

The parish magazine of


# Hertford St Andrew

[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk)

June 2020

Our building may be closed, but  
**church continues.**

At **St Andrew's**, we remain



Here with you      Here for you

# HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

**Please visit our website:** [www.HertfordStAndrews.co.uk](http://www.HertfordStAndrews.co.uk)

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*Sele Farm Church meets on Sundays at Calton Court, Windsor Drive, Hertford at 10.45am*

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**NOT MEETING AT PRESENT: WILL START AGAIN WHEN GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ALLOW – WATCH OUR WEBSITE TO KEEP INFORMED.**

Whilst every reasonable care has been taken in presenting the information in this magazine, no responsibility can be taken for any inaccuracies. The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Priests, Churchwardens or editor.



## Valuing the Undervalued

As lockdown restrictions begin to ease, surveys show that the three places people are most looking forward to returning to are; (a) the pub (b) the gym and (c) the hairdresser's!

About five years ago I thought it would be a great money-saving idea to cut my son, Elijah's hair. Surprisingly, he agreed. Unsurprisingly I made a dog's dinner of it. Cue an emergency trip to the barbers in a woolly hat.

For many years I've favoured a low maintenance number 1 buzzcut, so I've not had to worry about lockdown haircuts. After 8 weeks however, Elijah's beloved quiff was beginning to resemble an unruly crane's nest. Following days of nagging and a pinky promise that I wouldn't repeat my previous disaster, he finally agreed to allow me to get the clippers out. I have to say, all things considered, I surprised everyone, including myself, and did a decent job. I won't however be giving up the day job.

Often, it's not until we are denied something, that we realize just how valuable it is. During these difficult times we are

discovering a new appreciation for so many professions we previously took for granted. From barbers to hospital cleaners; lorry drivers to care assistants, often these are among the lowest paid and least valued roles in our society. It took a crisis to wake us up to just how invaluable they are.



In seeking to teach his friends the value of such service, Jesus once donned the uniform of the

lowest ranking profession in his culture, and washed feet. The disciples were outraged that their esteemed leader would engage in such a 'degrading' act. It was a lesson in servant-natured love, but also an honouring and a hallowing of all acts of service, however mundane or dirty or if done in the name of care and compassion, every act, however small, however unappealing, however tedious can be a holy act of love.

Fulfilment can be found, not always in what we do, but in how we do it.

Let's commit then to respecting the dignity of all professions, not only by expressing our gratitude, but by giving our full attention to the person before us, whose service makes our world an easier and safer place in which to live.

Alan

**PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE JULY MAGAZINE OF SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE.** Please send copy by e-mail to [hertfordsta@aol.co.uk](mailto:hertfordsta@aol.co.uk) or post to Richard Taylor at 22 Highfield Road, Hertford SG13 8BH (Tel. 01992 302995).

# CHURCH MATTERS

*Here with you Here for you*

## Together while apart

In these times of isolation and uncertainty, it's more important than ever that we should continue to connect and commune with one another, albeit remotely, and in spirit, rather than in person.

## Worship on Zoom

We are now sharing time and worship together through the wonders of Zoom. Those on our mailing list will receive an invitation via email in advance of the event, allowing them to join in at the right time. If you're not already on our mailing list, please email the church office: [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

Join worship on Zoom:

### **Sundays**

10.30am Holy Communion  
7pm Compline

### **Wednesdays**

10.30am Holy Communion  
8pm Meditation and Mindfulness

If you are not already a Zoom user, search Zoom on St Andrew's website for more information. It's great for keeping in touch with family and friends as well as for services.

## Compline/Night

Sundays 7pm via Zoom

With prayers from both the Prayer Book and the Celtic tradition, a perfect way to bring the day to a close

## Sharing Worship at Home

We are so pleased to have heard how many of you continue to feel connected with your church family, even while we cannot meet together in person. This is wonderful. While our regular services and activities are suspended, there are ways in which we can share in worship:

### Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is usually said in the Chapel at St Andrew's at 8.30am on Mondays and 8am on Thursdays. Rev. Bill and Keith from St Andrew's will be saying Morning

*Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story*



# CHURCH MATTERS

Prayer from home now and you can join them from your own home at the same time (or at a time convenient to you) - together in spirit. We usually use Common Worship on Mondays and The Book of Common Prayer on Thursdays. These can both be found online at the Church of England website, complete with the set psalms and readings. If you go to the 'More Options' tag, you can get all the permutations for every day.

There are many ways that worship, reflections and prayers can be accessed now but a new service from the Church of England offers more daily hope - and a landline is all you need:

## Daily Hope phone line



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

services during the period of restrictions.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line - which is **available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044** - has been set up particularly for those unable to join online church

## Meditation and Mindfulness

Alan is hosting a weekly Meditation and Mindfulness session from The Rectory on Wednesdays at 8pm, on Zoom. Please email the church office if you'd like to be added to our mailing list and receive a Zoom invitation: [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

You can also find a rough guide to the practice of Mindfulness on St Andrew's website.



## International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June

International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services is on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020. We will mark it during our 10.30am Zoom service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Here is part of a message we received from PC Gary Bentley at Herts Police...*I recently became chair of the Herts Christian Police Association. I am very keen to forge links with local churches and communities and it would be lovely for churches all over Hertfordshire to pray for the police on 25<sup>th</sup> June, and at the Sunday service beforehand. I'm highlighting an initiative called Faith and the Police. The document that has been drawn up called "Faith Communities Guide to Working with the Police" includes ways of getting involved voluntarily with the police as well as what kind of things to pray for and how to find out more about local issues. Go to [www.faithandpolicetogether.org.uk](http://www.faithandpolicetogether.org.uk) If you are out and about and see police officers (or any NHS/care/key workers), please give them a smile or a wave. They are working extremely hard and any gesture of kindness and warmth is much appreciated! PC Gary Bentley*

**faith+  
police  
together**

a multi-faith initiative designed to galvanise the support of faith groups to support the police and to help address problems and challenges within our communities.

