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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Mrs. P Barnes.T:01460 30847, E: Pabar68@btinternet.com
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CHURCHWARDEN	Mr Peter Saunders, Oakgates, Court Street, Winsham, Chard TA20 4JE. T: 01460 432991 E: petersaundersuk10@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDEN	Mrs Chloe Besley, 3 Fore Street, Winsham, TA20 4DY. T: 01460 30032 E: cbesley@btinternet.com
TREASURER	Mrs Chloe Besley (details as above)
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TATWORTH COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (TCYC): A club for children 11+ at St. John's Church Hall on Friday in term time 7– 8:30pm.(Last Friday of the month only for now) Contact Daphne Carslake for more information 01460 67945
BABY & TODDLER GROUP—a group for children from 0 to preschool age. Meet in St. John's Church Hall every Friday in term time 10am -12 noon.
BABY & TODDLER CONTACTS—Monica. 221356 , Jan 220499 or Daphne 67945
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COPY FOR THE LINK SHOULD BE SENT TO
Mrs. Monica Mason email Linkmagazine2@gmail.com. Tel. 01460 221356
Please submit copy to the above, or leave in St John's Church, Tatworth in the box provided by the 11th of the month before publication. Open to all at the editor's discretion. Every effort is made to ensure items are correct. Any views expressed are not necessarily those of the PCC or the editor.

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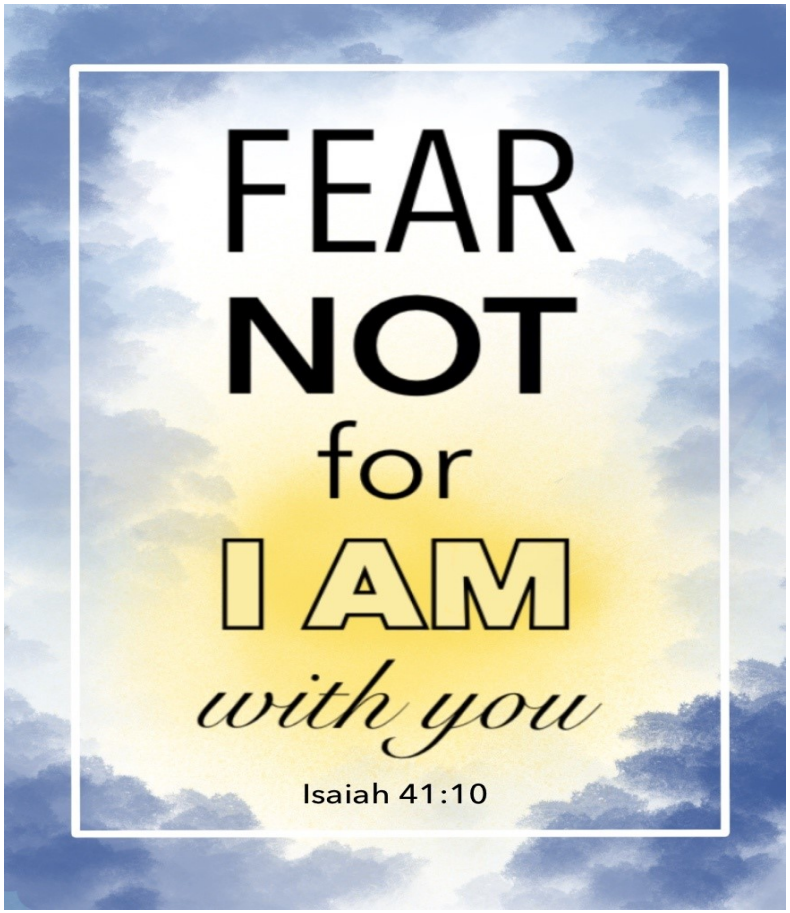

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& St. Mary Magdalene at Cricket Malherbie (TA19 OPW)
(Part of TWO SHIRES BENEFICE)

May 2020
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Chaffcombe, Cricket Malherbie with Knowle St. Giles, Tatworth, Thorncombe and Winsham

Benefice Contact – Please contact Revd. Philip Butcher, 01460 221286

CORONAVIRUS

All forms of public worship in all churches in the Benefice are suspended until further notice. This is as directed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on 17 March 2020.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19)

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EDITORIAL

Due to Coronavirus—Covid19, This edition of The Link will not be printed due to the dangers of delivering paper copies by our hardworking delivery team. But this month will be sent by email and put on the web site
https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11251/
Also on face book with a Link to the website
Many thanks for your understanding.
Thank you all for your continued support of The Link, and many thanks to Ken Johnson for proof-reading The Link for me.
I hope that the content for this month will make interesting reading. If you have any content that you would like to include, please forward the copy to me by 11th May and I will seek to add it to the next edition in June
E: linkmagazine2@gmail.com tel. 01460 221356
Monica Mason

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PASTORAL LETTER from Reverend Philip

Dear Friends

As I write this letter it is impossible to say in what circumstances you may receive it. It is Easter Day now, but you will be receiving this in new ways from early May. We are in very strange and uncertain times. There is no-one that is unaffected by the crisis the world is facing.

But as I sit contemplating the wonder of Easter Day I cannot help but be moved by the parallels with those first disciples staring into the empty tomb. What must they have felt? Perhaps loss, confusion, anger, despair, listless, vulnerable, to name but a few. It may feel familiar to us as we come to terms with a different way of being, and a different way of doing. We are staring into an empty tomb.

Jesus tells Mary to not be afraid. To not hang onto him. These are words of reassurance not because he is departing never to be seen again, but quite the opposite. That in the emptiness there is a new freedom, a new life, a hope filled not with ifs and maybe's, but with assurance. Blessed assurance.

