

Crosstalk

60p



The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad
www.thurstaston.org.uk

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

May 2020



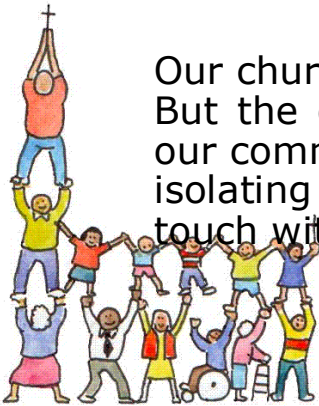


Coronavirus

YOU ARE NOT ON YOUR OWN

If you **feel in need of a chat**,
because you haven't spoken to anyone else today
or you are in need of reassurance, or for any other reason
then please call any of the following people
who will be more than happy to speak to you.

Revd Jane Turner: 648 1816
Revd Margaret Fletcher: 648 1025
Revd Ray Dent: 792 2022
Revd David Trollope: 342 2648
Mrs Liz Whitehead: 606 9083
Mr Alan Jones: 648 1400
Mrs Pat Neil: 345 5232
Mrs Jean Heath: 648 6015



Our church buildings are closed to prevent infection spread. But the church (which is the people) remains ready to serve our community. If you need help in some way with self-isolating give us a call and we will endeavour to put you in touch with a neighbour who can help. If you have a specific prayer need, then again, please give us a call and we will circulate that (anonymously if you wish) to our church members who will pray.

As a church, we have a mission in the community. We should all try to keep more in touch with our neighbours and support efforts to protect the most vulnerable.

The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the editor, the Rector or the PCC.

"Your magazine needs you"

Please send your contributions
(eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting articles etc.,)
to office@thurstaston.org.uk
no later than 21st May

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has shared their experience.
Others would be welcome to
send similar articles for next
month's magazine.**

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Diary Dates

Coronavirus Advice

As you will appreciate this is a continuously changing picture. We have been keeping up with the latest government and Church of England advice, which we will continue to do.

We will be keeping in touch with people by email (if we have your address) and will endeavour to ensure that the website is up to date to reflect any changes.

We have also been posting on the church facebook page - See page 21 for more info about how to find us on facebook.

From the Registers

Funerals

We commend to God's eternal care

Frances Harrison

26th March

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

22nd March

Olivia and Ella Williams

From Your Rector

Dear Friends,

A week or so ago, a member of the congregation sent me an email containing the text on the next page

“I can't wait for things to be back to normal”

and that's certainly a sentiment which many of you have shared with me in relation to church services and activities.

The article made me think about what good things have come out of us not being able to use our church buildings for fellowship and worship and what things would I like therefore not to go back to normal (whatever normal was or will be!), and here are some thoughts: -

- Many of you have discovered a deeper level of prayer and are growing in your relationship with God as a result. I look forward to seeing that continue.
- Some of you have become involved in mission to our community, whether by making bags for the NHS staff to put their uniforms in, or by volunteering to support the elderly and vulnerable. I'd love to see our church become more outward focussed.
- Some of you have been witnessing to your neighbours as you display things in windows or chat across the garden fence or on the phone. I'd love you to pray for these new relationships and for you to be brave enough to invite these folk to come to church with you when we are able to open our buildings again.
- Gratitude for the things which we normally take for granted - food, shelter, the beautiful place in which we are fortunate to live. May we not ever forget that.
- And as we go forward, I'm sure there will be other positives that we will need to take forwards.

So as we go forwards, I think it is inevitable that some things will change forever, and that will be for the good. But yes there are some things which we are missing massively and that's because they are really important and we will need to value even more when it is once again safe for us to do so.

- Being physically together for worship and the gift of communion
- Physical touch (a handshake, a hand on a shoulder, a hug) as we share fellowship and encouragement
- Being able to share grief together and to properly commemorate those who have helped to shape our lives.

