingdom known. Thousands came to faith, signs and wonders inspired awe, and the church was radically united together for God's work. But we also see the tensions of the early church – struggles over belief and holiness, leadership and unity. 2000 years later, how can we learn from Acts to be the church unleashed? These seven studies explore different aspects of the church seen in Acts and applies them for the church today as we work out our mission in the world.



Simply Church by Sim Dendy

From his experience of both attending and leading churches, Sim Dendy asks some of the obvious questions about church, just in case there's something we could be doing differently.

The local church should be God's great hope for the world – have we somehow made it complicated? How have we come so far from the model we see in the book of Acts?




#Live Lent

This Lent, we hope both adults and children might engage in God's plea for us to "Care for Creation". It is an opportunity for us to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything.

Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop John Sentamu

Find out more and sign up here -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-care-gods-creation>



Gift Aid

**Do you support our mission and ministry by regular giving?
Do you pay tax?**

If you answered yes to both those questions then we can claim an extra 25% from the government at no cost to you.

It's very easy to sign up

See Charles Brooke or Dot Turner and they will help you.

Bible reading Apps

There are many of these available. Here are two suggestions, but let me know what ones you use.

Youversion – <https://www.youversion.com>

Wordlive - <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive>

Ask Lauraine

Our resident theological thinker answers your questions.

This week's Questions is: Will we have belly buttons in heaven?



I have been deeply submerged in thought and papers as I have been re-formulating my views on life after death. The problem is that the more I think I know just throws up loads more questions that I'm struggling to get to grips with. This one occurred to me as I was thinking about our immortal bodies and how they will

differ from our earthly bodies. Will our heavenly body have a belly button? Deep, right? As I pondered this deep theological thought it became less ridiculous the further I explored, see if you agree.

Why do we have belly buttons (umbilicus) anyway? Why are they there? They are constant reminders that we have a beginning and a past. The umbilicus is the remnant of the cord that transferred life giving nutrients from our mother when we were totally dependent upon her for life. What was in her, both good and bad, was transported into us before we were born.

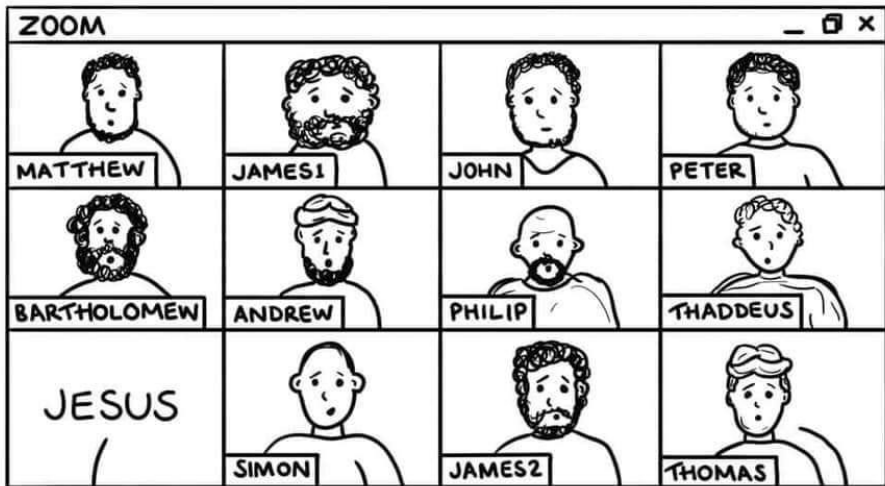
It's interesting to observe that other mammals do not have a visible belly button. Sometimes they are just thin spots in the skin or tiny bumps. Why are ours so pronounced. Could it be that we are to be reminded of our inheritance. We not only inherited our physical features from our parents, but we also have their propensity for rebellion against God and His will. Animals do not need to be reminded, but we do. So as you contemplate your navel you may think about your need for forgiveness!

I have another reason to believe that physical marks on the body have spiritual significance. The scars on Jesus hands, feet and His side. Why do you think Jesus retained the scars in His resurrected body?

Shouldn't they have been erased by His resurrection? I suppose they could have been, but Christ allowed them to remain so that they might be a perpetual reminder to us of His suffering. Just as our belly buttons are a sign of our inherited sinful nature Jesus' scars are a reminder that we have been forgiven completely and eternally. Thank you Jesus that you died for me and because of your suffering I know that I am forgiven.