In these times we can be comforted and strengthened knowing that in the loss and emptiness that God is at work. That Jesus is risen. That the Spirit is kicking. If we can use our tears as a lens we will see new life and new joys right here in our midst, maybe expected, more than likely unexpected. Allow yourself to be free of what was before, and wonder about what is to come, and is already here.

With every blessing
Philip

May this be a year
in which we slow down,
pay close attention,
pause, breathe, be still.

May this be a year
in which we reconnect with nature,
use all of our senses
and re-tune our souls to wonder.

May this be a year
in which we are kinder
to the Earth, to each other
and to ourselves.

May this be a year
in which we say no:
no to busyness, no to more stuff,
no to anger and hatred and despair.

May this be a year
in which we say yes:
yes to stargazing, yes to birdsong,
yes to hope and forgiveness and love.

May this be a year
in which our minds are open,
our arms wide,
our hearts full.

Gideon Heugh

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Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

A time to 'Love our neighbours as ourselves'

I wonder - are you someone who gets everything ready long before you need to; jobs done well before time; and someone who is never late for anything? Or are you someone who leaves things to the last minute; works right up to the deadline; and catches the bus or train with moments to spare? Or maybe you are somewhere in the middle?

One of the things that Bishop Ruth and I enjoy doing is writing these articles each month for parish magazines and newsletters. It gives us a chance to keep in touch with people across the diocese and to share the things that are in our hearts and minds as the year unfolds. The only drawback is that we have to write these articles well in advance, so that they reach magazine editors and church administrators in good time. The problem is of course that things may change in all sorts of ways between us writing them and you reading them. I am particularly conscious of that this month, as we are in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. Things are changing very fast and it is hard to know what the next few weeks will bring. That inevitably brings with it a certain degree of uncertainty and some us, especially those who are isolated and cut off, may be feeling anxious for ourselves or for others.

My hope throughout this time of 'lockdown' is that although some of us may have felt physically isolated from each other, that we have not felt socially or spiritually isolated. Indeed, I have been truly amazed and encouraged by all the stories I have heard of people caring for each other, phoning each other and going shopping for those who cannot get out to buy the food they need. At this stage none of us knows quite how and when this virus will eventually be brought under control. However, I do hope that when we get to the stage that restrictions can be safely lifted and we begin to go out and shop as we did before, that things will be different. Many of us have had difficulty buying the food we wanted. Some of us have had to rely on others for our daily needs. We have had to learn new ways to pray and keep in touch with others in our churches and communities. We have had to trust, hope, and look out for our neighbours, especially those who are particularly vulnerable. We have been humbled by the courage and dedication of those who work in the NHS and care homes and all who as 'key workers' have worked tirelessly to look after and provide for us.

Jesus taught us to 'Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind' and 'to love our neighbours as ourselves'. My hope and prayer is that as we emerge from this pandemic that we and our communities may be a more compassionate, more generous, more grateful. And may we all have discovered what it is to know in a deeper way the peace and the presence of God.

May the peace and the joy of the Risen Lord be with you
Bishop Peter

This same Jesus - (Ascension Day Thursday 21st May) By Mary Dewar

As I was reading the Bible passage set for Ascension Day, I couldn't help thinking 'reverse order'! It seems to me that the account of Jesus' return to heaven, to His glory in the heavenly realms, the glory that was His from before the beginning of the world, that account begins in the last few verses of Luke's Gospel and carries on in the reading from the book of Acts with the appearance of the "two men in white robes" whom I've always understood to be angels, telling the disciples of Jesus' return to earth which will be (as our Lord Himself told us) at a time known only to the Father. Then the account finishes in Daniel whose vision (as far as I am able to understand it) shows our Risen Lord, now ascended, "One like a Son of Man" as Daniel describes Him being presented to "the Ancient of Days" whom I assume to be God the Father. Jesus, having accomplished on earth all that He came to do, is taking His rightful place at the Father's side, and being given dominion and glory, and kingship, an everlasting dominion that shall never pass away, and a kingship over both earth and heaven that shall never be destroyed.

This was truly wonderful for Jesus, we can hardly begin to grasp what it must have meant for Him to return to heaven and sit on the throne of glory! His Ascension really is proof that He has indeed conquered every enemy and that He reigns supremely over all as King.

Wonderful as it undoubtedly was for Jesus, I'm not sure it goes any way to helping us understand the mystery that is the Ascension. In many ways it will always remain a mystery, not least because it attempts to put into words that which is beyond words and describe that which is beyond description. It was however, essential that SOMETHING should happen. The appearances of our Risen Lord couldn't just go on, perhaps getting less and less until finally stopping altogether. That would have done great harm to the faith of His disciples and all who believed in Him. Indeed, it might have wrecked their faith completely. There had to come a day when the Jesus they had known and loved on earth returned to His rightful place in heaven. To His disciples Jesus' Ascension was in one respect an ending; the days when their faith in and their dependence on His physical presence were now at an end. Now they were linked to someone whose Resurrected Body was free of time and space, equally at home (as it were) in heaven and on earth, and some day, of course, we too will have a body like this. God will make a new type of material no longer subject to death, out of the old one, Tom Wright, the former Bishop of Durham, tells us in his commentary on Luke's Gospel.

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In Jesus' case, of course, this happened right away, without His original body decaying, so that the new body was actually the transformation of the old one. As for the rest of us, whose bodies will decay and whose bones may well be burnt, it will take a complete act of new creation. But don't worry! If God can create a whole world out of nothing, giving you and me new bodies will be a doddle!