The question of when will we be able to once again meet together in our church buildings is one that I can't answer. So for now, stay home, stay safe, keep trusting in God and keep growing in faith.

With love and prayers,

Rerd Jane

For weeks I've heard people saying

“I can't wait for things to be back to normal.”

I remember saying it a few times myself.

But as I've thought about our current situation I've realized how much I don't want things to go back to the way they were.

Here are a few of my thoughts

1. I hope the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.

2. I hope that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant or packed pub, I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and be thankful for the gift of community.

3. I hope that when I am at the grocery store, that I take a moment to be thankful for the necessities of life and for the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied. When I need medical help all of the NHS who risked their health to save ours.

4. I hope that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, go to the shops.

So, truth is, I don't want things to return to the way they once were. I hope we take the lessons and challenges of the past few weeks and create a new normal.

My goal is to be more thankful, love harder, and truly appreciate all the blessings each day that were so easily overlooked just a mere few weeks ago. If someone tells you they love you, take it to heart!

Visit the C of E online page

There is now a range of digital resources for to you connect with God at this difficult time. These include:

Time to Pray app (<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>) which is free and has an accompanying daily audio offering on SoundCloud and iTunes.

Mental health reflections (<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health>)

Tips to tackle isolation (<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/dealing-loneliness-and-isolation-five-top-tips>)

Finally, there are the Church's smart speaker apps, which provide a range of Christian resources. <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/our-smart-speaker-apps> In March alone, the number of people using the Alexa app rose by more than 70 per cent.

More details at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>



The Corona virus has impacted our lives in many ways... Trips have been cancelled, activities and educational school structured days come to a halt.

When we heard about the virus in China at the end of 2019, we were all shocked, but weren't aware how much of an effect it would have on the whole world. Days went to weeks and weeks to months and it got worse. The virus spread so rapidly and before we knew it we were in semi lock down. This meant that all our lives came to a halt.

So far as we know, 137,000 people have died from this virus alone and there has been 2 million infections confirmed in 184 countries and territories. However we cannot lose hope as the people who have caught the virus and recovered are vastly bigger than the people who have died with 404,878 people surviving.

As the lock down began I quickly began to miss the freedom we once had. We were not allowed to go to all our activities see our friends, trips abroad had to be cancelled. I miss not being able to visit my grandparents as I did regularly. It's just not the same chatting on the phone when you cannot see them.

I began to feel quite stressed with the amount of homework and revision that was set on line for me in all subjects. I found it quite hard to keep to a schedule as I felt overwhelmed and bombarded.

Recently I had my birthday and I tried to make the most of it by celebrating with my family. I missed my friends as I had planned to spend it with them. That normal interaction like hugging and greeting each other is gone. Now you are left feeling isolated and the fear in everyone's eyes of stepping out of your door and unable to feel safe and comfortable for your well-being



and keeping to the 2 metre mark.

There is a feeling of almost disbelief, it feels as if you are living in a film and doesn't seem real. I worry for the future of our society, our social well-being and mental health has been affected, as we all get used to the routine of never really interacting with friends and family especially if you live on your own. I think of them constantly and feel very appreciative to have a family who live with me. The pandemic has caused an increase of stress and anxiety especially for people with existing mental health problems

I worry when the virus has been eradicated that everyone will still feel anxious to leave the house and worry about things they didn't worry about before.

However I am very grateful for having technology that enables me to interact with people through social media and online calls.

The virus has not only taken lives but has taken jobs and livelihoods away from people. People now are left feeling uncertain for their future and what is to come.

On a more positive note, I have to say that I feel so much closer to my parents and brother because we all have a lot more time to communicate and have fun together than we were able to have before. Also I am so happy to be fit and well and manage to go for a run most evenings to keep my fitness up and make me feel healthier and happier.

Charlotte Crammond - Aged 15
(Submitted article on 16th April 2020)



Isolation or lockdown. To me these are two different things. I am used to being on my own and from that point of view nothing much has changed. Thanks to social media (something I never thought I would say) I am in constant contact with friends, family and also the various groups I belong to. Because of this I don't feel at all isolated.