The question then becomes irrelevant but the answer is not, that's deep!

Do you have a question for Lauraine? Do let me (or her) know. revclive@hotmail.co.uk



HEY.

HOW ON EARTH IS HE IN THE MEETING?

UNLESS HE TURNS ON HIS CAMERA, I WILL NOT BELIEVE IT

Buy Tim Wakeling's book from www.eden.co.uk

Tim Wakeling

Mrs T's quiz page

Fun Quiz

1. Tim Tam biscuits originate from which country>
2. Which capital city stands on the River Tiber?
3. In which American state is Fort Knox?
4. Who wrote the play Cymbeline?
5. What was the name of the policeman in the Noddy stories?
6. In which city is the Willy Russell play "Blood Brothers" set?
7. According to Alexander Pope, what "springs eternal in the human breast"?
8. By what nickname was the boxer Evander Holyfield known?
9. Who did Margaret Thatcher succeed as Prime Minister in 1979?
10. Which country was the first to give women the vote?

Answers on Page 31

TV PROGRAMMES OLD AND NEW

Can you guess what they are?

1	TOO MUCH FOR AN OLD DOG	
2	ASK NOW	
3	ALL THE FAMILY CAN PLAY	
4	BEST DAD	
5.	WHERE A FILM IS MADE THREE TIMES	
6.	ONE BOTTLE LEFT	
7.	WE NEVER CLOSE	
8.	ALAN'S UNIVERSE	
9.	FOLLOW THE COMPASS	
10	BEST CLOTHES	

Ann's simple recipes for everyone

St Paul's resident culinary queen Ann Easter shares some of her recipes with you.

Apple, Apricot & Pistachio Loaf

"I make this cake for Sarah, my daughter-in-law. She is wheat and gluten intolerant, but this recipe is gluten free. She find's shop bought versions tasteless, but this recipe should give you a moist flavoursome cake."

Ingredients

8oz / 225g Gluten free self-raising flour
4 tbsp vegetable oil
2 oz / 60g Soft brown sugar
2 Large eggs
4oz / 120g diced dessert apple
4oz / 120g Dried apricots
4oz / 120g Peeled Pistachios



Ann's Top Tips
Instead of pistachio's try other nuts such as walnuts or pecans

Instructions

Sift the flour into a mixing bowl.

Beat the eggs and add to the bowl along with the sugar, apple, apricots and pistachios.

Mix the ingredients well until they form a thick batter.

Using the oil grease a loaf tin.

Add the batter and level with a spoon

Bake in a low oven gas mark 2 / 150c for 1hour. Check with a skewer that the cake is cooked.

Rest in the tin for 30 minutes before turning out.

Photography



Diamond Art by
Tracey Fermer



Nigerian Breakfast by
Felicia Ayeyemi



Cheese Scones By
Julia Davenport

Best photograph prize

This week's winners are Sue and Tim Luff for their uplifting picture and they will receive a copy of "Unleashed" by Anne and Gavin Calver (Page 19)



Blast from the Past

From "St Pauls Parish News January 1945
(The oldest issue we have in the archive)".

St. Paul's,

NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH.

JANUARY, 1945.

Vicar—Rev. F. H. COLLINS, M.A., St. Paul's Vicarage.
Organist and Choirmaster—Mr. John Crane.
District Nurse—Nurse Russell, 18 Heathway.
Sec. of Church Council—Mr. D. H. Bengough, B.Sc., 98 Rydal Drive.
Churchwardens—Mr. B. J. Godding and Mr. A. W. Powell.
Sidesmen—Messrs. D. E. Bengough, J. H. Clapperton C. H. Essex,
C. Giles, R. Leason, J. C. Lee and G. H. Manning.
Magazine Secretary—Mr. D. H. Bengough, B.Sc.

SERVICES

SUNDAYS at 11 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.

Holy Communion—9.15 a.m. on every Sunday.

11 a.m. on 1st Sunday.

3.30 p.m. on 3rd and 5th Sundays.

Baptism and Churchings—1st Sunday in the month at 4.45 p.m. ;
Three days' notice required.