But, back to those first disciples, for them (as I said) the Ascension of Jesus was, in one way an ending, but in another way it was a new beginning. They didn't leave the scene heart-broken, but rejoicing because now they knew that nothing (as St Paul tells us) nothing, absolutely nothing in life or death will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

And just before He took them to the place of His Ascension, Jesus entrusted His followers with the task of taking the Good News of repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations. And he promised them they would be filled with power from God to enable to do their work. Then the Gospel of Luke ends, as it were, where it began; it began in the Temple at Jerusalem with an unbelieving priest and it ends in the Temple at Jerusalem with joyful disciples praising God!

As I wrote earlier, the Ascension is, and always will be, a mystery, but we do at least know in words from one of my favourite hymns that:-

A Man there lives in glory now
Divine, yet human still.
That human, which is all divine
Death sought in vain to kill.
All power is His, supreme he rules
The realms of time and space,
Yet still our human cares and needs
Find in His heart a place.
Amen.

Ascension

O God, we give you thanks that your Son Jesus Christ, who has shared our earthly life, has now ascended to prepare our heavenly life. Grant that, through coming to know Him by faith on earth, we may come to know Him by sight in heaven.

Pentecost

We beseech you, O Lord, to ignite our souls with love, faith and hope by the fire of your Holy Spirit. And may the wind of your Spirit so inspire our minds, that we may proclaim your gospel to others in words which they can understand.

TWO SHIRES BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA MAY 2020

The Archbishops have let us know that all public worship in Church of England churches is suspended indefinitely

There will be no public worship in any church for the time being. For the avoidance of any doubt, that means that there will be no services held in the Benefice until further notice.

READINGS FOR MAY 2020

Date		1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel
May 3rd	4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.42-47	1 Peter 2.19-25	John 10.1-10
May 10th	5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 7.55-60	1 Peter 2.2-10	John 14.1-14
May 17th	6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 17.22-31	1 Peter 3.13-22	John 14.15-21
May 21st	Ascension	Acts 1.1-11	Ephesians 1.15-23	Luke 24.44-53
May 24th	7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1.6-14	1 Peter 4.12-14;5.6-11	John 17.1-11
May 31st	Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21	1 Corinthians 12.3-13	John 20.19-23

SILENT PRAYER (cancelled until further notice)

Dear friends,

In the strangeness and constraints of this present time, the invitation to draw near to God is more important than ever. Our usual activities are limited, our physical space is restricted and social distancing sets us physically apart.

And in all this are opportunities for a new intimacy with the Lord whose love is unchanging, who constantly reaches out to us, and comes to dwell in the inner-most parts of our being.

May you know more of his presence and peace in the quiet moments, alone, or finding a space somewhere in a crowded household.

Here is a prayer, written in the Eleventh Century by Saint Anselm, the Archbishop of Canterbury:

Come now, put aside your busyness for a while, take refuge for a time from your troublesome thoughts: throw away your cares, and let your burdensome worries wait.

Take some time off for God: rest a while in Him.

Enter the secret room of your mind: put out everything except God, and whatever helps you to find him. Close the door of your mind, and seek God.

Say now to God, with all your heart: "I seek your face, Lord. Your face I seek."

blessings,

Revd Judith Abbot

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REMEMBERING VE DAY

I was 15 in May 1945, when Britain celebrated VE Day. It stood for Victory in Europe and followed an agreement by the Allied powers following the German surrender. Needless to say, although the war with Japan was not over, it was a noticeable moment. No more bombs, missiles and blitz – and the 'boys' would come home!

I have two very clear memories of the day itself. The first was the street party which took place in our road on a housing estate in North London. With official permission, the road was closed off, tables were set up, food and drink were served. We spent the afternoon in races and competitions. Dads, mums, teenagers and children then sang the wartime songs, and 'Jerusalem' and 'God save the King'.

The other memory is an image of a sailor kissing a young woman - surrounded by happy laughing people. This iconic photograph was in one of the papers the next day, then on camera newsfeeds and is in just about every journalistic library. Somehow it captures the mood of the day – freedom, warmth, the good things of everyday life.

VE Day did indeed mark a turning point, though not everything was going to be easy in the post-war years. But the hideous shadow of war had gone and 75 years later it has yet to return to these shores, thank God.

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.

By Tim Lenton

(Copyright Parish Pump)

MAY GARDENER

May is a wonderful month with just about everything growing after the long dismal winter and this dreadful lockdown to defeat the evil virus .

OUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH .
With such draconian restrictions by the Govt in April May and probably June, gardening will be one of the best outside activities we can be getting on with ,to keep ourselves sane and without a policeman chasing after us !!
Buy gardening plants and accessories on line where possible or if your local garden centre such as Chard , helpfully delivering with telephone orders only ! No callers
Be prepared to wait some time for on line delivery though as they are all under demand .
(Check scam websites offering too good to be true gardening deals)

We all hate weeding but do it now as it's easy with the ground so wet. It's also a good time to move perennials and shrubs.

Remove faded blooms from spring bulbs, retaining the leaves until they turn yellow to re-energise the bulbs - vital to feed the bulbs for next year! Tulips are ok though and foliage can be cut back.

Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering but **before** the next buds start re -growing. Lightly trim pre-July flowering Clematis woody stems – post July Clematis soft stems from last year need to be cut hard back, as the latter flower on new annual growth starting about now ! Plant new Clematis as deep as you can to avoid clematis wilt and dieback .

Sow-Plant fast-maturing annuals and summer bulbs such as Acidanthera, Zantedishia Ornithogalum and not forgetting colourful Mirabilis flowers with carrot sized and shaped dark tubers (called the four o'clock plant guess why), plant out Dahlia tubers, and prepare hanging basket, keep a close eye out for rogue frosts still possible in very early May .