Lockdown, on the other hand, means I do not have physical contact with another human being and I find that hard. I miss hugs from my family especially, a virtual hug is just not the same!

But because I have to stay in I have the time to do things that I had been putting off for some time. So I have re-decorated the kitchen, in fact I think I gave Rev Jane a bit of a shock when I told her that I was talking to her on the phone whilst standing on the work top in the kitchen:- not bad for someone in their 70's. Next on my list is to finish sorting out the loft room, prior to decorating that. In fact the remaining weeks of isolation probably isn't long enough!

With the weather being so nice I have spent a lot of time in the garden, both gardening but also having the time to sit and relax and enjoy the peace and quiet without any pressures from the outside world. This has also given me the time to contemplate on what is important in my life, obviously my family and friends but also some other things. I am also using this time to learn new skills, such as how to use a computer, how to take better photographs and how to process them. I also plan to improve my spoken French.

Over all of this is the worry and fear of this horrendous virus. All I can do is pray and put my trust in God that it will soon come to an end, but also that the world could be a better place in the aftermath.

Ruth Eden



Daniel Wiseman's Lockdown 11th Birthday

3 years out of the last 5 I have gone on holiday for my birthday because it is normally in the Easter holiday, but this year we were on lockdown so we couldn't go anywhere for my birthday. I was very excited about it being my last birthday in Primary School. I was disappointed about not being able to do anything for my birthday. When it was my birthday, we obviously could not go anywhere so that was a little weird for me. My mum made cake for us to have with this big candle like a sparkler. We also made a music video and shaved dad's hair for charity. It was still really fun even though we were on lockdown.





This period of isolation has brought a great calm to my life. I'm going nowhere, all outside obligations on hold, my time totally my own.

Being in the over 75 year old bracket, and blessed with a loving marriage of over 51yrs my husband and I are enjoying our peace and quiet. We sit in the conservatory looking at our lovely Spring garden, read, do crosswords, eat and drink when we feel like it, what could be better. The house has had a Spring clean my mother would have been proud of, my husband has actually cleared his desk, and generally we have done all those jobs we've been meaning to do, but never had the time.

Technology of course has been what's made isolation, for us, so easy. We have a family that stretches from Melbourne Australia, to Tring in Bedfordshire, and Wilmslow Cheshire. We've always contacted our children on a Sunday evening ever since they left home. This originally was by phone and then Skype and Face Time. So now this communication has become ever more important. I have now been "instructed" on how to log into Zoom. How clever I feel!! This allows the whole family to be on line together, amazing!!! The grandchildren love it, and we get ballet performances, piano or guitar recitals, gymnastic displays, and all animals are included. Grandpa sets challenges for them; and for the adults there are quizzes. So interfamily competition has become serious, but oh such fun.

The very serious side to this, is why we are isolated, and we have experienced this reality first hand. Two days after isolation was announced our GP son fell ill with the virus and has been seriously unwell for three and a half weeks, only now having turned a corner. His wife, also a GP, also succumbed to the virus, but fortunately to a less severe degree, and the two children had two days of temperature and sore throat. Many prayers were said over this time and thankfully they have been answered, and we have been helped to overcome this awful time. We thank God, and ask now for continued good health.

We're also very aware that our living conditions make life easy for us. If I was stuck in a flat with small children, had an abusive relationship, or had family requiring physical or mental health needs, this isolation would be hard to bear.

To finish on a good note.

- We go outside on a Thursday at 8pm to clap for the NHS, which also means we're now on waving relations with many more neighbours.
- I've been phoned by many people asking if I require help in anyway.
- When we go our little walk everyone we pass, AT A DISTANCE, says good morning.

Good always comes out of bad, and I hope this lovely, kind, and thoughtful atmosphere, will have taught us all a lesson for the future - BE KIND!!