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•  
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# CHURCH MATTERS

## WhatsApp

We've found that WhatsApp can be a great way of staying in touch and supporting and encouraging one another. If you would like to be part of a church WhatsApp group please contact either Catherine or David. For St Andrew's: call Catherine 07790 316503. For St Mary's: call David 07544 702241.



## You are not alone

Things might be feeling pretty uncertain right now and that can lead to heightened anxiety. It's also difficult for very many who can't go to a funeral, whether for family, friend or neighbour, so a short reflection has been specially written by a vicar for you to do at home, alone or with those who share your home. You might ask others to take part at the same time from their home. To find the reflection go to St Andrew's website and search "You are not alone". Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, you may ask for a copy to be sent to you by emailing or calling Jane Cohen –her contact details can be found at the beginning of this magazine.

When this time of social distancing is over, there may well be an opportunity to meet together at a special time of remembering and thankfulness. Your memories now can be part of that experience when the time comes.

## Prayers

At this time when we are unable to go to church services, many of us might like to pray more regularly at home, either alone or with those with whom we live.

### Prayers of Hope

Every evening at 7pm, we encourage you to pray along with others all over the country. We have produced some short daily prayers which are available on St Andrew's website and which appeared in last month's magazine, copies of which are still available from the church porch.

### Pray for Hertford

Every Sunday evening at 8pm, you are invited to take part in a shared time of prayer for our town. Please email Luke to get the meeting code:

[luke.hertfordwellbeingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:luke.hertfordwellbeingchurch@gmail.com)

## Thought for the day

Each morning, we post a Thought for the Day on our [Facebook page](#) and via our WhatsApp group and church email. If you'd like to be on our mailing list please get in touch with Phil via the church office email address: [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

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# Powell Funeral Service



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[www.murleyandmaples.co.uk](http://www.murleyandmaples.co.uk)



# CHURCH MATTERS

## Finance News

We are pleased to announce two new ways for supporting our work at St Andrew's. First, we now have **on our website** an easy and quick way for donations to be made. This may be of particular interest to those who have been unable to attend church in recent weeks or to newcomers who have found our services via Zoom. In the longer term, when we are able to host visitors again, the webpage will be open to anyone who wishes to make a donation.

To access the webpage, please go to [www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/giving](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/giving)

This will take you to the main Giving page, from which you can link to the online giving form.

Also, we are now using a **Text Giving** facility that can be used for the Offertory during our Zoom services. This will be explained by the Celebrant and will allow people to use their smart phones for donations. St Andrew's is one of a growing number of churches to use this as a way to enable financial giving. The way it works is that we have set up a TEXT donate number. Simply text:

**2020GIFTS5** to **70085** to make a one-off £5 donation

**2020GIFTS10** to **70085** to make a one-off £10 donation.

Change the last two digits of the text for a different amount. The maximum donation is £20. All text messages cost the donation amount plus one standard rate message.

More generally, we are now beginning to see the financial impact of church closure. This will be monitored over the coming weeks and, at an appropriate

time, we will consider how best to respond. In the meantime, we thank everyone for their continued support.

Chris Seward

Chair of Finance Committee

## Events

### Fairport Convention

We are delighted to announce the re-arrangement of the Fairport Convention concert to **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021**. Tickets for the original date were selling very well and we were expecting the event to sell out. Please put the new date in your diaries!

### Martin and Eliza Carthy

Meanwhile, we still hope to host Martin and Eliza Carthy on **24<sup>th</sup> October** of this year. Confirmation of the concert, however, will be made later in the summer - watch this space!

### Beer Festival

Sadly, it has been necessary to postpone the St Andrew's Beer Festival on 12<sup>th</sup> September. We delayed the decision until as late as possible but, with so much uncertainty regarding social distancing etc, we were left with no option. We expect to find a new date in 2021.

### An exhibition: 'when this is over...'

We are all very aware that we are living in unusual times and that this has changed our daily lives in so many ways. As Alan mentioned in one of our first Zoom services and last month's magazine, we are hoping to mark this time at some point in the future with an exhibition.

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# CHURCH MATTERS

We would like this exhibition to showcase the outpouring of creativity which many have experienced and we would also like it to be a space where we can share our collective memories, a sort of time capsule of how we all experienced living through the coronavirus.

We would hope to include:

Art in all forms (painting, drawing, collage etc);

Writing, both prose and poetry;

Journal and diary entries;

Children's contributions of paintings, drawings, writing, things they have made;

Photos of ourselves and our everyday life, especially of the things which are different at the moment.

## **A special request...**

One of the big changes we have experienced is that every Thursday at 8pm we stand outside with our pots and pans and clap for carers. There is a possibility that Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May might be the last one so it would be great if you could take some photos of yourselves on that evening.

We would like the wider community to participate in the exhibition so will be advertising our plans more widely in the coming months.

Please be thinking about how you might contribute, and if you have anything to offer or would like to know more please contact Kath Oates at [oates13@virginmedia.com](mailto:oates13@virginmedia.com) or on 07708 580428.

