



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



August - September 2020

SERVICES FOR AUGUST and SEPTEMBER 2020



Each week the Services and other 'meetings' for the Ealing Trinity Circuit are currently being presented in on-line YouTube format. The link details are being circulated in advance

In Touch - the Circuit magazine is also now available online and will have links to all the web based activities available across the Circuit.

The Circuit's Prayer Meeting on Tuesday at 8.00pm and the Bible Studies on Thursday at 2.00pm and 8.15pm will all go ahead. All of the meetings take place on Zoom. To join any of these meetings, look for the the link on the <http://www.ealingtrinity.org.uk/coronavirus-our-churches/> (It may be that having worked so hard over the past months to maintain contact with as many of us as possible, our Circuit Ministry may choose to take a break over the August period; should this happen such plans will no doubt be well notified by individual convenors.)

The Kingsdown website www.Kingsdownmethodist.org.uk has liturgies for Morning, Evening and Daily prayers. The links to the Sunday and other on-line services and studies are also shown .

The Kingsdown and Circuit communities have already responded to the situation we are faced with and there are now Video links, Website pages with Liturgies for use at Home, and other actions to keep the Church family spiritually alive and together.

Hopefully those without email or internet facilities are receiving a printed copy of The Messenger by hand or post. Our contact details are at the bottom of this page. Our thanks to anyone who has responded to our request for articles for this copy of the church's magazine. Our apologies if we have failed to mention any news of particular import some of which we may not have been aware of or the need to respect people's privacy. We will do our best to maintain the spirit of Kingsdown and keep contact with everyone where possible.

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the Oct - Nov issue is Friday 18 September 2020

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith
E-mail: magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk
020-8840 4803



Dear All

Hello from “sunny” Ealing Common! They tell me it is very nearly August. Lockdown has made distinguishing the days, let alone the months, even more difficult than usual!



August is a time when many of us usually go away for a holiday. Some of you will still be doing that, others will decide to rest at home, or perhaps do something different at home instead. One of the things I like – even need to do regularly - is to go on retreat. I usually go to “St. Beunos Ignatian Spirituality Centre” in North Wales. Whilst I am there I partake in the daily Eucharist, pray with the scriptures – imagining myself in the stories, and seeking what God might be saying to me today; and meeting with a prayer accompanist who supports me in my prayerful explorations and discernment. This is the way I connect deeply with God, and it guides my ministry.

As you can imagine, this summer I have needed that more than ever. Of course the retreat centre is closed, and in fact St. Beunos has not yet found its way onto zoom – but another retreat house I have visited in East Molesey, had done just that. This year I made my retreat at home. That support in prayer made all the difference to me, and I had – I think – as restful and fruitful a time as I would have done had I gone away. The Eucharists and prayers were on the screen too of course, but the community feel, with others on a common journey, was definitely there. Perhaps some of you would like to try this. If so Google “The House of Prayer” in East Molesey and look at their events, for they have a weekend retreat coming up in September – also to be run on zoom - and other things too.

If you don't fancy that but would like some support in your prayer over a few days be in contact with me, and we will see if we can set up something similar on zoom – or phone here. I would very much welcome the chance to try it out.

Lockdown is easing, and we are beginning to look towards the steps necessary to reopening our Circuit Churches. This is an extremely complex process with a lot of risk assessments, and consequent action needing to take place before we can do so,. Thank you to those engaged currently in this preparatory work. We are aiming for September, but

we will in fact re-open when we believe we have done all that is possible to keep one another, and other users of the church, safe. You will all be feeling differently about this and that's OK.

I listened to a friend preach about three weeks ago on "The Parable of the Sower" and he likened those who were afraid to go back to church as being like seeds sown among thorns – a good start but then choked by anxiety and the cares of the world, and therefore not bearing fruit! I am still angry with him and with that thinking! It seems to me that we are all very different individuals.

We all have vulnerabilities and strengths, some known to one another, some not. Some of us are raring to come back to church, some are really not keen and would rather stay at home until they feel safe. They would like to continue with the videos – or some other help they have found – in their worship. It seems to me that, rather than the Parable above, the scripture significant to us at present is the well-known Psalm 139 – where we learn that God made us as we are, God loves us as we are, and God is with us wherever we are.

What I ask of you is understanding for one another. Some people want to go out and socialise, others don't. Both are OK – as long as social distancing and hygiene is put in place – but your friend doesn't suddenly hate you if he or she doesn't want you round for lunch – or a sleepover – just at the moment. Neither is your friend trying to kill you if he or she is making unwelcome moves towards meeting up. We all have these differences in our relationships. Where they exist try and understand what might be making people feel differently, and – use the telephone! It has sufficed thus far and will do for a bit longer for those who want it too – and a lot longer for those who want that too! Don't put pressure on one another, and don't do what you are uncomfortable with. Instead, support one another where you are at! God loves you all, exactly as you are.