Kitchen garden jobs to do Plant vegetables out, but check the ground is well prepared –add some lime and rotate the vegetable position from last year to avoid generating pathogens. Use netting cover as pigeons are watching you planting with great glee.! Check slugs in the evenings with gloves .

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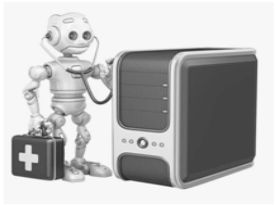

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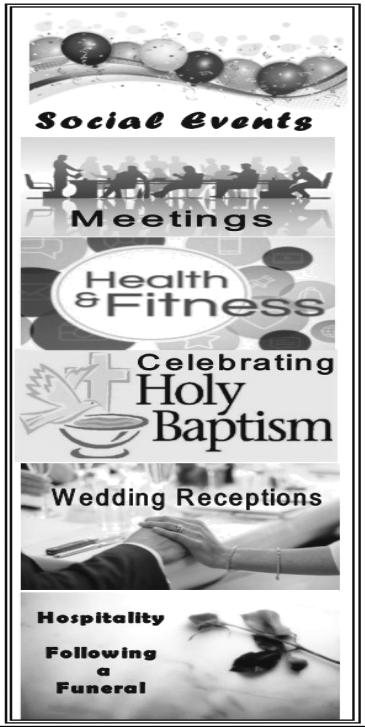

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Cover ground under strawberries to prevent slugs and snails, collar cabbages, cauliflowers and sprouts to prevent very damaging root fly and earth up potatoes. Try and entice enemies of slugs and snails, hedgehogs but whatever you do please **don't use poison slug pellets they kill animals and other members of your garden animal ecosystem so you gain nothing and lose your animal allies and natural beneficial predators. Think organically ,work with nature it will work with you and for you .Yes it will .**

Plant families worth exploring If you have a selection of plants that are growing well in your garden environment it may be worth researching the plant family ending in aceae. Many plants have similar characteristics such as being woody or herbaceous, foliage, fragrance, flowering length, hardiness and soil preference such as acidic or limey and shade or sun position.

Pea family (Leguminaceae or Fabaceae) Good mostly long flowering plants, many with very attractive ornamental foliage, some fragrant, most hardy. Sweet peas, Coronilla, Lupins, Broom, Cytisis, Genista, Wysteria Laburnum, Robinia and of course vegetable peas all belong to this important family

Foxglove Family (Scrophulariaceae or Plantagenaceae) Many woody ornamental and hardy plants. Good flowering with long tubular flowers, attractive to pollinators. Foxgloves, Penstemon, Veronica, Verbascum, Antirrhinum (treat as tender) annuals and moisture loving tender Mimulus, all belong to this family.

Rose family (Rosaceae) Contains a wide range of hardy, ornamental plants many of which are fragrant. Ornamental and fruiting Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry. Many berry shrubs, Cotoneaster (very good for pollinators), Chaenomeles, Pyracantha, Kerria, Spiraea, Sorbaria, Potentilla, Geum as well as, of course, and maybe the best of all, the huge variety of Roses.

Honeysuckle family (Caprifoliaceae)

Again, a wide range of very tough, woody, many hardy, and very fragrant long flowering plants. Viburnum, Abelia, Honeysuckle (shrubs and climbers), Sambucus, Weigela, Leycesteria, Snowberry and many more are all in this family.

Bell flower family (Campanulaceae)

Many long flowering plants which are excellent for summer borders, containers and hanging baskets. Lobelia, Campanula usually beautiful blue colour.

Daisy family (Asteraceae) Rock Rose Helianthemum (Cistaceae)

One of the must haves flowering from Spring through Summer into late Autumn. Many long flowering plants, a mixture of perennials and annuals (some tender so treat as annuals.) **Helianthemums (Cistaceae family)** (rockery perennial), Heliopsis (border perennial), Helianthus (annual and perennial sunflower), Heleniums (sneezewort), Cosmos, Gaillardia, Rudbekia, Aster, Doronicum and some tender annual south African cape daisies (Osteospermum) and not forgetting reliable hardy Erigeron varieties that seem to flower a long time .

Lawn cutting ,raise blades for starters ,don't mow when wet ,or risk poor results after the long winter
Have a truly wonderful May to forget our very trying restricted lifestyle .Get the youngsters out doing some useful jobs too as my enlarged family of grandchildren have got gardening added on to their home class work !! Any thing to do with me I wonder .
Dare I say the weather is promising in the uk .!!
Any garden *science* queries contact me
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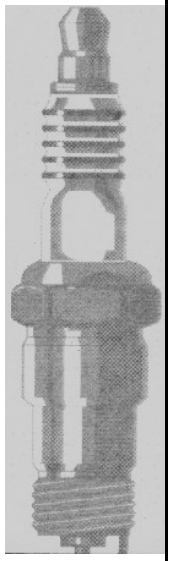

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TATWORTH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.
2020 EVENTS

In the light of the uncertainties surrounding the Coronavirus epidemic it was considered prudent to cancel the following events:

Summer trips:

Tuesday 12th May 2020 - The Garden House, Buckland Monochoram, Yelverton.

Monday 22nd June 2020 - RHS Gardens, Rosemoor, Great Torrington.

Friday 17th July 2020 - The National Trust Property at Kingston Lacy, Near Wimborne.

Thursday 10th September 2020 - Castle Gardens, Sherborne.