## STAYING CONNECTED

### **Wednesday Mornings**

A quick count up from memory of the number of regulars at the Wednesday morning Eucharist, before Covid-19 struck, showed that there were in excess of thirty and we have discovered since, that the majority of them use email. They were a very sociable bunch who enjoyed a chat after each service over coffee and the inevitable scrummy cakes and it was felt that this sociability should not stop just because we were not able to be together. As a result a weekly news sheet was brought into being to impart individual items of news, fun, thoughts, in fact all the things we might have talked about had we been together. We've learned of VE Day celebrations, wildfowl activity on the River Beane, a bit about Hertford's other rivers as well as its history and had some good advice on walks around and about. We've also discovered that our numbers do in fact exceed forty and not thirty as first believed. Many of us look out for each other on the 'zoomed' services, both on Wednesdays and Sundays. Interesting too, that a number of others who had not joined us in person before, are now clearly enjoying the company on a Wednesday. Hopefully when it's all over they will continue to do so. Something else that has come out is that the daily 'Thought for the Day' is forwarded as far afield as Norwich, Braintree, Belgium and all over Australia.

If there is anyone who we have missed off our circulation list and who would like to be included please email Peter: [peter.risby@sky.com](mailto:peter.risby@sky.com).

*Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story*

# CHURCH MATTERS

## Home Groups

The Tuesday morning 'Connect' Bible study group are staying connected by means of a spiritually based, fortnightly circular, much appreciated and anticipated by all nine members. It invariably contains an uplifting news type message often in the form of a poem, together with a prayer and/or biblical quotation. Those who are unable to receive it by email, have hard copies delivered, the result being that their previous companionship and support is being maintained almost to the full.

A men's group, **Men in the Morning**, is now meeting via Zoom every Thursday morning, rather than every other Thursday as it was pre-lockdown. Experiences of our "new life" are shared and the group designates a member each week to lead a Bible study.

The **WOW** group is also meeting with the use of Zoom for a good chat and Bible study.

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING A HOME GROUP?

Real intimacy, real spiritual depth, real church happens in small groups. At St Andrew's we have lots of different small groups which during normal times meet in someone's home on various days and times of the week. We meet to deepen friendships, offer support, explore questions, unpack the Bible, pray together and grow in love for one another and for God. A list of the current Home Groups is available on the church website. As mentioned above, many are continuing to meet using Zoom at the moment.



## FUNERALS:

*We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:*

1<sup>st</sup> May

**Joan Howard** aged 99.

11<sup>th</sup> May

**Sheila Place** aged 83. Sheila will be remembered as a kind and cheerful lady. A regular churchgoer - she sat near the font - until she moved to a care home three years ago. In later years she often said she longed to be reunited with her beloved husband Mick. She was a caring and attentive aunt, and one of her nieces read a favourite poem "The Owl and the Pussycat" at her graveside funeral. A memorial service will be held later.

19<sup>th</sup> May

**Anthony Wormald** aged 75. Tony was a no-fuss Yorkshireman who made his career with the Halifax Building Society, where he met his wife Enid. After retiring he was a volunteer warden for the RSPB and he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of birds. They moved to Bridges Court, Hertford to be near family. Much loved and missed by daughter Lindsey, son Ross and three grandchildren.

22<sup>nd</sup> May

**Avile Nitze Grey** aged 42. Originally from Venezuela, Avile was for a time a member of the church choir. She will be remembered for her beautiful smile and generous heart, and will be dearly missed by her husband Will, her little boys Sebastian and Dominic, and by the congregation of St Andrew's.

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# CHURCH FAMILY

## Families and younger ones



Although our normal youth activities are suspended, Tracy (St Andrew's Children and Youth Worker) is connecting with families online. You can find all sorts of resources through the Sele Messy Church Facebook page, including a live feed with Tracy on **Sundays at 10am** and **Wednesdays at 4pm**.

## Storytime with Rev. Alan

If you go to the website of our sister church, St Mary's Hertingfordbury, there you will find a story read by Alan: [www.hertingfordburystmary.org/storytelling](http://www.hertingfordburystmary.org/storytelling)

## SAMUEL STONE'S COLUMN

### *Easter Baby*

I congratulate Alex and Claire Hardy on the birth of Alyssa Paige born on Easter Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> April at 3.07am weighing 7lb 7oz. I am glad to hear that mother and daughter are doing well. Her big sisters, Abigail and Suzi, seem to approve of her, which is good news all round!



### *Another Pandemic Baby*

Ivy Buck continued to be a regular at Wednesday and Sunday morning services at St Andrew's right up until the church was forced to close its doors by reason of the Coronavirus pandemic. Undeterred, with her son, Mark, Ivy has been joining these services by Zoom. Like baby Alyssa, Ivy was born during a pandemic, in her case the Spanish 'Flu Pandemic of 1918. Ivy was born on 7<sup>th</sup> June that year, so will be celebrating her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday this month. Born in Derby, Ivy worked for the Home Office and seconded to the Defence Ministry, working in post-War Germany, before marrying Ray and moving to Bedford and, in 1976 to Hertford. Having brought up her three children, Ivy worked for the Ministry of Agriculture in Hertford's Sovereign House and, following 'retirement,' for Dr Anderson's medical practice. Ivy then acted as secretary to the former Rector of this Parish, Duncan Dormer, her tasks including typing and printing the Parish Magazine on a Gestetner duplicating machine. Happy Birthday Ivy!



