

CROSS TALK – the Benefice Magazine

A message from Susanne

3rd May

Dear Friends,



Last week – birthday on Thursday, retirement on Friday – all in lockdown, but yet it was still a celebration (though not as had been planned). Just to say an enormous Thank You to you all for all the cards, good wishes, phone calls, flowers, gifts, the Afternoon Tea that just appeared on the doorstep, the children who came with a socially distanced piñata – but most of all for your prayers at this time.

I hope you have had chance to see my Farewell Letter last week. If you haven't, you can find it on the A Church near You website, or by contacting Richard Byas for a copy.

I am now beginning the packing (well, to be honest, I'm actually just standing in the middle of the study not quite knowing where to begin). I know that I will get moved in due course, I've just no idea when.

I will miss you all. You have been my friends and companions on the way for the last six years, and you are very precious to me.

Do all you can to protect yourselves and your loved ones. Keep strong in faith, in hope, in love. This current situation *will* come to an end and we will be able to be more 'together' in due course (see Anne Lewin's poem, below).

In the meantime, God's richest blessing on *you*.

With my love, and thanks,

Susanne

What are you missing?

A Hug

How good it is being held,
not clutched, exploited or possessed,
but held, delighted in,
strength flowing each to each,
rejoicing in each other's company.

Anne Lewin

A Celtic Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you
The wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warmly on your faces,
And the rains fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

*During the time that there isn't a Vicar in residence, please contact
the Area Dean (and Vicar of Northallerton)*

**The Rev'd Fiona Mayer-Jones,
on 07450 402953 or revdfmj@gmail.com**

for anything to do with Services (baptisms, wedding or funerals, Sunday Services) or legal matters.

For matters local to each church, please contact

Topcliffe	Linda Carver	01845 578014
Baldersby St James	Norman Wharton	01845 577946
Dalton	Terry Thorpe	01845 595142
Skipton on Swale	Pauline Wise	01845 567320

**As you are no doubt aware, all our churches are closed and all activities have ceased for the time being.
For the implications of this, please read on through the following pages.**

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals – and the Parish Registers

*During the time that there isn't a Vicar in residence, please contact the Area Dean,
The Rev'd Fiona Mayer-Jones,
on 07450 402953 or revdfmj@gmail.com
for anything to do with Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.*

All Baptisms and Weddings Services are currently suspended during the Lockdown and until further notice.

Funeral Services can take place at either the graveside or the crematorium.

At the graveside, those attending are limited to immediate family (ie spouse/partner, children, parents) or closest friends if there is no family, and those over 70 or with an underlying illness are asked to consider seriously their vulnerability; everyone is asked to observe social distancing.

At the Crematoria, there are different regulations for each establishment, and clergy and Funeral Directors will be able to advise on the current situation for each particular crematorium.

There is always the invitation to consider the possibility of a Memorial Service/Service of Thanksgiving in Church at a later date when things have returned to normal.

The Burial of Ashes will resume at a later date.

No Baptisms or Weddings

Funerals

6th April	Harrogate Crematorium	Mary Eleanor THOMAS	aged 91
7th April	Harrogate Crematorium	Irene BRIAN	aged 82
16th April	Dishforth Cemetery	Geoffrey Herbert NORFOLK	aged 87

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Worship during the Coronavirus lockdown

Churches:

Topcliffe – St Columba’s Church, Church Street, Topcliffe YO7 3PA

BSJ – St James’ Church, Wide Howe Lane, Baldersby St James YO7 4PU

Rainton – Mission Room, Sleights Lane, Rainton YO7 3PH

Dalton – St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton YO7 3JA (follow signs to Sessay)

Skipton – St John’s Church, just off the A61 by the post-box, Skipton-on-Swale (Skipton Bridge) YO7 4SB

Baldersby Mission Room – adjacent to Rose Villa, Baldersby Garth, near the green YO7 4PP

**As stated previously, until further notice there are
no Services (or any other activities) in churches
during the current pandemic.**

However, please do join us for Morning and Night Prayers – Together Alone

Though we are apart, we can still pray together.

How about:

Morning Prayer between 7.00am and 9.00am

Night Prayer between 7.00pm and 9.00pm

and on Sunday, Morning Prayer with the Readings for the day at 10.00am

For an Order of Service for Morning and Night Prayers, please follow this link

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/midweek_worship_at_home_0.pdf

or, if you would like a version formatted for a booklet, see the A Church Near You website for one of our churches, and go to Services and Events – Together Alone. Run off this document one page at a time and back it with the next page. Here is the link:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3447/service-and-events/events-regular/>

The Weekly Pew Sheet

During the lockdown, we have started to produce a weekly Pew Sheet that includes readings for the coming Sunday, a Reflection, and various other items of interest or amusement (poems, recommendations for ‘a good read’, recipes, photos, suggestions for what to do in the current situation). This is produced by Richard Byas, for distribution by email on a Thursday. It is also published on the A Church Near You website for each church.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far – please, do keep your contributions coming.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a copy but doesn’t have internet access, could you run off a copy and pop it in the post for them, or put it through their door? If not, please let Richard have details and he will post one to them.