Also, cancelled is the 60th Annual Open Show of the Society Saturday 22nd August 2020 opening at 14.30 (02.30pm) in Tatworth Memorial Hall, TA20 2QA.

The next scheduled event will be the monthly evening meeting **on Thursday 8th October at 19.30** in Tatworth Memorial Hall, TA20 2QA featuring Michael Jordan on the subject of 'Plants - Lore and Legend'.

We would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming a member of the Society's Committee.

Contact number for any of the above: 01460 / 220221

May I end with a prayer that hung in my bedroom when I was a young lad:

Let us learn from yesterday the things to do today
To give a smile instead of a frown
To lend a hand when one is down
Gentleness will make us great
Love is stronger far than hate
God will open every gate - if we will trust His leading.

Anon.

Keep safe - Ken Johnson.

THE PRAYER AND CARE GROUP—cancelled until further notice
Poem from Tearfund Prayer Diary, by Scotland Director:

"Between Friday and Sunday is Saturday.
Between Death and Resurrection is mourning,
Between uncertainty and certainty is Faith,
Between pain and celebration is Hope,
Between loneliness and community is Love."

Blessings
Rev. Terri Boyland x

The following organisations have cancelled their meetings until further notice-
Bible Study
Kents Fellowship
Tatworth Good Companions
T & F Movies
Tatworth Flower Club

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8th APRIL: SOUTH WEST DEER RESCUE
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31st MAY: OTTER NURSERIES
£10. Ilminster Market Square 10.05/15.25; Chard G'hall 10.20/15.10; Tatworth Perry St Club 10.30/15.00; Otter Nurseries 11.00/14.30

2nd AUGUST: SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL
Adult £11; child under 12 £8: Ilminster Mkt Sq 09.30/18.30, Chard Guidhall 09.45/18.15, Alpine Grove 09.55/18.05, Tatworth Perry St Club 10.05/17.55, Sidmouth Sea Front 11.00/17.00

16th AUGUST: LYME REGIS
£9 adult; £6 child under 12: Ilminster Mkt Sq (10.15/18.05), Chard Guildhall (10.30/17.50), Alpine Grove (10.40/17.40, Tatworth Perry Street Club (10.50/17.30), Lyme (11.20/17.00)

28th OCTOBER: MIDWEEK ROAST AT THE HARE AND HOUNDS HONITON
£20 roast and return travel. Ilminster Sq 11.00/15.10, Chard Guildhall 11.15/14.55; Tatworth Perry Street Club 11.25/14.35; Hare and Hounds 12.00/14.00.

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Seasons of the Soul

Seasons of the Soul~ Lord~ Seasons of the year
Spring ~ Summer ~ Autumn - Winter
Sounds simple ~ neat~ well ordered
In a perfect world I know it would be
But our World's not perfect Lord ~ not yet
Sometimes seasons get a bit mixed up
Season of the souls ~ Lord ~ Seasons of the year

Seasons of the Soul ~Lord ~ Seasons of the year
Spring and winter on one week ~ Lord ~
Sometimes in my heart ~ or even in one day~
In nature too this happens ~ yet it comes right in the end
Because you've said that's how it is to be
And in your word, we can trust
Seasons of the Soul~ Lord~ Seasons of the year

Seasons of the Soul~ Lord~ Seasons of the year
Sometimes it's hard to trust ~ Lord ~
in the darkness of my thoughts
"This too will pass" I seem to hear you say
"Spring will come again into your heart - into my world
Trust me ~ I love you ~ All will be well"
Seasons of the Soul ~ Lord ~ Seasons of the year

Mary Dewar

TWO STORIES OF HEROISM

…which may help us in these anxious times.

Eyam Derbyshire, Plague Village

On 7th September 1665 a tailor's assistant, who had arrived in the village to make clothes for some of the villagers for Wakes Week (a religious festival), received a bale of damp cloth from London. It was found to contain fleas which in those days were common to all classes and conditions of people

Within a few days, the tailor had died. He showed all the symptoms of the dreaded Plague. Between September and December 1665 42 of the villagers died.

Little was known then how diseases spread. In fact, the Plague was carried by the fleas and spread by them in their bite.

At this stage, the vicar, the Rev William Mompesson, intervened. He believed that the Plague must not be passed to the nearby towns of Sheffield and Bakewell and he then decided that the only thing that could be done was for all the villagers to agree to stay within the village.

He had a doubly difficult task for two reasons. Not only was it going to be difficult to persuade the people to take this course of action but for a second, and more political one. The majority of the villagers were Puritans, having been followers of Oliver Cromwell, whereas Mompesson was clearly a Royalist, having subscribed to the new King's (Charles II) Act of Uniformity and the Book of Common Prayer. However, he was able to overcome this problem with the help of the previous rector Thomas Stanley.

So began the more difficult job of persuading the villagers to stand fast. He promised to stand with them whatever happened and to help them as much as he could. The Duke of Devonshire, who lived at nearby Chatsworth House, promised to supply food. Bowls of vinegar were in place for payment for the food. The villagers agreed to Mompesson's appeal and as far as we know, remained steadfast throughout the whole critical period.

The plague raged on. The Rev Mompesson continued to hold services in the open air. People came, family by family, each family distancing itself from the others.

During this dreadful time a farmer's wife had to bury her six children as, one by one they died. She had to drag each child to a field, dig their graves and bury them.

The storm of pestilence reached its peak in August 1666 and then gradually died away. On 1st November 1666 Abraham Morton a farm worker died., He was one of 18 Morton's listed in the Parish Register to do so and also the last of the 262 folk to give their life so heroically. It is not known the total number of inhabitants of the village.

Cont. …..