One thing I would like to say is important. Our churches are still closed. They should not be being entered by anybody, except for those on the property committee who are beginning to make the changes necessary for re-opening. This is really important since if people go in and out of the church then the chances of cross contamination come into play whilst the church is not being monitored. Of course you believe you are well, but so do many who are passing on the virus ... hopefully not you, but

you know what I mean. Caring for one another means if you have a church key, putting it away somewhere and pretending that you don't until we advise otherwise. None of the normal activities at church will be able to recommence for some time yet, and we will again let you know when that will be.

God is with you where you are.

If you want to hear a voice on the phone, or have a zoom chat – about prayer – or anything – be in touch!



With every Blessing

Sue

0208 579 8114
07939 150 194

Circuit Service of Farewell for Rev Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi and Deacon Lemia Nkwelah on Sunday, 26 July 2020



Led by Rev Rachel Bending, Ministers, lay preachers and representatives of other organizations with which Yemi and Lemia had been associated within the Circuit, were able to contribute by readings from the Bible, or acknowledgements and thanks for the various ways in which each had been involved. A virtual choir



had also been assembled for the musical content. The service concluded with gifts being presented on behalf of the Circuit. All who had been able to watch were invited to make their individual farewells on line, and join in with their own refreshments to wish Yemi and Lemia well in their future appointments. (See also p8 for Yemi's letter)

With thanks to Rev Rachel Bending and her husband Thomas for hosting and facilitating this service which was successfully transmitted to a large number of our church community via Zoom. The service is available on
<https://www.dancinginthedesert.org/sunday-26-july-2020-afternoon>

Family News

Some of our church family may have already learnt of the recent death of **Dorothy Carty**, a member of Kingsdown for many years until her move to Chester to be near her son Glen's family - wife Heather and grandsons Matthew and Jonathan. A few of Dorothy's close friends were given an on-line link to enable them to watch her cremation service taken by a Methodist Minister of the church (which she had attended over a period of time prior to her move to sheltered accommodation). The service included a bible reading by Jonathan, followed by an eulogy by Glen, and Matthew played an organ piece to bid Dorothy farewell. *(Due to rather uneven audio reception it was not possible to capture all that was said but sufficient to appreciate being able to be a part of saying 'goodbye' to someone who, for a good many years, loomed large in many people's lives.)*



Janet Smith adds - Lots of enjoyment in the choir and the various outings we were involved in. Just a nice and brave person
See page 14 for the BB's reflections.

It was apparently Dorothy's wish that any donations that family and friends might wish to give should be given to 'All We Can' (Methodist Relief & Development Fund).

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/give/make-a-donation/>



Or send a cheque or call - All We Can, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

Our condolences to **Violet Cordon** whose older brother, a Methodist Lay Preacher in Trinidad, died recently from a heart attack. In the current lockdown restrictions, Violet was able to draw some consolation from being able to watch his cremation service on line.

Please ask for God's blessing on any of our Kingsdown family who may be in particular need of God's support during the current covid crisis.

Some Reflections

I am confident in believing, that in the absence of not physically being able to attend Church Services at our churches, those who are able, can watch streamed services, including those from our own Circuits. In setting time aside to do so and joining in can be quite comforting, at this strange time in which we are living.

During the 'Lock down', I also find myself playing much loved Hymns, songs and a wide range of music from different genres.

In playing some favourite Hymns one afternoon this week, I unexpectedly came across the Hymn- '*When this Passing World is done*' by Robert Mc Cheyne, (who, I had not known until that afternoon, had died at an early age). I cannot remember singing it for decades, but can still remember singing it, at the school my brother Allan and I attended -Bellfield School St. Mary, during Education Year 1950, when all the children sang it, one afternoon at the School Concert. Memories of the occasion brought a lump to my throat, as I remembered friends, the majority of whom I never met again, after we both left in 1951; and yes, I did sing it repeatedly!

I remember too, the formidable Head Teacher of the school - Mr. Reynolds, whom our father had taken us both to visit, at his cottage, on a Sunday afternoon. My father wanted to know how my brother and I, were getting on in school, since he only saw us during the holidays and had sent us both to live with his uncle, during Term time. The school was located, 12 miles from our home, which was a great distance in those days, with no direct and regular forms of transport!

The other reason for Father's visit, was that he also, wanted to hear firsthand from Teacher Reynolds, information about London, where our teacher had visited the previous year, as he had been planning to emigrate to England, but felt unable to tell us his children!

What however, had grasped my imagination, during the conversation that had ensued, was teacher Reynolds telling my father, among other things, about his attendance at the Royal Albert Hall for the 'Messiah Concert' and that the choir had consisted of 'hundreds of people' which moved him so much, that he had felt transported to Heaven!

Little did I know, that some years later, we would be in London and that I would take my father to the Royal Albert Hall, for a concert featuring the Messiah!

Memories long forgotten and still can be recalled! The moving rendition of the Hymn I mentioned can be found on YouTube, sung by the Metropolitan Tabernacle Congregation, if you'd like to listen to it!