Pat Hulme.



LIFE UNDER LOCKDOWN – A FAMILIES PERSPECTIVE.

When I was asked to provide a families perspective on how the lockdown has impacted our lives, it was on the back of 2 weeks home schooling and all I could think was how much MORE respect I had for everyone at Dawpool and a question – Where do you get your patience from??

So, I decided to base our perspective and how we are trying to cope, manage and adapt on that one ever harder to achieve Fruit of the Spirit – PATIENCE.

P – planning the day to give it some structure, with only one computer and 2 kids it became clear that without planning chaos reigns.

A – attitude, if we don't embrace this situation in a positive manner it can quickly overcome us.

T – teamwork, we all have to work together to get through this from families to schools to communities.

I – Inevitable challenges, they are going to happen don't let them derail you.

E – Exercise, for those that are allowed to, get out and enjoy each and every minute especially the present peace and spring time beauty.

N – nutrition, we seem to be filling time by baking so there will be plenty of time after its all over to lose some weight.

C – communication, its amazing the difference a short conversation can have with someone. Make the most of the new methods of communicating to keep in touch with loved ones and the lonely. Although at school the kids never stop talking but put them on facetime with their friends and they just stare and giggle.

E – end, we will get through this!

I asked my 2 kids to say what they liked about lockdown/home schooling – I get hugs from mummy all day and I get to finish my work quickly so I can play more.

What they didn't like – I miss my friends x 2

How they felt about the whole coronavirus – Overwhelmed and unhappy.

So, I try not to forget that however hard it is for us parents, our kids are struggling to cope too. We can make sense of it all to a degree, they must be all at sea which makes it vital to keep going with the search for that elusive PATIENCE that teachers seem to have.

Kevin Marley



Our recent House move immediately before Covid19 lockdown.

Prior to moving house our family started preparing ourselves for our imminent move. My Husband and I started getting ourselves mentally prepared for totally making over a new house with our two little girls. We were very excited about a new chapter for our family. We knew with all the work we wanted to do that our new home would become a bit of a building site for several months. With this in mind we came up with many ideas of how to deal with it, little did we know this was not going to be the issue we would actually be facing once moving to our new home. Two weeks after moving we were placed into Covid19 lockdown so all plans on doing up our new house all came to a standstill. As a family we know this is not an issue as there are bigger problems for others to deal with during this Covid19 outbreak and we know that once all this is over all our plans can resume.

Our new neighbourhood seems very friendly & caring. With moving and very quickly being locked down we didn't really have much chance to say hello to many in our new road. We are really looking forward to meeting our new neighbours properly when restrictions are lifted.

Our youngest daughter is only 1 year old, so she has no understanding of the current situations going on. She is loving our new house and having her family around her. Our Oldest daughter is 5 years old on Friday 24th April. This has been mentally a lot more to deal with. Not only has she moved house, but can't attend school (which she loves), go to her swimming lessons, attend her out of school hobbies, see her friends, but also can't see her family other than video calls. She has dealt very well with the immediate changes in her life and is very much looking forward to seeing everyone again.

As I work as a Pharmacy ward based Technician within Arrowe Park I am seeing the real harsh reality of what Coronavirus itself is throwing at families - not being able to be with family members who are poorly as the risk is too high that they themselves may become infected. This is hard because we are so used to being with family when they need the support of their family members around them. There are families who are sadly dealing with the loss of family members and then not all loved ones being able to say their final goodbye in the way they wanted to due to funeral restrictions. So this is why it is so important for people to stay home and stay safe.

We are delighted that the church has helped welcome us into our community and even during these very restricted times baptised our children. This has made our daughters feel very special and we are thankful of that.

Also during Easter a local farmer gave out Easter chocolate bunnies which clearly raised morale of the kindness that people are still trying to do for others. As a thank you we gave a chocolate lolly to the farmer as both a thank you & also to give from ourselves.