Children's Church 10 a.m.

Sunday Schools 3 p.m.

Notice of Banns and of Baptisms should be left at St. Paul's Vicarage,
Colyer's Lane.

St. Paul's Vicarage,
Northumberland Heath Erith,
December, 1945.

My dear Friends,

May I wish you all every blessing and happiness this New Year, not merely material happiness and prosperity but real spiritual blessing and progress in the Christian life, for be it remembered, we are but sojourners and pilgrims here, our citizenship is in Heaven. We are so apt to become absorbed in the things around us, that we often neglect the things that really matter. As we look back over the past, we are perhaps disappointed and discouraged. Many of us had hoped that 1944 would have brought victory and peace. That hope has been disappointed, and yet we have great cause for thankfulness. In the course of the past year, seven European capitals have been freed from German domination. The major part of Occupied Europe has been liberated by the Allies. Burma is being reconquered. The Americans have returned to the

Philippines. These are outstanding successes. Let us look forward then with hope to happier and brighter times and to thank God for His blessings and mercies so bountifully bestowed. As we look back, I think each one of us can say, "Bless the Lord O my Soul and forget not all His benefits." That the New Year may be one of peace and prosperity and blessing to you all is the earnest wish of

Your friend and Vicar,
F. H. COLLINS.

Universal Week of Prayer.—January 7th to 14th, 1945. Once again the World's Evangelical Alliance invite us to spend the opening days of the New Year in prayer. Accordingly arrangements have been made to hold united gatherings in Erith and District as follows:—

Monday, 7.30 p.m., St. Martin's Church Hall, Barnehurst.

Leader—The Rev. R. A. Agg.

Speaker—The Rev. W. G. Davis.

Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., Northumberland Heath Baptist Church, Belmont Road.

Leader—The Rev. H. Darvill.

Speaker—The Rev. F. S. Allison. *Erith*

Wednesday, 3 p.m., United Women's Meeting in Christ Church Hall, Erith.

Leader—The Rev. W. T. Reynolds. *of Canchurch*

Speaker—The Rev. W. Hitchcock.

Thursday, 7.30 p.m., All Saints' School, Belvedere.

Leader—The Rev. F. H. Collins.

Speaker—The Rev. J. J. Brown.

Friday, 7.30 p.m., Methodist Church Hall, Erith.

Leader—The Rev. N. Walker.

Speaker—The Rev. J. Clifford.

We cannot commence the New Year in a more fitting way, than by gathering together in prayer at the feet of Him who said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My Name there am I in the midst of them." Come, and bring your friends.

Christmas Bazaar and Social.—Though arranged at short notice, the Bazaar realised the amazing sum of £42 : 13 : 0. Mrs. Collins introducing Mrs. Davis who opened the Bazaar, said how very pleased we were to welcome Mrs. Davis to St. Paul's. In the absence of the Vicar, Mr. Price opened the proceedings with prayer. Mrs. Robinson expressed the grateful thanks and sincere appreciation of those

On TV this week

Freeview Sky Virgin Freesat BT

Saturday

09:00: Father Dowling Mysteries: CBS Drama (71 147 197)
14:45: Evan Almighty: Sky Cinema Comedy (308 408 508)
20:00: Ancient Mysteries: 5select (54 153 152 133) (Nineveh)
21:35: The most Dangerous man in Tudor England: PBS
America (91 174 273 155) [William Tyndale]
22:00: An audience with Cliff Richard: 5select (54 153 152)

Sunday

06:00: Hour of Power: Sky1 (106 110)
07:00: Heavenly Gardens: BBC2
09:00: Father Dowling Mysteries: CBS Drama (71 147 197)
10:00 Sunday Worship: BBC1
13:15: Songs of Praise: BBC1
14:00 - 20:00: Father Brown: Alibi (132 126 312)
20:00: Call the Midwife: Drama (20 143 130 158)

Monday

09:40 & 22:00: Father Brown: Alibi (132 126 312)
10:30 Sister Act: Sky Cinema Greats (304 404 504)
12:15 Sister Act 2: Sky Cinema Greats (304 404 504)
14:15: Father Brown: BBC1
18:05: Exodus, Gods and Kings: Film4 (14 313 428 300)