Blossom Jackson



Dear People of God in Greenford and Northolt and the Ealing Trinity Circuit

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. These words written by Jeremiah may sound almost untrue to so many who have been in a lot of pain in recent times, the pain of isolation. The pain of losing loved ones, the pain of losing a job, the pain of coronavirus and other times of ailments, the pain of depression, the pain of not being able to come together physically to worship, the pain of cancelled holidays, the pain of broken relationships, the pain of income loss, the pain of separation and much more. But then in all of this pain there is cause to hope. Let us pause to read a little bit of The Lamentations of Jeremiah where the words 'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases' appear.

In Lamentations chapter 3 vv 17 -18 and 21 - 25 Jeremiah says:
I have been deprived of peace. I have forgotten what prosperity is. So I say my splendour is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases . His mercies never come to an end . They are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness. I say to myself The Lord is my portion. therefore I will wait for Him. The LORD is good to those who Hope in Him to the one who seeks Him.

Jeremiah went from lamentation to adoration because he remembered the steadfast love of God.

As we all journey on to a future unknown we know the one who holds the future is the one who loved us so much that He died for us. We remember the exhortation of Paul 'Rejoice in the Lord always'.

As I write my daughter in law Jane is recovering from an operation she had on Friday. Her name Jane means GOD IS GRACIOUS and that too is the meaning of the name of my son John. God is gracious and I am

confident that He will be gracious to my daughter-in-law Jane and my son John and indeed to all of us. My wife Mojisola has gone over to Huddersfield to be with our five grandchildren and I know God will continue to be gracious to her and them - Joachim, Jasmine. Jemimah. Johanna and Juliana.

On behalf of my wife and I thank you ever so much for being gracious to us during our four year stay with you. Thanks to all of you in Greenford and Northolt and the wider Circuit for your love, your friendship and fellowship, for your goodwill, your generous gifts, cards and good wishes. Thanks too for your encouragement and prayers and practical help. We will remember you with affection.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15 v 13).

Thomas looking at the scars on the hands of Jesus is bowled over with such amazing love and he exclaims, 'My Lord and God'. (John 20 v 28). *This, this is the God we adore our faithful unchangeable friend.....'Tis Jesus the first and the last. We will praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that is to come. Amen.*

So my dear friends do not wrestle. Just nestle. Our God reigns and He cares. God be with you.

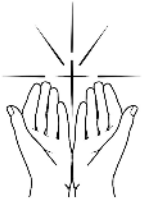
My new address is 198 Southend Road, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 7AQ. Telephone 01375 675176.

Stay safe. Stay secure in the never ending love of Jesus sharing His Good News in Word and Action.

Warm regards, **Yemi**

*God of love and light,
In this time of fear, give us your peace.
In this time of isolation, give us your presence.
In this time of sickness, give us your healing.
In this time of uncertainty, give us your wisdom.
In this time of darkness, shine your light upon us all.
In Jesus' name, Amen*

(From Tear Fund)



What worship may be like when we open

Dear friends

I hope you are well. Given the government announcements regarding the opening of churches, the Circuit Leadership Team feel it would be an idea to describe what worship is likely to be like under the present regulations.

We are hoping that churches will be ready to open from September onwards. In the meantime we are recommending that you meet in small groups for fellowship and worship as government guidance allows. We aim to continue to produce video worship and print service sheets and to increase and improve our online presence given the positive comments regarding them and also recognising that many of us will not be able to return to churches when they open.

What will it be like to come to worship when our churches open?



Our services may take place on **different days and at different times** across our churches. This will mean you can choose to go at a time that works well for you. It also takes in account the reduced number of ministers, local preachers and worship leaders who may be available. We will keep these under review to try to find times that are helpful for existing members and

encourage new people to join us.

Will I need to book?

Space will be limited so churches will need to decide whether to 'ticket' or be prepared to turn people away at the door

What will happen when I arrive?

You will be asked not to arrive more than 5 mins before the service begins.

At the door you will be asked to sanitise your hands, (depending on current guidance you may also be asked to wear a mask.)

Your name and address will be registered in case it's needed for test and trace.

In most of our churches you will be asked to take the next available seat from the front.

As you move to your seat, and at all times, you will be asked to stay at an appropriate distance (2m) from everyone else.

Seats will be marked to ensure a 2m distance between each person/household. (In some places this means that only every 3rd pew will be used)

What will the service be like?

The person responsible for leading worship (& maybe 1 reader or steward) will sit at an appropriate distance from each other from before the service begins.

We will pray, hear readings from the Bible, have a sermon.

We will find creative ways to use music as we cannot have congregational hymns

The service should last no more than 30 mins (people should only be in the building for 40-45mins total)

At the end of the service you will be asked to leave promptly and in order. There will be no refreshments or socialising after the service.

What about Holy Communion?

Possibly bread only

Elements remain covered throughout the prayers until they are distributed

Taken to your seats or laid out at your seat before you arrive

Other essentials:

Toilets:

You will be asked to wipe down anything you touch before and after you touch it.

What about talking outside the church before I come in or after I leave?