Our local community have been brilliant. We have played street bingo, where everyone sat in their own drives and played along. A little girl has sung to the street from her drive using a speaker. Every Thursday neighbours are out clapping our NHS (and key workers) for their amazing efforts during these dark times. We can hear other roads doing the same and playing music to celebrate our NHS workers.

With everything that seems gloomy and negative though, I can honestly say the most positive thing that has come out of Covid19 is how it has brought communities together and we are so overwhelmed with the kindness that we have experienced since moving. We have had letters through the door of offers of help if we are struggling, the neighbours have still sent warm welcomes to the road. We are just extremely grateful to be where we are during these really sad times but we just hope as a society we can learn to take all this community spirit forward once this is all over & continue to care for both neighbours and family.



Sarah Williams

Lockdown Acrostic

By Alan Jones

Leftovers for dinner and, occasionally, for tea,
O where, O where, is my Tesco delivery?
Cream cakes and ice cream - a thing of the past,
Ketchup's run out - and so has the cat!
Daren't go out - cos I'm now seventy-seven!
O why hasn't someone canonised Aneurin Bevan?
When it's all over and we're all less stressed,
Never again, take for granted—the **NHS!**



Lockdown Hymnal

By Elaine Jones

Living Lord
O praise ye the Lord
Come ye thankful people come
King of Glory, King of Peace
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
O worship the King
What a friend we have in Jesus
Now thank we all or God





As we went into this unprecedented period five weeks ago, I recall a nervous feeling as we moved into a step change of daily life. The unfamiliar situation we were heading into as a family with uncertainty thrown in, added to the nervousness.

Five weeks on, the step change to our daily routines as a family has been quite surprising in terms of how we have adapted to our new normal which has included a few bumps along the way.

One of the biggest areas that we are still adapting to is social interaction especially for our children who are missing school, social gatherings and the interaction that comes with all this. Skype, Zoom, FaceTime etc get them through which is technology we could only dreamt of some 40 years ago.

Our working environments have changed with myself working from home and constantly wearing headphones talking to colleagues and clients. My wife is still working at Arrowe Park which has gone from a busy working hospital to a emergency response unit overnight.

As each day rolls into the other, some things we took for granted before have started to be a distant memory and have learned to live without.

As a street community we have seen lots of acts of kindness and supporting neighbours from supporting the elderly and vulnerable to one neighbour making face visors for the NHS and care workers.

Overall as a family we have learned to live a little differently; with one take away; being a change is good for the better, and also from our daily walks there are streets in Irby we did not know existed..

Andrew Harford



Our church relies on donations to provide care and support to everyone in this community. Now more than ever, if you are able please give generously to support our mission and ministry. Thank you for your support.

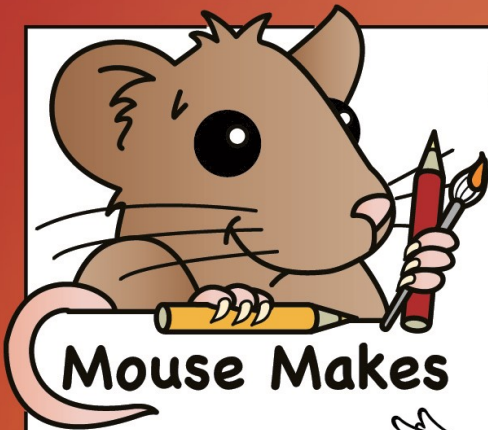
**WHILE BUILDINGS REMAIN CLOSED ALL DONATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:- Mr K Marley (Treasurer),
c/o The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Rd, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB**

OR IF POSSIBLE BY BACS TRANSFER

CAF Bank Ltd, Sort code:40/52/40 Account: 00018674

In the "Reference Box" - please make sure to include your name - and if space allows the words "regular giving". It would then be helpful if you emailed the Treasurer with the start date, frequency and amount.

pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk



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



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



Read
Galatians
 5:13-26

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

**FRUIT OF
 THE SPIRIT?**



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

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

Which
 symbol goes
 with which fruit?