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Dunkirk and the Little Ships

The Second World War began on 3rd September 1939 The British Expeditionary Force began moving into France on 4th September. Most of the first few months, during the so called "phony" war was spent in digging trenches along the French- Belgium border.

On the 10th May 1940 – 80 years ago this month –the Germans launched their *blitzkrieg,* a massed lightning, involving heavy armour, bombers - including the dreaded Stuka dive-bomber- and mechanized infantry. British forces had been starved of new equipment due to government cuts between the wars and only possessed light and medium tanks.

The Germans thrust through Holland, beating down the 42 aircraft of the Dutch Royal Air Force. At speed they thrust through Belgium and faced the Belgian Army which was on the British left flank. They fought bravely but were heavily outnumbered and King Leopold had no option but to order their surrender. Faced with being outflanked the B.E.F. was forced to retreat.

The retreat continued until it became clear that the Allies could no longer hold the German Army. The order came through to fall back to the port of Dunkirk and hope for evacuation.

In Britain Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsey, in command at Dover, realized that as many vessels as possible were needed to evacuate the troops. He ordered Naval officers and men to scour the ports between the Thames and Bristol Channel. This was done and owners of suitable boats were ordered to take them to Ramsgate and await further orders.

Thus, began what became known as Operation Dynamo. Vessels ranging from holiday resort paddle steamers down to cabin cruisers manned by their weekend sailing owners. 19 vessels of the R.N.L.I took part. Some of these were used on the other side to ferry troops from the beaches to larger vessels offshore. Others made the return trip several times. Some, sadly, were sunk and their owners lost. The troops were tired and extremely hungry, having had no food for several days.

Here Hitler made a great mistake. Instead of sending his tanks onto the beaches where they would have wreaked a dreadful havoc, he held them back fearing that they would incur considerable losses.
So, this great armada was able to rescue over 336,000 men British, French, Belgian and other nationalities between 26th May and 4th June Winston Churchill called the operation "a miracle of deliverance" and shortly afterwards gave to the nation his famous "we will fight them on the beaches…." speech.
And now the nation waited anxiously for Germany's next move.

Cont…….

But of course……..

There are a third set of heroes today: Her Majesty the Queen talked of these and we know who they are. I would just like to mention the more than half a million volunteers who have offered whatever service they can perform to help overcome the frightening scourge affecting our nation

Remember:
He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster
Let him in constancy follow the Master.

John Cotton

TATWORTH W.I.

From Sue Cheese, WI President

By the time you read this we will have been in 'Lock Down' for some time. Like all other organisations the WI has cancelled meetings, and events both locally, county wide and nationally.

However please spare a thought for all those who live alone, it can be difficult. So far we have been telephoning each other and for those on the internet our Secretary is keeping us laughing with amusing videos.
Looking through my bookshelves, (I have a rather large collection of Books), I came across 'The 3781SSOdWI Quiz Book' compiled by Ian Messiter. It describes itself as a collection of the improbable, the unlikely and the downright bizarre. It was published in 1980 but please don't groan.

Below find some of the questions, the answers to which I will give next month, or if you can't wait, do contact me.

1. Within a mile, how far can the average 'lead' pencil draw before it is all used?
2. Hints: A Mile; five miles,; ten miles; more?
3. Why is the shelf over the fireplace often called the mantelpiece, or mantelshelf?
4. What creature is instrumental in pollinating the aspidistra?
5. What is the real title of Daniel Defoe's novel usually called Robinson Crusoe?
6. How much gold is there in a cubic mile of average sea water?
7.

If you have enjoyed these questions, there will be more next month.

If you feel fed up, bored, depressed and lonely please call me for a chat as I'd love to hear from you.

Sue Cheese your president

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Reflections from Jane Grant Tatworth WI

What I thought would be twelve weeks of sheer torment has actually started out quite well.

First of all I am enjoying the quietness, it is like a thick comforting blanket gently placed around my shoulders. I can hear the birds singing in the helicopter free sky and I can certainly hear the grass growing!

I am also feeling LOVE. So many people telephone each day with offers of help with shopping or collecting prescriptions or just for a chat. I am not at all depressed, in fact I am surprisingly calm. So calm that, apart from gardening, I am doing nothing.

All those jobs I was going to do when I had time are still lying there waiting for me.
However lots of books have been read and old films watched and of course there are Rosemary`s wonderful daily news bulletins, jokes and cartoons. My favourite is the "The Animal Sing Song".

Finally a huge debt of gratitude to all our front line workers who are helping keep us safe, including my wonderful and much loved family.

2020: WHO's YEAR OF THE NURSE

When the WHO (World Health Organisation) decided to make 2020 the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, they based it on the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth on 12th May 1820.

But with the arrival of the coronavirus, it is a remarkably apt year to celebrate all that nurses do for us.

As the ICN (International Council of Nurses) says: "All around the world, nurses are working tirelessly to provide the care and attention people need, whenever and wherever they need it. Nurses are central to the delivery of health care; nurses are making an invaluable contribution to the health of people globally."

Nursing as a vocation goes back to the Early Church. When plague struck the Roman world in the third century, it was Christians who tended the sick and dying, often at great personal cost. Their self-sacrifice made a huge impression on Roman society. Centuries later, in medieval Europe, it was the monastic orders that provided health care. Cont. ……..

Still centuries later, during the Crimean War (1853-56) Florence Nightingale saved thousands of lives when she transformed the field hospitals, hugely improving the standards of care for wounded and dying soldiers.

In fact, Florence Nightingale deserves the credit for establishing the modern profession of nursing and its structures of training. Although of course medical science has advanced since her time, the basic ethos of nursing care remains today close to Nightingale's vision.