Obviously you are welcome to talk to each other on the street. However, part of our Christian discipleship is to show God's love to all. At the moment one important way to do that is to model good infection control by maintaining appropriate physical distance. So while enjoying a chat please stay 2m from each other and allow others to go by safely and at a healthy distance. Show God's love and care to all our neighbours through your carefulness in reducing infection risk.

I understand this all may feel quite different. It does to me as well. However, it gives us a valuable chance to think about what is important to us and to find new ways of doing things just as the last few months have done. Think back for a moment to January and imagine what your response might have been to worship on video, church meetings by phone, email or zoom, and church pastoral contacts by phone with no chance of a visit. We have achieved so much in the last few months. You have strengthened pastoral support and fellowship through your phone calls to each other.

We now have a large group of us trained in using Zoom and Skype when we'd not heard of it before March! People have commented to me about worship and spatial life that has deepened.

As we move forward we will also have to think about and commemorate our losses: those we have loved who have died; goodbyes that haven't felt fully expressed; the ends of school years and school moves, missing seeing grandchildren grow and the months without hugs or physical contact and so much more.

We can and will do all this in the strength and love of God.

May you continue to know God's blessing with you, God's love embracing you, God's power strengthening you and God's peace filling you. For I am convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God. You remain in my prayers as I hope I remain in yours

Love and blessings
Rachel



Information from the most recent Volunteer Update of 10th July

The main reasons for clients needing to use the Foodbank continue to be low income, no recourse to public funds, benefit delays and changes and ill-health. A shopping list is circulated each month by the Foodbank listing the items required that month. If you wish to donate, please remember that besides tinned and packaged food, toiletries and household items are useful, such as deoderants, toothpaste and brushes, disposable razors and shaving foam, washing up liquid and toilet rolls.

to donate money on-line via the Ealing Foodbank's website.

<https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk>

(which has a very clear red donate button)

Sue Garland



The best gifts you can give:

To your enemy, forgiveness;

to an opponent, tolerance;

to a friend, your heart;

to a customer, service;

to every person, love;

to every child, a good example;

and finally, to yourself, respect.

BB Lockdown Newsletter!



I write this BB Newsletter on the last weekend of July, sitting at my desk and looking out over my extremely well-tended back garden. Which is all very nice, but I should be sitting in a glorious field in Brecon, Wales, surrounded by rivers, mountains and pristine white canvas tents, and be responding to questions such as, "Sir, what are we having for breakfast?", "Tony, I seem to have forgotten to bring my sleeping bag; do you have a spare?", and "Is there Wifi in the countryside?".

Yes, sadly, for the first time ever in 10th Ealing's history, there is no summer camp, and there is no summer camp because there is no regular BB Friday meeting, and there's no regular BB Friday meeting because ... well, you know the answer to that one, don't you. Last summer, we marked our fiftieth year of continuous camping and this year it all seems very strange indeed. No hiring of minibuses, no trip to the cash 'n' carry, no loading of the luggage lorry, no comfort breaks for the elderly staff on the long journey to the site, and no happy memories to store away with the boxes, crates and suitcases upon our return. I'm sure it'll make Camp 2021 all the sweeter.

We refunded all of the deposits for this year's Camp, but several parents were particularly kind, some donating their money to BB funds and one insisting that, when we're back to normal, their money be put towards a meal for the staff, which shows the the wonderful level of support we have.

So, what have we been up to during the break? Well, as far as we know, all BB staff and Boys remain well -- we've no heard reports of any members having caught Covid, which is good news. The staff (and their spouses) are very busy indeed at their daily work, indeed some of us took no furlough break at all, and those who did are making up for it now.

During the last six weeks of term we set a number on online video challenges for our Boys and received some splendid responses all of which can be found on our website, YouTube and Facebook pages (just search 10th Ealing BB). The lads really did themselves proud, and we

also hosted an online quiz evening for our Seniors too which went down very well.

During the break, we have officially welcomed two members of staff to the rank of Warrant Officer (which means officer-in-training). Matt Plews and Dan Plews have been confirmed by the church and by BBHQ as being properly accredited and are now "on the books" so to speak. This gives us five members of staff but still makes us the lowest staffed company in West London even though we have the highest numbers of Boys.

We have had communications with Mr Pike via his family, and he is being well looked after on the south coast. He has very kindly donated his entire BB archive to the company, and there are books, photographs and videos galore -- a veritable treasure trove detailing the 10th's musical history for the last twenty five years of the 20th century. We hope to publish some of the pictures in the coming months.

On a sadder note, we heard of the recent passing of Mrs Dorothy Carty, a dear friend and BB supporter. We printed the following tribute on our facebook page.

We regret to report the passing of Mrs Dorothy Carty, a long-time member of Kingsdown, a keen and popular singer within the church choir, and a friend to everyone who knew her.



She had most recently lived in Chester, but previously spent many years in Ealing where she raised her children and served her church and community with dedication and good humour.