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

VE Day the end of World War II in Europe

VE Day (Victory in Europe) – was celebrated 75 years ago this month, on 8th May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe. It was marked with a public holiday.



The previous day the formal act of military surrender had been signed by Germany, and celebrations broke out when the news was released. Big crowds gathered in London, impromptu parties were held throughout the country, and people danced and sang in the streets. King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and Churchill made a speech to huge applause. The two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret mingled with the crowds outside.

Many went into churches to give thanks – and to pray for those still involved in the war in the Far East, because the real end of the war, Victory over Japan, would not happen until 15th August. At St Paul's Cathedral there were ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each attended by thousands of people.

The celebrations masked the fact that so many had lost family and friends, as well as possessions and homes. But for the moment normal social conventions broke down, strangers embraced, and love was in the air.

The voyage of HMS Beagle

Two hundred years ago, on 11th May 1820, the British Royal Navy sloop HMS Beagle was launched. It was the ship that took Charles Darwin on the voyage around the world between 1831 and 1836 that led to his putting forward the theory of Evolution.

HMS Beagle was one of 100 ships of its class, known as coffin brigs because they handled badly and were prone to sinking. But its captain on Darwin's voyage, Robert FitzRoy, made some critical changes to its superstructure and weaponry.

This was the second voyage of the Beagle; the first had resulted in the suicide of its depressed captain. FitzRoy was able to recruit Darwin, who was intending to be a clergyman, though he had recently graduated as a naturalist, as someone of a like mind who could be relied upon to research geology and natural history ashore.

The voyage lasted five years instead of the intended two, and Darwin became famous after publishing his journal, usually known as *The Voyage of the Beagle*, which was an intriguing travelogue as well as hinting at Darwin's theories on species.

The ship itself was believed lost, but in 2004 its remains were thought to have been located beneath an Essex marsh.

'He gave us eyes to see them': early Persian painting of Jonah and whale

The prophet Jonah is mentioned three times in the Gospels when Jesus refers to 'the sign of Jonah.' In the Old Testament he was swallowed by a large fish, traditionally a whale, and in its belly for three days and three nights. It is easy to see in that sign a reference to the death and resurrection of Jesus, but the book is also a powerful allegory of life. The prophet runs away from God, only to encounter a storm and possible shipwreck. He is thrown overboard and swallowed by the whale.

We are living through difficult and anxious days with the coronavirus: we seem to be surrounded by fear and danger, like Jonah. Where, we ask, is our hope and safety amid the storm and threat of breakdown? In his distress Jonah prays to the Lord and places his trust in God. The psalm he utters ends with the words, 'Deliverance belongs to the Lord.' As he speaks, the whale spews him on to the safety of dry land.

The story of Jonah is depicted here in this beautiful painting from a 14th century manuscript from Persia. The whale is friendly and smiling, basking in the expanse of blue sea. Jonah is safe: his hope has triumphed, and God has delivered him from danger and possible death. In 1988 Heathcote Williams wrote a long poem called 'Whale Nation' in praise of these mysterious, gifted and intelligent creatures. We hunt them, we plunder the seas for them. But they are also our friends and guides, and it is easy to neglect those truths. The book ends with examples of whales and dolphins guiding ships and saving human lives. So, we, in the midst of all that worries and perplexes us, can give thanks to God our guide and Saviour, and pray that He will bring us safely through life.



God in the Sciences - Can Science prove God exists?

by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz,

To risk sounding like a smart aleck seven-year-old, technically speaking you can only prove things mathematically. If you need to know that one plus one equals two, don't go to a chemistry lab. The natural sciences only deal with things that can be observed and measured. Science has been so successful that it's tempting to get carried away, valuing science above any other kind of knowledge, but there are other ways of knowing that are equally important. For example, art conveys ideas, experiences or emotions that provoke us to think or do something in response.