Nursing is frequently described as a vocation, and it is one to which many Christians are called. Nightingale wrote of being 'called' by God, after having had a vivid religious conversion as a teenager. Writing in February 1837, she stated: "God has spoken to me and called me to His Service."

Four years before going to Crimea, she studied at a Lutheran religious community in Germany which trained deaconesses in medical skills, nursing, and theology. Many of the ideas that Nightingale adopted for her nurses came from that religious community.

Thus, Nightingale's training programme was not solely devoted to secular medical sciences. Her student nurses were required to attend chapel, and her nurses read prayers on the wards.

Nightingale wrote many letters of spiritual encouragement to her students. To one, she wrote that Christ considered it an "honour to serve the poorest and the meanest… He will not give His crown except to those who have borne His cross… Enduring hardship is what He encourages and rewards."

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally trained and worked as a nurse before being appointed to senior positions in the Health Service. She was Chief Nursing Officer for England between 1999 to 2004.

She says: "I became a Christian as a teenager and wanted to follow Christ with my whole life. Rather than having two careers, I have had one vocation: to follow Jesus Christ, to know Him, and to make Him known."

Certainly, of all the professions, nursing has one of the strongest claims to being rooted in the Gospel. Christian nurses implicitly witness to Christ in caring for others.

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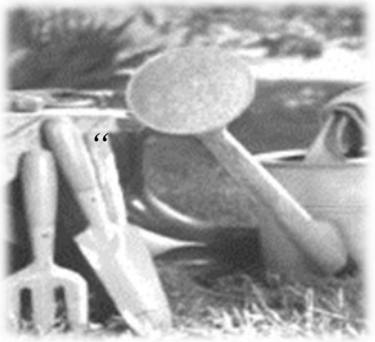
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Wordsearch

This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Ascension
Blessed
Taken
Jerusalem
Wait

Prayer
Power
One
Room
Disciples

Tongues
Flame
Joy
Praise

Confusion
Languages
Earth
Peter
Holy

Spirit
Trinity
Father
Son
triune

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

REFLECTION ON THE PAST

My mother, centre, with her mother and sister.

We hear such dreadful stories day by day of loved ones taken from families, I am reminded of my mum's story by this 'plague' which we now endure.

Gladys Lucy was born in 1910 and when she was six years old her father was conscripted into the army for service in WW1. She was then in a household of her mother, Matilda, Grandmother Sarah and older sister Tilly.

Her father was injured during the conflict and was eventually discharged in 1919. Alas, sister Tilly contracted the 'flu and died in 1918 (while he was still recuperating in hospital) leaving the family heartbroken.
Matilda's grief was inconsolable. Every few days she would go to her daughter's grave in the huge cemetery in the East End of London and eventually caught the infection too. She died less than a year later.

My poor mother's grief went unseen and uncared for because of the mental condition of her father, who by now was home, requiring dressings on his legs every day, but also trying to pick up the pieces of his trade as a painter and decorator. He could not reconcile the years of service to his God and country with the loss of his precious wife and daughter, and my mother's needs were sadly neglected.

My mother never lost the faith she had been brought up with, even though her father could not forgive God for his bereavement, and she always turned to Him in times of trouble and of joy. It was our great delight that we were both confirmed into the faith together, here at St John's on 22nd February 1959 and worshipped together until her death at 91.
Of course, my mother eventually came to terms with the loss of her sister and mother at a very young age. With the love of a good man, my dear Pop, she enjoyed a happy life.

Perhaps we can give thought to those who have lost loved ones in this present pandemic, especially the children; not only in this country, but throughout the world and pray that they find comfort and peace, and some day, have joy in their hearts once more.

Daphne Carslake

CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.

NHS

April Easy Sudoku Solution

8	7	4	6	9	5	3	2	1
1	9	6	2	4	3	8	7	5
2	3	5	8	7	1	4	6	9
4	5	8	1	6	2	9	3	7
7	6	1	9	3	8	2	5	4
3	2	9	7	5	4	6	1	8
9	1	3	5	8	6	7	4	2
5	4	7	3	2	9	1	8	6
6	8	2	4	1	7	5	9	3

April Word Search Solution

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

CHAFFCOMBE NEWS

CHAFFCOMBE VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNINGS

Corona Virus - Somerset Wildlife Trust has cancelled the May 6th Bluebell walk in Chaffcombe Park Woods.

After careful consideration the Volunteers, who run the coffee mornings, have agreed to the cancellation of the May 6th Chaffcombe Coffee Morning.

Let's hope normal life will resume as soon as possible, in which case the coffee mornings will start again in Oct, as they always do, after a long summer break.

Dear Friends

Thank you for all your kind thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery from our present ailments.

Brian is making good but slow progress after his recent operation and I am being well looked after by our brilliant NHS doctors and nurses.

I am sending best wishes to you all and stay safe

Maggie & Brian (Griffiths)

ST MARY MAGDALENE, CRICKET MALHERBIE

June 13th Dog Training Demonstrations, Open Gardens & Cream Teas **NOW CANCELLED**

July 18th 6pm BBQ & Quiz

September 20th 11-15am Harvest Service & lunch

Sponsored walk, September Singers Concert, Cherry Blossom Walk Dates to be confirmed.

We all send our best wishes to all our friends in the Benefice, hoping everyone is staying safe and know that you are all being held in our thoughts and prayers at this time

For further details contact Audrey 01460 52783 or Jane 01460 52929

ON HOW TO RUN YOUR NOTICE BOARD

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to place a notice board outside your church seems a good one – and its design in blue plastic with luminous red detachable letters seems entirely in keeping with the aesthetics of your building. Make sure that it is lockable, however, as an innocent notice saying 'all are welcome' may be modified by a devotee of anagrams to say something far less polite by the following day.