Her daughter, Fiona, acted as a 10th Ealing BB leader for several years during the 1980s, working with younger Boys and also attending our Summer Camps. Tragically, Fiona was taken from us at a very young age, which caused great sadness throughout the company and the church.

Dorothy bore the loss with grace, and was always pleased to talk about her beloved daughter even despite the heavy burden of grief that she

carried, taking the time to ring many of Fiona's friends every Christmas. We send our deepest condolences to Dorothy's son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren, all of whom she adored. She was a gentle soul who will long be remembered with great fondness and love, and is finally re-united with her daughter in a better world.

To sum up, this really has been a very strange time for us all, especially the children in our care. We have no solid idea of what the future holds but we place our faith and trust in Him who holds the future. It is our intention to re-open BB in the autumn but we really don't know how this will look at the moment as the situation seems to change on a daily basis. The staff will meet up (socially distanced!) during August and start investigating solutions, and maybe also consider investing in that meal!

Use of Cookies



Tony Plews
BB Captain

10th Ealing Boys' Brigade Company

Kingsdown Methodist Church Northfield Avenue Ealing London W13 9PR

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with options: HOME, ABOUT US, AGE GROUPS, ACTIVITIES, and HISTORY. Below the menu is a grid of video thumbnails:

- Week 1: Soccer ball on a field.
- Week 2: Hands writing on a piece of paper.
- Week 3: Hands holding several playing cards.
- Week 1 Results: "EALING BOYS' BRIGADE RESULTS ONLINE" graphic.
- Week 2 Results: "EALING BOYS' BRIGADE RESULTS ONLINE" graphic.
- Week 3 Results: Hands holding a tablet or card.
- Week 4: A hand holding a red balloon.
- Week 5: A person in a suit playing a guitar.
- Week 5 Results: "EALING BOYS' BRIGADE RESULTS ONLINE" graphic.
- Week 4 Results: "EALING BOYS' BRIGADE RESULTS ONLINE" graphic.
- Bottom right: A collage of photos from a "Senior Quiz Night" event.

Please visit our YouTube and Facebook pages for recent videos and information.

Search: 10th Ealing BB



Rev Shirlyn Toppin - leaving Ealing Trinity Circuit 2021

Dear Friends,

You will know that all ministers are stationed to a circuit for 5 years after which they and the circuit may agree an extension to their appointment. The review of each appointment comes at the end of their 4th year in the circuit.

Rev Shirlyn Toppin has now been stationed in the circuit for 4 years. We have therefore asked her if she wishes us to consider an extension to her appointment. After prayerful discernment she has decided that it is right for her to leave the circuit when this invitation comes to an end in July 2021. Shirlyn has been a valued member of our circuit staff whose presence and gifts enrich our ministry and life together. I look forward to continuing to work with her in the coming year.

In the next few weeks the Circuit Leadership Team will be working to guide us as we reflect together on the future shape of the circuit and its staffing to enable us to best fulfil our mission as people of God. This will mean facing up to some difficult questions. It may also open our eyes to fresh and exciting possibilities. In all of this we are called to be good stewards of all that we have been given and to use it to bring the abundant life of the Gospel to all.

In all that we plan to do we should be looking to remove burdens and releasing energy within our churches for the life of the world.

I know that you will join me in praying for fresh vision and energy for all of us in the circuit and also for Yemi and Lemia as they prepare to move this summer and Shirlyn as she goes through the stationing process.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers daily.
Every blessing,
Rachel

**Silence is the absence of noise,
but peace is the presence of God.**

Kamala's Story



Every morning, Kamala combs and plaits her daughter's hair, and wonders if she will still be going to school in the new term. Education is a huge opportunity for her children. 'They dream of studying engineering or medicine,' Kamala says. 'I don't read or write. They should not have to suffer the way I have had to.'

Kamala labours for 12 hours a day, but can't even afford to give her children the bus fare to school.

Most women she knows live like this: working in punishing conditions in the chemical factories, as labourers on other people's farms, digging ditches or cleaning the roadside.

But even as the light fades on her long day, Kamala still hurries out to tend her own small field. EcoVeg can give Kamala the training to make organic farming a business, and get her crops shipped and sold for a good price. It's a lifeline to a proper livelihood, and Kamala is determined to make it work.



Organic farming is transforming lives, today and for the next generation. Will you help?

Donate via:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ealing-Trinity>

**Understanding is much deeper than knowledge.
There are many people who know us, but very few
who understand us. (Anon)**



All We Can urges the government to rethink its decision to merge DFID with the FCO

All We Can, as well as other NGOs and development agencies, have criticised the government's decision to merge the Department for International Development with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, calling it an 'ill thought through decision, at a time when the world's poorest communities are most vulnerable.'

Graeme Hodge, All We Can's Chief Executive, said 'Yesterday's decision to merge DFID with the FCO places already vulnerable communities in considerable jeopardy, as we risk seeing the good work undertaken by DFID over the last few decades potentially eroded in favour of political gain.'