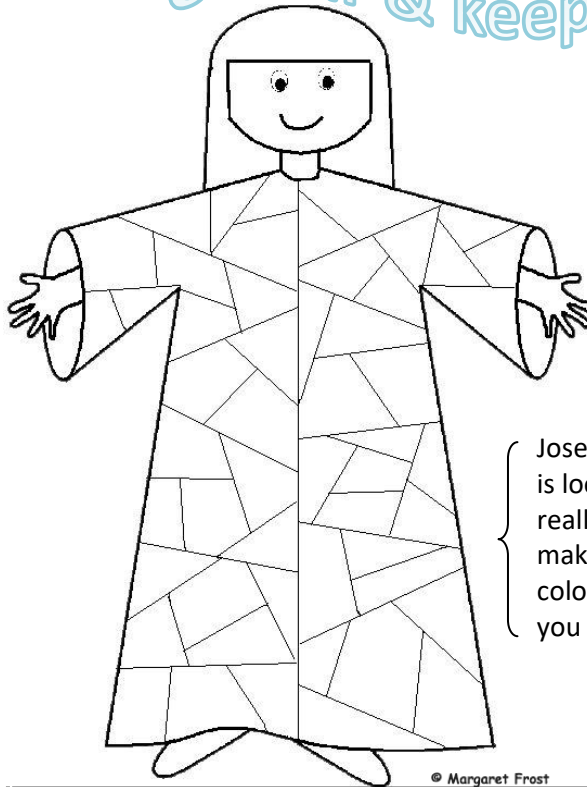
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# Think Joseph

Joseph was one of Jacob's sons and, as Jacob's favourite, he was given a special **coat of many colours**. His brothers were jealous and thought this was really unfair, so they did something awful – they **sold Joseph as a slave** and told their father he had died. But Joseph went on to become one of the most powerful men in Egypt and, instead of being angry with his brothers, he looked after his whole family. You can read more about the story of Joseph in the Bible, from Genesis, chapter 37. It teaches us that we **should not be envious** of other people's things but that we should **be happy with what we have**, and also that **God wants us to forgive** others when someone does something wrong to us.

Colour & keep!



Joseph's coat is looking really dull – make it as colourful as you can!

Benjamin	forgave
blood	jealousy
brothers	Joseph
coat	king
dreams	ring
Egypt	slave
families	sold
famine	talent

## Joseph Word Search

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

Can you find all the words below in the grid above?

To find out what Joseph said to his brothers, when he revealed himself to them, use the code to solve the puzzle. Find the letter in the message on the outside circle. Match it with the letter under it on the inside circle.  
**I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt...**

TBQ FRAG ZR NURNQ BS LBH GB CERFREIR

SBE LBH N ERZANAG BA RNEGU NAQ GB

FNIR LBHE YVIRF ... (Genesis 45:5-7)

## Joseph's Family Reunion

Genesis 39-41 (NIV)



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<http://www.hillhome.com/ast.net>

## JOSEPH's a-MAZE-ing COAT!

Are you up for a tricky challenge? Make your way from the start to the finish across Joseph's coat, and don't get lost along the way!



Calvary Kids Pages [www.calvarywilliamsport.com/kids-index](http://www.calvarywilliamsport.com/kids-index)

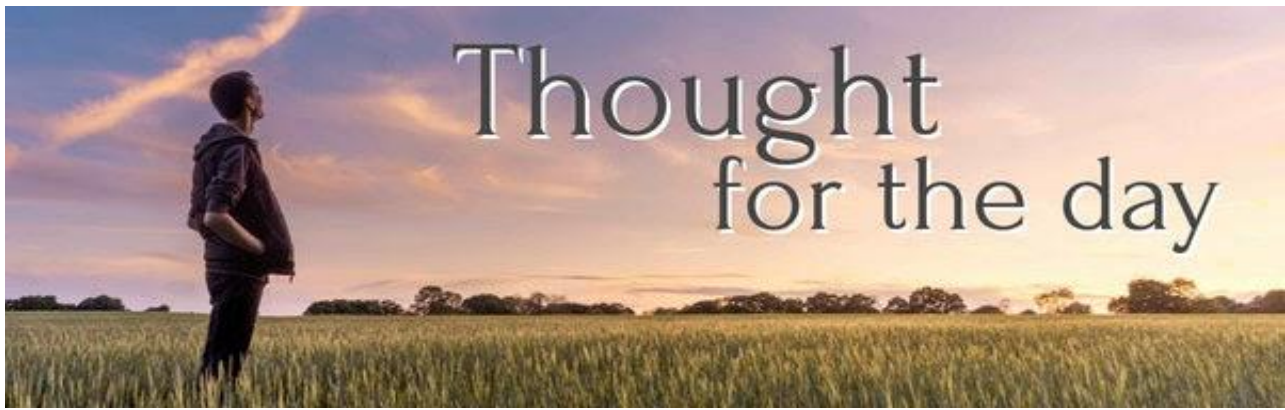
MICKEY MAG

## WHAT HAPPENED TO JOSEPH IN EGYPT?

To find out, fill in the missing words.

WAS TAKEN TO   
AS A SLAVE, AND MADE TO   
FOR A MAN CALLED  WHO  
WAS AN  OF THE   
THE KING. BUT JOSEPH WAS SUCH A  
 SLAVE, HIS MASTER SOON  
 HIM.





## A book of our thoughts

As many of you will be aware, during the Covid-19 Lockdown, we have been posting a *Thought for the Day* (TFTD) on the St Andrew's and St Mary's websites and church WhatsApp groups and also distributing it by email every day.

The thoughts have been written by members from both congregations, with each author submitting their work every day for a week.

The themes have been eclectic; some have been short articles, others slightly longer; some personal, others informative. The subjects and the tones have varied, but each one, in its own way, has been inspirational. They have all ended with a prayer and a picture.