We recently replaced ours, which had disappeared shortly before last bonfire night. That the Scouts' bonfire had a board which closely resembled our old one in its centre was, I am sure, a complete coincidence. The Venture Scouts' collective smirk during the following week's Parade Service did give one pause for thought, and the Cubs' collapse into helpless laughter at the chorus 'So light up the fire and let the flames burn' only increased suspicion.

On reflection, you may not have been wise to use your notice board to tell everyone your holiday dates. Certainly, various local burglars were tripping over each other inside the vicarage while you were away. However, the note the last one left you, saying that next time he broke in, he would bring *you* something, since you had so little left, was quite touching.

Inevitably, now that your church has a notice board, there will be open warfare over who is allowed to display notices on it. Will the Slimmer's Club be seen as biblical? Why is the Ladies Guild notice twice as large as all the others? And do remember that while everyone will want space to display their notices, no one will ever remove them once the event is over. Plaintive announcements of Christmas parties in April or of Summer Fetes in November only serve to take people down memory lane.

Here's the best way to manage a notice board: create that panacea for all problems: a sub-committee. These poor people only ever exist in order to get the clergy out of tight corners and to make sure that matters are discussed at such inordinate length that every issue eventually dies a natural death. And if even that fails, you could have a quiet word with our Scouts before next year's bonfire night.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Updated guidance for Christian Aid Week (10 – 16 May)

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, the CEO of Christian Aid, has written to all of those involved in helping with Christian Aid Week this month:

"Many of you will have been planning house-to-house collections and events. Under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections and delivery-only collections should not go ahead. In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies or Lent lunches, where food is shared, cannot go ahead.

"We are working on alternative plans that will allow people to take part in Christian Aid Week in different, creative ways – by post, by text and online that strengthen our communities during this challenging time. Christian Aid Week is our single-most important fundraiser, so we would welcome your ideas on how we can creatively show love for our neighbours at home and abroad, as a community."

As for the work of Christian Aid around the world, "Christian Aid and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and we will build on this experience. People in poorer countries are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps. They also do not have good healthcare infrastructures. We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19.

More at: https://www.christianaid.org.uk

Caring for the sick

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

New Mental Health Reflections published by the Church of England

A series of reflections on how to cope with anxiety and loneliness in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, including simple Christian meditation techniques and five tips, have been published by the Church of England.

A number of actions that could help people feeling isolated or worried, as well as those who grieve, are put forward in a new guide *Supporting Good Mental Health* and written by Durham University academic Revd Professor Chris Cook with Ruth Rice Director of the Christian mental health charity 'Renew Wellbeing'.

The booklet gives advice ranging from putting aside time to rest and eating and sleeping well, to using the phone and the internet to reach those who may be struggling on their own. Making a list of all the good things – and people – that you miss when you are on your own and thanking God for them, can be a way of helping cope with loneliness, the guide says.

Simple prayers can be said repeatedly as a means of helping to deal with stress, the booklet says, and lighting a candle, where safe, can be a helpful form of prayer for some people. Quotations from the Bible can be a useful aide to meditation and calming fears, including writing down and repeating short passages, it suggests.

A phrase such as Psalm 18:1 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer' could be chosen for each week and used as background for a mobile phone as a 'go to' thought when someone is anxious.

It also suggests repeating a simple phrase from the Psalms such as Psalm 4:8 'I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety," to help calm the mind before sleeping.

The Rt Revd James Newcome, Bishop of Carlisle and the Church of England's lead bishop on health and social care, said: "I welcome publication of these further resources.

"For some time now the issues of loneliness and isolation have been identified as major problems within our society. The coronavirus pandemic will only create further challenges in this respect. So it is vital that we do all we can as a church to protect people's mental wellbeing.

"The reflections are beautifully presented and scripturally based, with the 'Have A Go' sections intentionally focussing on how people should be kind to themselves. That is so important at this time. My prayer is that as many people as possible are able to draw upon these new resources over the coming weeks and months."

A PRINTABLE COPY CAN BE DOWN LOADED BY USING THIS LINK

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/10961%E2%80%A2Mental%20Health%20Reflections_WEB.pdf

The effects of mental health problems are huge. Nearly nine out of ten people with mental health problems have been affected by stigma and discrimination. Given the challenging times we are living in with coronavirus, the reflections in this booklet were updated and new resources written in March 2020. They seek to provide hope, reassurance and comfort.

Extracts of REFLECTIONS FROM the booklet " Supporting Good Mental Health

1. **Day one ISOLATION -** JOHN 16:32
2. **Day two LONLINESs -** PSALM 25:16-18
3. **Day three GOD IN OUR STRUGGLES** - GENESIS 32:24
4. **Day four How are You ? - 1 SAMUEL 1:9-17**
5. **Day five Time well Spent - LUKE 10:38-42**
6. **Day six Switching Focus - LUKE 10:38-42**
7. **Day seven Hearing voices - MATTHEW 3:16-4:3**
8. **Day eight Eat, Rest, Sleep - 1 KINGS 19: 3-4**
9. **Day nine Blessed are those who mourn - MATTHEW 5:4**
10. **Day ten Worry - PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7**
11. **Day eleven The Divided Self - ROMANS 7:15-25**
12. **Day twelve Forgiveness - MATTHEW 6:12-15**
13. **Day thirteen Love - MATTHEW 22:37-39**

BE OUR HOPE

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through Him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.