Alongside our friends and colleagues in the Bond network, we condemn this ill thought through decision at a time when the world's poorest communities are most vulnerable. As the communities which we serve are reckoning with significant development setbacks caused by coronavirus, this move represents a major step in the wrong direction, and threatens to exacerbate an already precarious situation.'

'We call upon the government to rethink this decision, and ensure that DFID remains an independent body. In recent years, an independent DFID has been shown to be effective and has become the global leader in the sector. We believe it is the best way to show that the UK can help tackle coronavirus, as well as other global crises.'

Importantly, an independent DFID also protects aid money from being tied to a political agenda – enabling it to serve the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised, ahead of the government's.'

Dr Louise Brooke-Smith OBE, All We Can's Chair of Trustees, added 'While we note the government's stance to retain a target of 0.7% GDP as the benchmark for international aid, clearly in a post Covid-19 era

and economic downturn, this will result in reduced funds being available to support communities around the world most in need. It will therefore be even more important that all aid is expertly allocated and managed, without being tied to any political dogma.

There has been significant criticism of the merger, but in any event, it will be vital not to lose DFIDs expertise and retain a transparent approach going forward. In this way, both the global communities assisted, and UK taxpayers will be assured that the very best was being achieved. Furthermore, the role of the NGO sector, working proactively with government, will continue to be vital to ensure that those in need can be supported in the most appropriate way and the UK's strong reputation, integrity and effectiveness in this field is maintained.'

OBJECTIONS FROM OTHER AID AGENCIES

A number of aid agencies have also reacted with anger to the recent government decision to merge the Department for International Development and the Foreign Office in September.

The new government department will be called: The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. It will be led by the Foreign Secretary.

The Government remains committed to the target of spending 0.7 per cent of GDP on international aid.

Christian Aid's director of policy, public affairs, and campaigns, Patrick Watts, called the merger "an act of political vandalism" and said that it "threatens a double whammy to people in poverty..."

He went on: "The timing couldn't be worse for people living in poverty... The Government's own independent aid watchdog shows that aid spent by DfID is more effective and transparent than aid being spent by other government departments."

World Vision has also objected to the Government's decision. Its chief executive, Mark Sheard, said: "While cross-governmental co-ordination is absolutely necessary, this should not be done at the expense of aid quality...By giving the Foreign Secretary oversight of aid, we will lose transparency, effectiveness, and accountability, and risk money being

diverted to address UK foreign-policy interests rather than alleviating poverty.”

Tearfund said: “By far the best way to ensure that aid continues to deliver for those who need it the most is by retaining DfiD as a separate Whitehall department, with a Secretary of State for International Development, and by pledging to keep both independent aid scrutiny bodies: the Independent Commission for Aid Impact and the International Development Select Committee.”

from Parish Pump



If you agree that the Charities working to help the poorest of the poor are right then write to or e-mail your MP and ask him/her to lobby in Parliament to get the Government to change this decision.

Zoom



Our Churches and Circuit are making good use of Zoom in order for people to meet up virtually. Scammers are taking advantage of this and so you should be aware if you get suspicious messages. The following has come from the District...

Zoom scams - be aware

There are a growing number of Zoom scams in operation. One such involves people receiving a text message saying 'you have a Zoom voicemail from...' and giving a name i.e. 'Janet44'. Whilst Zoom does have a voicemail function, in this scam users are then given a '09' number to call. If you receive such a message do not make the call as calls to 09 numbers are charged at an exorbitant rate per minute. Given the increase in people using Zoom to access church activities, please ensure that those who are vulnerable or less 'tech-savvy' are aware of this scam and not conned into dialling a '09' number.

Take care, stay safe and God bless.

Submitted by Ray Garnett - Hanwell

Spiritual Friendship

(Thanks for this article to Stephen Plant who is Dean of Trinity Hall, Cambridge and teaches Christian theology at the University of Cambridge.)

During lockdown, I have been 'meeting' weekly on Zoom with the friends I made while training for ministry thirty years ago. We're scattered around the UK and beyond these days and see each other less often than I'd like. But these are friendships whose roots are so established that it's easy, meeting after a long break, to pick up where we left off. I've rarely been more aware how much friends matter. For this reason the book to which my lockdown experience has led me back is Aelred of Rievaulx's Spiritual Friendship.

None of the majestic buildings of Rievaulx Abbey which shelter today in the valley of the river Rye in North Yorkshire were there when Aelred first visited. In 1134, when Aelred went to the newly founded Cistercian Abbey, the first Cistercian foundation in England, the only buildings were of wood. Aelred had entered the service of King David of Scotland aged 14, and by the time the quick witted youngster travelled on the King's business to Yorkshire, he had risen to be the King's Steward. But



Rievaulx Abbey - English Heritage

something about this loveliest of places poleaxed him. The day after he had concluded King David's business, Aelred presented himself at the Abbey door and asked to be admitted as a novice. He remained in the Order for the rest of his life.