The idea of a daily TFTD has been well-received and you will be pleased to hear that they are going to continue, not only to the end of Lockdown but beyond. They have become an established link for us all and are here to stay!

The other good news is that a joint working party from St Andrew's and St Mary's is looking at how we publish a collection of TFTDs in a paperback book to reflect 'what we thought during the Covid-19 Crisis'.

The exact specification of the book - size, paper, number of pages etc - has yet to be decided but it is hoped that it will appear in the autumn, in time for Christmas. It will be a useful stocking filler and a creative reflection on, what we hope, will be a time long gone.

If you would like to hear more about this exciting project or have publishing or designer skills that you feel would be useful, please contact Forbes Mutch on [forbes.r.mutch@gmail.com](mailto:forbes.r.mutch@gmail.com). He will be pleased to hear from you.

In the meantime, continue to enjoy Thought for the Day, one of the successful spin-offs of Coronavirus.

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# SAYING HELLO AFTER A SERVICE

## Grab a coffee and have a chat after some Zoom services

Do you fancy joining a small group for a chat after our Zoom Church Services? From June, providing all goes well with a trial run on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, we hope to offer this as a regular occurrence after our Wednesday morning and Sunday morning services. Zoom calls these small group meetings, "breakout rooms". A bit of jargon, but don't let that put you off.

It's very easy to be included. Just hang on after the Service and instead of leaving you will be randomly put into a small group and asked to join. Click on "Join". You don't have to join and if you do, you can leave at anytime.

We will time the groups for 10-15 minutes to begin with. When time is up, you will come back into the same place as at the end of the Service and you can say goodbye to all and then the session will be ended.

Group membership is allocated randomly. So each time we do this after a Service, you should be in a group with a different set of people. When we are confident with this, we are hoping to set it up so that after a few minutes in one group we will hit the button again and this will enable you to talk with a new set of people. It should be really fun!

**IT IS VERY SIMPLE!** Click on **JOIN** when you are prompted. However, if you are interested to find out more, there is a fuller explanation below. This information can also be found on the St Andrew's Website

For any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Jane Cohen 07818 532154 or Kath Oates on 07708 580428.

## Participating in small groups aka 'breakout rooms'

### Joining a 'breakout room'

- Stay on at the end of the service.
- The host will need to invite you to join the breakout room
- Click **Join**.
- If you choose **Later**, you can join by clicking the Breakout Rooms option in your meeting controls (click **Join Breakout Room**).
- You will have access to full controls similar to the meeting.

### Asking for help

- If you click **Ask for Help** (in the meeting controls) it will notify the meeting host that you need assistance and they will be asked to join your breakout room.
- Confirm that you would like assistance by clicking **Invite Host**.

### Leaving the breakout room

You can leave the breakout room and return to the main meeting session at any time, or you can leave the meeting entirely from the breakout room.

- Click **Leave Breakout Room**.
- Choose if you want to leave the breakout room or the entire meeting.
- When the host ends the breakout rooms, you will be notified and given the option to return to the main room immediately, or in 60 seconds.

### Other notes

- People will be randomly allocated into small groups of about 8 or so.
- To reduce feedback from the mics, we recommend that you remain muted unless you wish to speak in the small group, but this is entirely up to you - see how it works.
- The small group chat will end after about 10 - 15mins and everyone will have the opportunity to say goodbye in the main meeting area before the meeting ends.

**TOP TIP: There's an easy shortcut for muting/unmuting!** While muted, hold down the space bar to unmute; release the space bar to mute again.

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# MIGRATION & REFUGEES

They're at it again! There's a new animation project happening. Last September the first film on which they worked together, *Suspended*, was premiered in St Andrew's Church. It was made in conjunction with Herts Welcomes Refugees and tells the story of a man resettled in Hertfordshire under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme, a former restaurant owner who had to flee Syria to protect his family.

Their new project is also about migration issues, but takes a much more holistic view, and is more like animated poetry. Catherine Henderson, who is leading the work, says, "It is something that has grown out of my hope that the stories of difference and division concerning migrants and refugees can be countered by a story that places us all at its centre, where our connections to each other can be better understood and valued.



The filmmakers from left to right are **Catherine Henderson**, writer and producer; **Rosie Wyllie**, animator; **Katie Seaton**, composer-sound designer.

Everyone alive today does, in fact, share common ancestors around 3,400 years ago. I highly recommend Adam Rutherford's book *A Brief History of Everyone who Ever Lived*, which is a brilliantly readable exploration of our shared history as it is currently understood. Good lockdown reading!

I have been writing for and working with children for a good many years, and wanted this film to be for children as well as adults. It is children's voices that speak the script, and I have read it through with students in years 6 and 7 and their teachers. I have also spoken in local schools about refugees and explored attitudes to migration with students in years 9-13. Aspects of the film can relate to the National Curriculum for KS2/3.

Beginning with prehistoric migration out of Africa, the film touches on what has driven migration through history; how everything in nature migrates; how our ideas and technologies, languages, cultures and religions are shaped and shared by migration; how humans collaborate and form communities, and how they sometimes treat people from different, particularly migrant, communities with suspicion. The film ends with a contemporary refugee telling the story of our common human history, and hints at a future when far more people will be driven from their homes by the changing climate. This, for me, is what makes this story urgent: if we understand our shared history and how interconnected we all are, perhaps there is a chance we will treat each other better in the future.