In fact, to find answers to any of the really important questions about meaning and purpose that affect us throughout our lives, we always have to go beyond science. Some scientific data might help define the question, for example a farmer facing a drought would probably like to know some details about the current weather patterns and the availability of seeds for more hardy crops before she can start asking “What is the point of trying to grow anything at all?” But in the end, she is asking a deeper question – and so are the rest of us when we go through any significant experience in life.

So rather than asking “Can science prove God exists?”, what about: “Are the findings of science compatible with the existence of a purposeful Creator?” For many scientists today, the answer to the second question is yes. They have investigated the Bible's descriptions of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and found that they make sense. They have discovered that they can interact with God – especially in prayer – and that this faith has changed their lives.

Professor Christine Done, an Astrophysicist at Durham University, writes, “for me the more we know about the vast, yet intricate and beautiful Universe we live in, the bigger and more awe-inspiring is the God who made it all.”(*Thinking About: The Big Bang*, <https://www.cis.org.uk/resources/thinking/>)

Some go even further, making statements like this: “the way the universe exhibits an ordered structure, which is open to science to investigate, points to a mind behind it.” (Revd Dr Rodney Holder, Astrophysicist, in *Longing, Waiting, Believing* (BRF, 2014))

The question “Can Science Prove God Exists?” turns out to be a category error – trying to use science to answer a non-scientific question. On the other hand, many scientists think there is enough evidence from a wide range of sources to warrant belief in God.

A Viral Reminder That 'Social-Distancing Is A Privilege That Poor People Cannot Afford'



Peter Dreier

Tuesday at 1:00 PM · 🌐



A view from an Indian doctor:

"Social distancing is a privilege. It means you live in a house large enough to practise it. Hand washing is a privilege too. It means you have access to running water. Hand sanitisers are a privilege. It means you have money to buy them. Lockdowns are a privilege. It means you can afford to be at home. Most of the ways to ward the Corona off are accessible only to the affluent. In essence, a disease that was spread by the rich as they flew around the globe will now kill millions of the poor. All of us who are practising social distancing and have imposed a lockdown on ourselves must appreciate how privileged we are. Many Indians won't be able to do any of this."





Smile Lines



Submitted by Pete Whitehead
- taken from a WhatsApp Group Chat

2020, when your wheelie Bin went out more than you did.

As the cat went out, it asked me if I wanted the radio leaving on.

I went past a monastery Kitchen and saw a man frying chips. I asked
“are you the Friar” and he replied “ NO, I’m the chip monk.”

In Germany there is panic buying of sausages and cheese.
It’s the Wurst case scenario.

Yesterday my husband saw a cockroach in the kitchen and so he
thoroughly cleaned it. Today I’m putting the cockroach in the
bathroom!

Just seen a burglar kicking his own door in.
He must be working from home.

Question? Is anybody else’s car doing 3 weeks to the gallon?

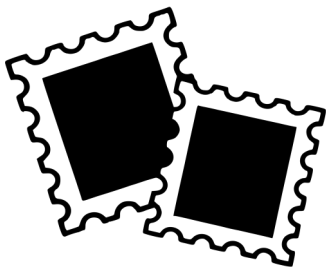
I see that Timpson’s is shut! I always thought they were keyworkers
but obviously couldn’t cut it!



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There is a box in St Chad's foyer and an envelope at the back of St Bart's.



Bless you?

People used to say 'bless you' if you sneezed. Nowadays they might say something ruder! We live in troubled times.

Some say that the expression started in Rome, when plague broke out. Sneezing was one of the plague's main symptoms, and Pope Gregory I suggested that a tiny prayer in the form of saying, "God bless you" after a sneeze would protect the person from death.