Richard@sandhillvet.co.uk or 07801 721528

Sunday Readings for May

3 rd	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	John 10:1-10
10 th	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5	John 14:1-14
17 th	Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:7-18	John 14:15-21
[21 st	Ascension Day (Thursday)	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Luke 24:44-53]
24 th	Sunday after the Ascension	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10	John 17:1-11
31 st	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	John 20:19-23

The Collects for May

<p>Easter 4 Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.</p>	<p>Easter 5 Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.</p>	<p>Easter 6 Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the _ .</p>
<p>Ascension Day Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.</p>	<p>Easter 7 Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.</p>	<p>Pentecost Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

These had been scheduled to happen in March/April. In view of the current situation, the Archbishop has extended the deadline for them to the end of October. Obviously this date will also be subject to review in the coming months.

From the Schools

Our local schools have some very fine music-making going on in them, and to hear the children singing is a great joy. At the end of the school year, the following song is often sung – and it brings tears to the eyes. It's appropriate for what's going on at the moment, too. Perhaps you'd like to make it your prayer.

May your life in this world be a happy one

Chorus:

May your life in this world be a happy one,
May the sun be warm and may the skies be blue
May each storm that comes your way clear the air for a brighter day,
May the saints and Saviour watch over you.

As you make your way through this old world of ours,
As you see the beauty of the morning dew,
As you smell the summer flowers, as you pass away the hours,
May the saints and Saviour watch over you.

Chorus

As you spend your time with your friends and family,
As you see the warmth and love they have for you,
As you see the wars and hate that others radiate,
May the saints and saviour watch over you.

Chorus

Our thanks go to all our teaching and support staff who are doing so much to embrace new technology and produce work that can be accessed on-line.

Our prayers and thoughts go to parents too, with the trials and tribulations of trying to ensure home-learning takes place.

Christian Aid Week 2020 10th – 16th May



Dignity. Equality. Justice. Love.

188a Woodhouse Lane,
Leeds, LS2 9DX United Kingdom

Please see the article below for an update on this year's campaign.

Building a vibrant virtual Christian Aid Week

In the space of just a few months, the coronavirus pandemic has caused a seismic shift in society.

The outbreak has affected all spheres of life. It has brought suffering and uncertainty for so many, both here and overseas, taking centre stage in thoughts, conversations and prayers.

As individuals, families, communities and organisations, the crisis continues to have a significant impact on how we go about our daily business. We have all had to adapt to new ways of living.

In these challenging times many churches have already made bold steps, streaming services online and harnessing technology and social media to reach out to communities.

In the same way, Christian Aid has also been thinking creatively how best to ensure it can continue standing together with the most vulnerable and marginalised people during this time of global crisis. This is particularly important as Christian Aid Week 2020 approaches.

Each year, Christian Aid Week brings together tens of thousands of committed volunteers across Britain and Ireland to raise funds millions in support of people living in poverty, injustice and inequality across the world.

Now, more so than ever, Christian Aid Week provides an important opportunity to celebrate and share the life-saving work that brings hope to people the world over.

In 2019 Christian Aid Week raised over £7.5m through a combination of church collections, house-to-house, supporter-led fundraising and events such as Big Brekkies.

This year, many Christian Aid supporters will have already dedicated a significant amount of their time and energy planning these initiatives.

Not surprisingly, the Covid-19 situation has meant that much of this usual fundraising cannot go ahead for Christian Aid Week 2020 (10-16 May). Christian Aid values its volunteers enormously and wants to ensure people's safety when fundraising.

With this in mind, the charity is building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week to help people in Britain and Ireland show love for neighbours near and far, as a global family, in these challenging times.

Christian Aid has developed a suite of creative new ideas, guides and resources, to inspire people to fundraise and connect with their community, creatively and virtually, while respecting social distancing measures.

The resources include guides to help people run their own virtual event or fundraiser, organise a virtual quiz evening, and even hold a virtual church service using a range of specially prepared worship resources.

Individuals will be able to sign up for unique events during Christian Aid Week itself from 10-16 May, such as a daily quiz and live stream worship events. Christian Aid will also be offering an 'e-envelope', offering a digital way for people to share the Christian Aid Week story with family and friends, and ask for a donation.

In this way Christian Aid hopes that its dedicated supporters will be able to continue their support, prayer, engagement and fundraising.

Christian Aid Week programme manager Sophie Brightwell said: *"In recent weeks, we have been overwhelmed by the messages of solidarity we've received for our sisters and brothers overseas, and also by messages of support from our fundraising community, looking for guidance on how they can support us this Christian Aid Week.*

"I very much hope that you feel empowered and supported to join us in celebration of Christian Aid Week this year, and that some of the virtual ideas on offer can strengthen individuals and communities as we pray for all those affected by this new virus.

"Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. Its during crises like Covid-19 that the vulnerabilities of those living in extreme poverty are even more evident. This Christian Aid Week we can fight against Coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty."

Christian Aid is inviting people to unite in prayer at this time: a collection of [prayers](#) for the current coronavirus situation are available online. These include: prayers of thanksgiving and intercession; a prayer for times of isolation; a prayer for medical workers everywhere; a prayer for the global pandemic; a prayer for the church.

Please keep an eye on caweek.org/virtualresources for up-to-the minute information and resources as they launch.

Christian Aid prayers are online: christianaid.org.uk/pray/churches/coronavirus-prayers