All this is just touched upon in the film, which will be quite short - probably less than 15 minutes. It is told as a story, and I hope will have a dreamlike slightly mythic quality. Certainly the early animation work has this feeling: we have not yet started on the sound, although we have all discussed this and the composer has ideas forming. I think story speaks to us on a deeper level than a factual approach might: Einstein

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# MIGRATION & REFUGEES

said, 'If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy stories. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy stories'. It is the stories of division and of difference that are currently so destructive in our political culture. Their elements include once-great nations assailed by enemies, and champions returning to defend their people. These are tropes from myth and legend, which is why they are so powerful. Our common history shares elements of myth: our connection with all living things and our collective overcoming of adversity to create richly varied communities. This is the story we want to tell.

If you think you would like to contribute to the making of this film, we are being supported by the Lansbury House Trust, registered charity 306139, who have kindly offered to receive donations on our behalf. So far we have raised a little over £2,000 of the £7,000 needed to complete the film. Please send donations to Lansbury House Trust Fund, PO Box 157, BIGGLESWADE, SG18 1BG (NB this is not postage-free). Cheques are to be marked 'Inscape'. If you have a CAF account, you can pay online to LHTF. You can also pay cheques or CAF vouchers directly into the Trust Fund's bank account: Lansbury House Trust Fund, sort code 08 92 99; account number 65093117. Please identify the amount paid with 'Inscape'.

If you would like to be 'kept in the loop' as the film develops, please let me know ([cat\\_hen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cat_hen@hotmail.co.uk)). For an idea of the style you can watch the previous film made by Katie and Rosie, here:

<https://www.hwsf.org.uk/film.html>



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# HOPE

It has become popular among some members of St Andrew's to make the long journey to the Lake District in late July, not only to enjoy the delightful surroundings, but to join the many thousands who descend on this lakeside town for the annual Christian convention, joining people from all around the UK and further afield. This year the usual Keswick Convention has been cancelled due to the current Covid-19 crisis. The organisers have announced the following:

This Summer, Keswick Convention will be holding an exciting, new five-day online event called Virtually Keswick Convention.

The virtual Convention will run from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July and will focus on the theme of Hope. It will feature teaching, sung worship and seminars for adults, youth and children. All the sessions will be held online, and we'd love you to join us.

While we can't be in Keswick this year, we can meet together online. What an encouragement to be part of something bigger – we're not alone or isolated – but together, people from all backgrounds and age groups: "All one in Christ Jesus". It promises to be a great time to meet with God through His Word, together.



The theme of Hope has been chosen as, at this time of great uncertainty and sadness, there is hope in Jesus Christ. A Christian is not a prisoner of the present moment. Even in the midst of struggle, hardship, suffering, pain, tears, we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, know joy and peace from the God of hope.

We are pleased to welcome back Christopher Ash, Writer-in-Residence at Tyndale House in Cambridge, who will be the Bible Reader. He will speak on 'Hope in Jesus' from the Psalms.

More details of the programme will be published on the Keswick Ministries website in coming weeks.

We would appreciate your prayers as we prepare for this week of ministry. We would also value your help in making this exciting opportunity known to your family and friends, through your church and other contacts. Finally, we are immensely grateful for the generous financial support that makes it possible for Virtually Keswick Convention to run.

Please keep an eye on our website for more information, and do follow us on social media, share and like our posts - the hashtag is #KesConv20 - and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

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# A STRANGER IN THE PEW

In 2013, when I was Master of my Livery Company, Debbie and I were invited to St Martin's in the Field to be part of the BBC recorded Ash Wednesday Service. This was to be followed by a reception in the Crypt, where speakers on Thought for the Day and the BBC Singers gathered.

We sat near the front of St Martin's which soon filled up with BBC regular supporters. With the church almost full, just before the Service, we were joined by a lady who sounded American. She had long dark hair, was wearing a long coat and a leather cowboy hat. She sat next to Debbie and they began to chat. She came from California but lived in Hertfordshire. Before the Service started, Debbie had discovered she liked singing and it turned out that this lady had been active in various peace campaigns. Needless to say I was itching to talk to her too. Totally unsuccessfully!

It turned out that she had left her spectacles at home so Debbie lent hers to this lady! As the chatting continued, she told Debbie that she was a singer and composer of protest songs. We knew it was not Joan Baez, but who? She looked our kind of age!

During the Service Debbie and I both racked our brains trying to think who she was! When the Service was over, she thanked Debbie for the use of her spectacles, shook hands and thanked Debbie for talking to her and making

her feel welcome. She then said her name was Julie. It was Julie Felix!

The conversation continued over BBC drinks for a bit and I learnt that she had been an ambassador for Christian Aid in Lebanon, Jordan and East Africa. In my youth, I recall that she sang each week on "The Frost Report" and then had her own show "Once more with Felix" between 1967 and 1969. "Wheels on Fire", "Going to the Zoo" and "If I Could" were some of the hits of "Britain's first lady of folk" as the Times described her. Nostalgic days!



Julie Felix with The Frost Report team in 1966. Photograph: BBC

Her obituary appeared recently in the Guardian as she had died, sadly, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, aged 81. It had been a privilege to meet her and nice to know that she and Debbie were able to share a pair of spectacles!

Charles Ledsam

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# WE ARE IN LOCKDOWN: BE JOYFUL!

The Treasures of the Sierra Madres. - No no...I mean Treasures of Kings Mead and other Meads!

Wow, haven't the seasons cantered on. Have you noticed the trees? Did I not notice the trees before? – not in the same way as since the Lockdown. They have amazed me this year. The Blackthorn blossom is well over. It once looked like snow covered boughs bright white in the morning sun. Now the May has nearly finished turning from white to pink before it fades to grey.