Spiritual Friendship is a short and unsophisticated book, written a century before the rediscovery of Greek philosophy injected new philosophical life into the bloodstream of Medieval Catholicism. Aelred's theme is friendship, a theme familiar to him from the few classical sources he did know, especially Cicero. But now friendship is refracted through the lens of his experience of living in a Christian community. For Aelred, friends are not merely a natural good, though they are that too. Friends are seen by him as blessings given by God who help us, in turn, learn what it might mean to be friends with God. Jesus had taught his disciples to love not only their friends, but their enemies. Yet for Aelred friendship at its best takes us a step further, into a deeper, fuller form of love close to the perfect love of God:

In friendship, then, we join honesty with kindness, truth with joy, sweetness with good will, and affection with kind action. All this begins with Christ, is advanced through Christ, and is perfected in Christ. In the New Testament letters of John, Aelred read that 'God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them' (1 John 4:16). But now he wrote that 'God is friendship, and those who abide in friendship abide in God, and God in them'.

Lockdown reminds us of the importance of friends in maintaining our sense of wellbeing and in keeping our feet on the ground. As a Christian, I am also relearning that the closest friends afford a glimpse of the friendship of God



THE TRANSFIGURATION - 6 AUGUST

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was – immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.



Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by His coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 – 19 – invariably the reading for this day.

Parish Pump



The Lockdown Lifts

There's life in the town!
No longer 'locked down'!
The people stroll out in the sun
The majestic trees
Sway in the light breeze
Like they wanted to join in the fun!

Like light after dark!
We can walk in the park!
Buy our tea, and sit out on the grass!
We can chat to our friends
As our loneliness ends
And we smile at the strangers we pass!

Yes there are still queues
Which cease to amuse
But things are no longer so black!
As they sing in that song –
You miss what is gone,
But it's great when at last it comes back!

By Nigel Beeton

Musings on Coronavirus

This crisis has in many ways made us more grateful for each other and ... it has shown people at their best – volunteering, helping neighbours, protecting those at greatest risk, pulling together as communities to support one another. – **Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury**

A minute, unseen enemy has shaken global society to its foundations. This is bringing about a new way of being-in-the-world... In the long run, this pandemic may hasten the emergence of a renewed vision of community and progress towards environmental renewal which we had hardly dared to think could happen. – **The Rev Dr Christopher Steed, Team Rector in the Totton Team, Hampshire and Visiting Professor at Winchester University.**

Musings on our Christian faith

The purpose of prayer and of God's call in your life isn't to make you number one in the world's eyes but to make Him number one in your life. – **Ravi Zacharias**

It is impossible to have the feeling of peace and serenity without being at rest with God. – **Dorothy Pentecost**

Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden, but sin is forbidden because it is hurtful. – **Benjamin Franklin**

If you want your neighbour to know what Christ will do for him, let the neighbour see what Christ has done for you. – **Anon**

To serve God and my church and to love all human beings is my creed. – **Mary G Roebling**

It is not the possession of extraordinary gifts that makes extraordinary usefulness, but the dedication of what we have to the service of God. – **F W Robertson**

Make sure it is God's trumpet you are blowing. If it is only yours, it won't wake the dead, it will simply disturb the neighbours. – **W Ian Thomas**

Comfort for new curates – when God ordains, He sustains. – **Anon**

The Chief Purpose of Man

*How clever man is, he has conquered the skies,
Reached for the stars and stepped onto the moon,
But he still does not know why he is here
Or what is the purpose, or why he was born.*

*And did it all start with one big bang
As stars and galaxies burst into space?
Or was it the hand of a mighty Creator
Who lovingly fashioned this wondrous place?*

*Into this world God planted a garden
And placed man there to enjoy its delights,
But he soon disobeyed, and sin entered in,
And so, man was banished and thrust from God's sight.*

*How gracious God is, He has reached out again
To reconcile man and bring him back home,
Sin's debt has been paid by the death of His Son,
To know God as Father is why man was born.*

By Megan Carter

What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom. It was about the magnet, and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?"

When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."

The Work of Peace

*Give us courage, Lord, to stand up and be counted,
to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves,
to stand up for ourselves when it is needful for us to do so.
Let us fear nothing more than we fear you.
Let us love nothing more than we love you,
for thus we shall fear nothing also.
Let us have no other God before you,
whether nation or party or state of church.
Let us seek no other peace but the peace which is yours,
and make us its instruments,
opening our eyes and our ears and our hearts
so that we should know always what work of peace we
may do for you.*

(Alan Paton - 1903 to 1988)

DO YOU POLISH YOUR BRASS??



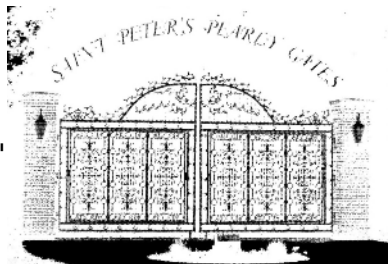
I am in the habit of polishing the brass ware on our dark brown front door just to make it look a bit more 'cheery'. Some years ago the postman happened along whilst I was doing it and made a comment about it.

"Anything to keep 'er happy", he said.