Tuesday

09:00: Father Brown: Alibi (132 126 312)
14:15: Father Brown: BBC1

Wednesday

09:00 & 22:00: Father Brown: Alibi (132 126 312)
14:15: Father Brown: BBC1

Thursday

09:00 & 22:00: Father Brown: Alibi (132 126 312)

14:15: Father Brown: BBC1

22:55: Bear's Mission: ITV4 (14 313 428 300)

Friday

09:00 & 22:00: Father Brown: Alibi (132 126 312)

14:15: Father Brown: BBC1

17:00: Father Dowling Mysteries: CBS Justice (39 148 132)

Times correct at publication, but do check to avoid disappointment.

Streaming & Box Sets

Derry Girls

All4 & Sky Box Sets

Set in 1990's Northern Ireland, Derry Girls is a comedy that is both character driven, very funny and draws on the religious context of the lives of the young protagonists.



Do you have any TV or Streaming suggestions? Let us know.



Radio programs

Prayer for the Day daily at 5.43am on Radio 4

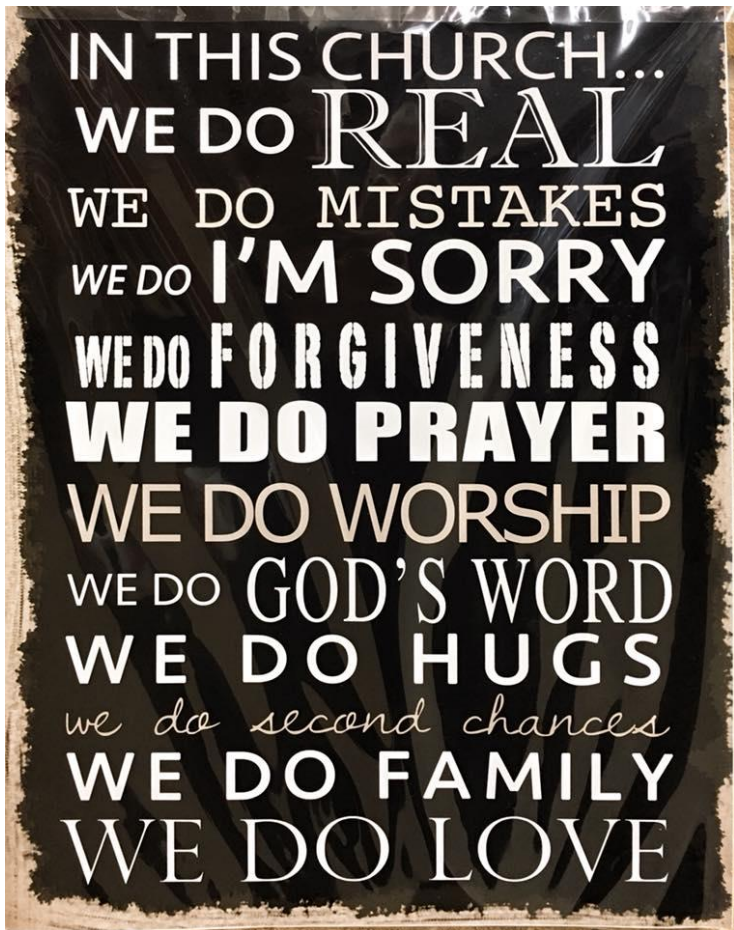
Sunday Worship Sundays at 8.10am on Radio 4

Daily Service Monday to Friday at 9.45am on Radio 4
Longwave and DAB

Lent Talks Wednesdays at 8.45pm on Radio 4

Choral evensong- Wednesdays at 3.30pm and the same
service is repeated Sundays at 3pm on BBC Radio 3





Quiz answers

Fun Quiz

1. Australia, 2. Rome, 3. Kentucky, 4. Shakespeare, 5. Mr. Plod, 6. Liverpool, 7. Hope, 8. The Real Deal (or The Warrior), 9. James Callaghan, 10. New Zealand.

TV Programmes

11. New Tricks, 12. Question Time, 13. The Generation Game, 14. Top of the Pops, 15. Location, Location, Location, 16. Last of the Summer Wine, 17. Open All Hours, 18. Gardener's World, 19. Look North, 20. Top Gear.