I used to be frustrated that I could only go over the Meads and not go for long walks as I always had to get back to work. Now I have got to know the "patch" and all its treasures; early morning, afternoon strolls or late-night adventures.

We have welcomed in the summer visitors; the first chiff-chaff a delight to tell us spring was coming and then the black cap; what a songster, a melodious voice coming from somewhere within the bush on scrubby land. Later, the white throat singing his scratchy song as we went into May – all reasonably easy birds to see or hear.

I have walked and walked, round and about over and down the Meads and up by Ware Park Estate. It's a treasure trove of adventure. Even though I have trodden these ways many times it's like a new adventure every time.

Often times I have been treated to an early morning concert by the song thrush. He perches on the highest bough, or sometimes a wire, and sings three phrases and waits for your applause and goes on to the next section – he has a vast repertoire and I never hear the same songs – full of joy

– this is what we are here for – be joyful

This morning I have come across a riverside tree lined walk, a tunnel through the burgeoning leaves. There is nothing like the sun reflecting on the water and the quiet way the water passes gently on its way. Its peacefulness restores my soul.

I am hoping for a kingfisher but I am entertained by a pigeon, a wren and a far off song thrush. But just look at the reflection of the trees in the river and the different shades of green reflecting on the water. It's a beautiful tranquil picture. There is time to wait and watch. I think I will miss this part of Lockdown when it ends – no time to wait and watch, so many things to do. So much busyness. A wren sings his six phase song; such a big voice for so little a bird, a chaffinch, further off and a song thrush in the back ground.



The wren said "You are not listening to me I'll come closer and sing louder". The squirrels are the acrobatic entertainment with a pair trying to outdo each other by dare devil races up and under the trees leaning over the river.. shall I move on? I have sat long enough. The last time I was here I did see a kingfisher but you can't expect one every time not treasures like that – they fly straight and low over the water cornering round the curving river like an Exocet on a mission.

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# RINGERS IN LOCKDOWN

You notice the brief dazzling blues dark and light before it changes direction showing the bright orange chest and then off ...

I was not listening to the wren so he came closer still, singing 3 feet away and then hopped off to look for food. I nearly started off again. But no, take your time – I was rewarded just as I had hoped. I saw his dark outline reflection on the water; a dart coming at speed and here he is taking the curve as he calls to a mate with a high pitched whistle that can be heard over water. Dazzling blue back and orange chest as he turns the corner and away.



I nearly missed him. I nearly went on with my travels I'd been waiting a while..patience. Patience to wait and watch. We have time to stand, sit, watch and listen and there will be treasures if only we have patience and take in the treasures that are offered.

The full moon is coming on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. Watch, wait and see what comes to you in the comfort of the gather darkness you never know what will happen. I will tell you further adventures of the Oak tree and the full moon.

If you have any special experiences of nature during lockdown, please let, me, Rosemary, know:

[Rosemarywillis77@hotmail.com](mailto:Rosemarywillis77@hotmail.com)

## Keeping in touch with Our Bellringers

The bellringers are a bit of a disparate group and it hasn't been very easy to keep in touch because although most have email, one or two do not. So we have mainly used email, but also some texts between mobiles and even the occasional real conversation over the phone!

One of our younger regular visitors was going to investigate whether Zoom meetings would appeal but I haven't heard anything more about that so I suspect the take up wasn't great!

Some of you may have heard the tenor bell ringing at 7pm on VE Day. This was something Jane Cohen asked us to do to mark the day and we were very pleased to be able to do it.

I for one am really missing my bellringing now. It must be the longest period during which I haven't done any ringing, apart from on VE Day but that doesn't really count, since I learnt to ring over 50 years ago. Bellringers are a resourceful lot though and we have some very, very clever people in the Exercise (which is what we call bellringing sometimes) especially when it comes to technology. The primary outlet for releasing our ringing urges is a website called ringing room. Apparently it is surging in popularity and passed 1,000 users a day last week. It is a virtual ringing chamber where people can join from computers all over the world and engage in virtual ringing on virtual bells. Whatever will they think of next!

Andrew Case

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# A POINT OF VIEW

## How religion can aid public health messaging during a pandemic

Religious leaders have distinctive networks that can help disseminate important messages in the COVID-19 crisis.

Over the last month there has been much discussion about religion, as the world celebrated major religious festivals – Pessach, Easter, Vaisakhi, Navratri, Buddha Purnima and Ramadan – under lockdown. Public health policy makers were sceptical if physical distancing, the key strategy for most countries struggling to contain COVID-19, can be achieved during religious festivities traditionally marked by large gatherings.

And yet, with a few notable exceptions, religious adherents the world over have complied with the new norms necessitated by a prevailing pandemic. As the world grapples with this new normal of physical distancing, religious leaders will play a major role in deciding the future of the virus.

In the UK, all places of worship have been closed. The UK's Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Mirvis, said on national radio that there is both a "religious and a moral imperative" to "stay at home". The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, broke tradition and delivered his Easter Sunday address from his kitchen, commending churches across the country for "responding to this challenge in innovative ways".

However, in some countries, religion undermined the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the US, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis designated religious services as 'essential activity' days after a Pastor within the state was charged with

unlawful assembly and violation of a public health emergency order. New York City mayor Bill de Blasio complained about a large congregation of mourners at a Hasidic Jewish funeral, igniting strong condemnation from members of the Jewish community.