"Well," I explained, "If I polish up the brassware well enough maybe I'll get to polish the plaque on the Pearly Gates."

"So, you know where you're going then," he quipped in response.

"Ah, but remember the plaque's on the outside.....," I replied.



SUPPORT FOR CHARITY SHOPS

Are you feeling the financial squeeze just now, but still enjoy shopping?
Why not visit some of your local charity shops?

Never have charity shops needed you so much. Coronavirus has meant a huge drop in donations, and many charities face huge financial shortfalls.

The good news is that charity shops are well worth visiting this summer. Vast amounts of clothes and household items were donated following the lockdown this Spring. Grounded at home, people decided to declutter and clear-out!

The result is that, as a spokeswoman for Oxfam says: "People can expect to find some really great treasures to buy."

It should be very safe to shop, for as Julie Byard of Cancer Research UK, explains, the charity shops put all donated items into isolation before putting them on the shelves. She adds: "We're grateful for all donations and to everyone who volunteers and shops with us."

Parish Pump

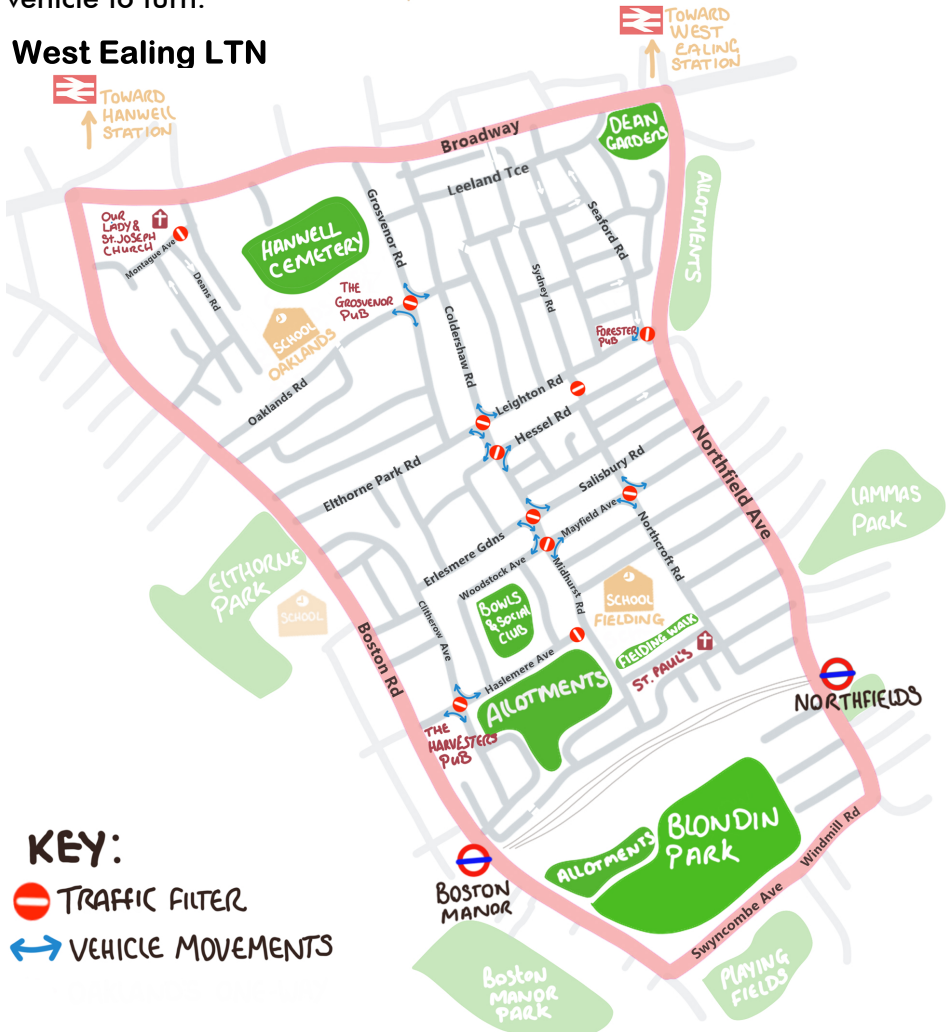
*Why my soul survives
He is with me in the morning
He is with me in the night
He is with me in the peace
And in the fight
He is with me
In the terror
Spilling words to calm my fear
And remind me of his sovereign
Presence near
That is why my soul survives*

© Ruthie Thomas

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods - LTN's

The first LTNs are being introduced in locations across the borough and residents are encouraged to have their say on their progress in real time. Made up of a cluster of residential streets and closed at certain points to some vehicles, LTNs are designed to discourage and minimise traffic such as buses, lorries and non-local cars from passing through at speed or treating the area as a rat-run. Measures typically include planter boxes and bollards, with double yellow lines also installed where necessary to allow vehicle to turn.

West Ealing LTN



KEY:

-  TRAFFIC FILTER
-  VEHICLE MOVEMENTS

For more information please visit the Live West Ealing website: livewestealing.org



It's here somewhere!!



Dates for your Diary