Sadly, that does not always work, but we can still remind ourselves of Psalm 91: 4-6

*He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
Psalm 91: 4-6*



St Bartholomew's and St Chad's on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/>

If you are already on Facebook it is easy to find and "like" the page. Just search for "stchadsstbarts" or "St. Bartholomew's Thurstaston, with St. Chad's, Irby" and you will find us.

If you "like" the page you will receive notifications when we add events and other informative posts.

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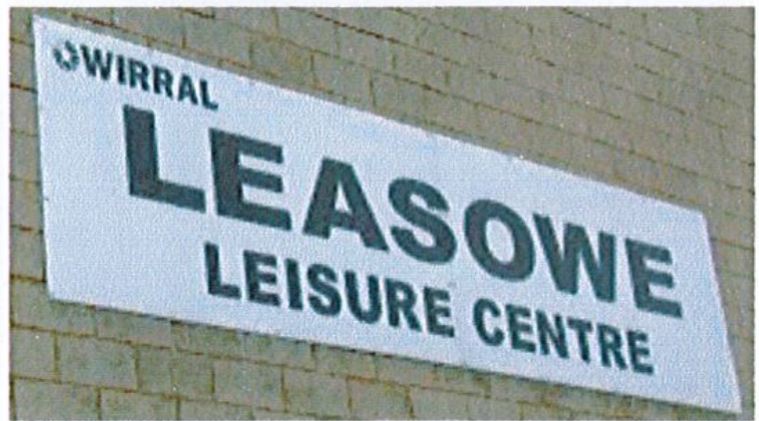
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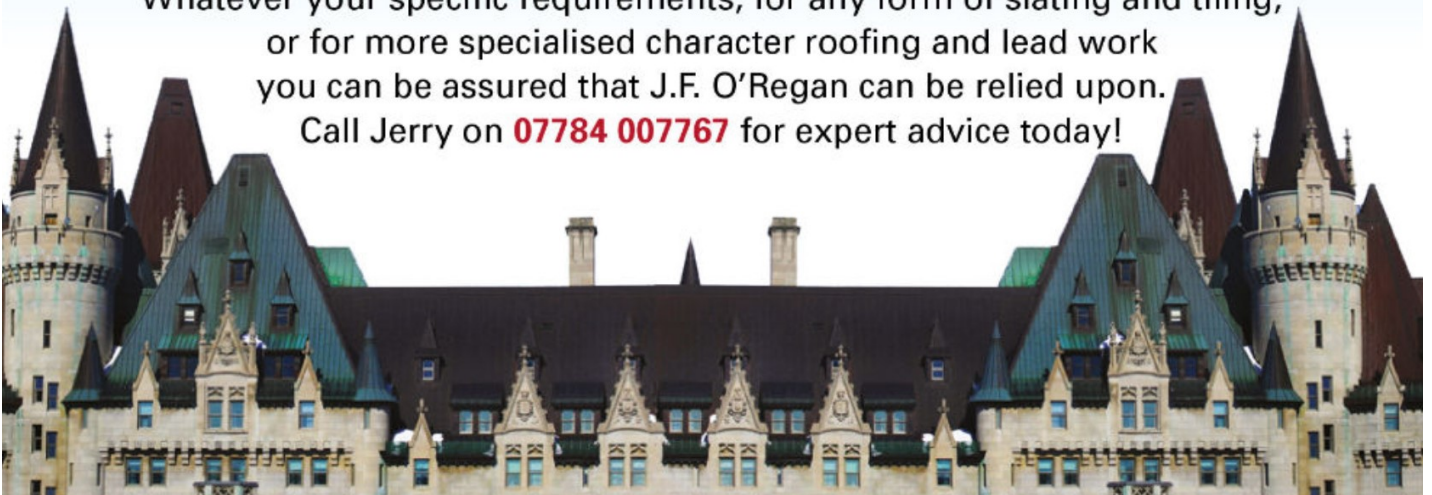
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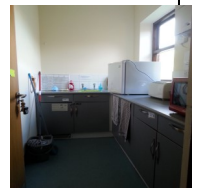
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