In South Korea, a church congregation is thought to have been the origin of thousands of first cases in the country. In Malaysia, a large gathering of 14,000 delegates of the Islamic mission Tablighi-Jamaat in Kuala Lumpur is widely considered the cause of the second wave of the pandemic in the country. Attendees returning to Brunei, Indonesia and Cambodia from this gathering later tested positive for COVID-19. An Islamic gathering in the mission's Delhi headquarters also saw thousands infected with the novel coronavirus.

### Enabling public health

In certain societies, discussions involving religions are often seen as a potential quagmire, conflated with culture and politics. Some religious communities believe that certain public health initiatives are directly opposed to their freedom to worship and could feel that they, rather than the virus, are under attack.

However, religions can be enablers of public health, and religious organisations can be important partners, especially in less secular societies.

In the middle of the pandemic on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020, the World Health Organization issued an interim guidance titled *Practical considerations for religious leaders and faith-based communities in the context of COVID-19*. The WHO acknowledged that "religious leaders, faith-based organisations, and faith communities can play a major role in saving lives and reducing illness related to COVID-19".

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# A POINT OF VIEW

There have been many examples in the past where religion had a positive role in tackling infectious diseases. In India and Pakistan, religious leaders helped increase the uptake of polio vaccines; in Nigeria, religious leaders played a key role in mitigating the effects of Ebola, through the provision of health, education, and social support.

The WHO guidance also points to the “special role of religious leaders”, faith-based organisations and communities in education, preparedness and response to COVID-19. The organisation can help by sharing evidence-based information and avoiding large gatherings, as well as mitigating domestic violence and improving mental health among their congregants. In the US, religious organisations and faith communities play key roles in responding to crises, disasters and public health emergencies.

## **The science-religion balance**

In a pluralist society, different worldviews inevitably exist. Atheists may find it absurd that a person disregards substantial risk of infection in order to attend an ‘in person’ service. And while services may not be seen as ‘essential’ by some, they will be for others, especially given that religion can serve as an important coping mechanism, a source of emotional support.

This is one place where religion comes into play, by understanding a rationale for non-compliance with social distancing. But religious leaders are often central to communities and have expansive networks within which to disseminate public health messages, including the rapidly evolving COVID-19 related guidelines.

Religious leaders often have good links with those who are vulnerable within

their communities, such as the elderly, the poor or migrants, who may be harder to reach through ‘official’ channels. Religious leaders as respected figures can make decisions earlier than governments to suspend congregational events. For example, the annual Hajj pilgrimage, which saw more than two million pilgrims descend in Mecca last year, is scheduled in July this year but may be cancelled

Religious leaders can play a direct role in implementing health policy. After attendants at a religious gathering in Malaysia failed to come forward to be tested, the Minister for Religious Affairs issued a statement saying that it was a religious obligation to be tested.

Religion and science are not necessarily opposed. Many religions have laws that are compatible with public health strategies and allow the ‘lesser harm’ or ‘public interest’ to prevail. So, empathetic, proactive and early engagement with religious leaders and communities can play an important role in public health emergencies.

For their part, health professionals and medical scientists must ensure that there is effective communication and a serious attempt to enhance health literacy. If not, we may alienate religious groups, rendering them less likely to comply with the public health guidance crucial for tackling COVID-19. Public health policy will ignore religious communities at its own peril.

(The authors are Sima Barmania, a consultant at the United Nations University-International Institute of Global Health, London/Kuala Lumpur, and Michael J. Reiss, a Professor of Science Education at the University College London. Original publication: [www.natureasia.com/en/nindia/article/10.1038/nindia.2020.87](https://www.natureasia.com/en/nindia/article/10.1038/nindia.2020.87) where you can find the references used and related stories and links.)

# COMMUNITY



## We're still here to help!

If you need advice during the **coronavirus outbreak**, Citizen Advice are still here to help. Whilst they have had to temporarily close their face to face service you can still contact them in a number of ways if you are an East Herts or Uttlesford resident:

For **advice by email** go to **[www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/webadvice](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/webadvice)**

For **phone advice** please call **03444 111444** 10am-4pm Monday to Friday (you may have to wait in a queue but they will get to you as soon as they can). Or call **01920 459944** and leave a message. One of their advisers will get back to you as soon as possible.

You can also access information online at **[citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)**

For medical advice - **[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)**

Citizens Advice write, "we will do our very best to answer all calls and emails but, due to a reduction in the number of staff and volunteers we have available, please bear with us at this difficult time. It may be that we have to offer to call you back with more advice at a later time. Since lockdown started we have unsurprisingly seen a 20% increase in demand for our services. We continue to give advice on a range of issues - finance, employment, benefits, relationships, consumer rights etc - and we also refer or signpost clients to practical support, where needed, e.g. virtual foodbank vouchers and putting people in touch with local community partners who can support with food shopping and prescription collection. We are also there to give a listening ear to those who need it and are able to refer people to specialist support in areas such as mental health and domestic abuse.

We've just launched a very short access survey online to help us plan for future delivery. We are keen to understand whether people's access needs have changed in the light of Covid. Like so many other organisations the crisis has given us the opportunity to reassess the way in which we operate and how in the future we might deliver our service in the most efficient, flexible and use-friendly way. Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XBM3Y39> to access the survey. Many thanks."

## NURSE MATES

You keen knitters and craftspeople, if you would like a knitting pattern to produce rather natty nurses complete with removable face masks have a look at [www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/nurse-mates](http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/nurse-mates). They are a design by Esther Braithwaite and the pattern is downloadable for free. You may want to give them to family or friends or sell them for NHS Charities or Carers in Herts. Dementia patients have been loving them especially and it gets them used to the fact that their care workers may be wearing masks.

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