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The Spire *The Parish Magazine of* **CHRIST CHURCH** *Southgate*

July & August 2020

Including Prayers for Returning to Church

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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate



Welcome to the July/August edition of *The Spire* magazine. This is usually the issue that sends everyone off on their holidays by celebrating all the excitement of the May Fair and all our summer activities that have earned everyone a well-earned break. I've looked back at what I wrote this time last year, which was also announcing the forthcoming planning for the VE 75 celebration. Last year was a different world – everything has changed since then.

We have now started taking tentative steps to returning to normality – at the time of writing we are still on track to reopen for services under controlled conditions on the date of publication of this issue – so we all have to take what we have learnt during lockdown and work out what the new world will look like. This will need to be at a global, national, parish, family and personal level.

Within the church we are coming to the end of the longest period of forced closure of church buildings and the banning of services since, according to the Church Times, Pope Innocent III banned all services in England from March 1208

to March 1213 under the rule of King John. We have to use such a long time apart, while unable to worship, to make sure we don't just immediately go back to exactly how things were in the old world. The new world will be so different, and we must make sure that we will serve Christ by serving each other and the community. There is so much to do. The *Church Times* issue of the 26th June published the preliminary results of its lockdown survey of Church of England members. It found that 48% of Christians felt more prayerful, 61% felt more neighbourly and 57% felt more thankful. This was balanced out by 44% feeling more fatigued and 38% more anxious. There is much more analysis to come but even these headline figures show that prayer and service of others is not simply surviving but growing. I hope that the on-line and written resources we have been producing (including this magazine) have helped you all with your personal prayer life. I'm sure there has been much more prayer taking place in homes all over the parish and the country – a great piece of "learning" – and when people pray, God listens. Keep it up even when the Sunday service pattern is back!

The big increase in feelings of neighbourliness also needs to continue in the new world. All the churches across the land have received a sudden jolt of reality by the age-related restrictions imposed as part of lockdown. Being told by Government that the large pools of highly-valued, active and enthusiastic volunteers, that are the mainstay of the parish outreach work, must be actively encouraged to stay at home as they are “too old” is a very difficult message to hear. However the government guidelines pan out in the short and long term, there is no doubt that as we go forward to play our part in the community on the new wave God’s purposes for us, borne on the new found emphasis on prayer, we do need to harness a new generation of volunteers to help us shape the role of the church in this parish in the new world. There are going to be real community challenges as the full effects of the pandemic on the financial, physical and mental health of everyone emerge. I fear recovery will be slow, with many unexpected twists and turns along the way, and we need to be there for everyone, offering the love of Christ. So please, if you can, please seize this exceptional God-given opportunity we have been granted to develop what we can do. Get in touch with me and get involved with creating a new way for the future.

have been sent it as part of our lockdown mailout, I hope you have enjoyed it. Very early on I decided that, as an inclusive church, we needed to make sure what we did during closure was as accessible to as many as possible. I know the online services and the other material on the website and on our YouTube channel have been of use and brought comfort to many. But these are not universally available to all, unlike a physical magazine in the post. What I’m trying to say, nicely, is that this will be the last edition universally mailed out. However, in this edition there is a form to sign up for a postal subscription if you don’t want to go back to picking one up at the back of church each month.

It has been very odd being together but apart, certainly nothing they train you for at Vicar School! Elsewhere in this edition I’ve briefly explained some of the trade secrets behind the production of the pre-recorded services – 30 years at the BBC must have some use. We will gradually start to worship together again in growing numbers, but keep listening to God about your personal calling – we have a fantastic opportunity to work together for good in this place.

Every blessing.

Fr Chrichton

If you are reading this magazine because you

GOD’S GOOD CREATION ... An ECO Craft Challenge for all ages

What could you make from reusing whatever materials you have available to celebrate God’s creation?

See <https://tinyurl.com/y6vstdqr> for ideas and more information



DAILY HOPE a free phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as services from the Church of England. Available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.

Lockdown Easing Little by Little

I thank God that I have been able to notice and benefit from some of the changes in the Government regulations. I hope they have made a difference to your lives as well, even if its only minimal. We were able to welcome our grandsons and their parents to our back garden, and a good time was had by all. It was lovely to actually see them in the flesh. I pray for those who have not been able to share my joy.

Our local residential homes have been able to slightly lift their visiting restrictions. I was invited by one home, at the request of the relatives, to anoint a dying resident, one of the regular congregation at our monthly service there. It was on the day I received amended guidelines on clergy visiting the dying, so with the information fresh in my mind I was able to comply with the home's regulations and those of the Church. While I was there I was asked to officiate at the lady's funeral. I have taken several during lockdown. Minchenden Lodge is one of those homes that always goes the extra mile for its residents, and it was arranged that prior to the burial the residents would be able to pay their respects to the deceased. The hearse would rest a while in the forecourt. My offer to say a few appropriate prayers from the Church of England prayer book, was readily accepted. When the white, horse drawn hearse arrived, the staff and residents who were able, were assembled outside, in face coverings and socially distanced, but they were there. It seemed a fitting way to include the staff and residents, who had become friends over the previous few years, in the deceased's final journey.



I am pleased to say that residents in at least two local homes are now able to have visits, albeit with the visitor, and maybe the resident as well, outside and by arrangement only, but it's a start.

We owe a debt of gratitude for the dedicated work done in our residential homes, and the lengths the staff go to, to make the very best of a difficult situation.

Hazel Miall

Virtual Church

Please visit <https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/virtual-church> where you will find a range of resources, including activities for children, that you may find helpful at this time.

The Virtual Church YouTube Playlist is at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchN14/>

New resources are publicised via the weekly email newsletter. If you do not already receive this you can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/do5wlv>

Support

If you need, or know anyone who needs, support at this time please get in touch by emailing churchwardens@christchurch-southgate.org or via the contact details for the Churchwardens in the Parish Directory.

Creative living through uncertainty

I have been rereading the book *Eat, Pray, Love*, a bestselling memoir by Elizabeth Gilbert. It's about the author finding herself in her early 30s when the life trajectory she thought she was on changed. When the book came out in 2006, I was 16 (sorry if that ages some of you!) and, while I remember enjoying the book at the time, I am only now finding it resonating with me. The main takeaway from Elizabeth Gilbert's experience is that she finds escape by going to new places, such as a decadent trip to Italy, and connecting with new people - finding it all reignites her creativity which ultimately helps her to heal.

'That sounds great' I thought - I shall take myself out, experience culture, meet new people and even embark on a solo trip to Italy. Then of course 2020 had other ideas. I was faced with being isolated at home as the museum I work at was closed to the public and all the strict lockdown measures came in. How to get through this period of uncertainty and life change?

Funnily enough Elizabeth Gilbert has also written a self-help book subtitled *Creative Living Beyond Fear* and I feel that is what I have had to allow myself to do. To be inspired by the creativity of others online, the positive messages, virtual music and theatre, and the nature around me. Creating when I feel moved and treating myself gently.

This is an important point. I have had moments when I've felt the pressure of others in the media stating that we have to make the most of the lockdown – have you written that bestselling novel or started your new incredibly successful small business yet? We also live in uncertain times, when the news seems scary, unfair and sometimes unkind. Is it selfish to be focussed on self-care when others are suffering outside?

It has taken some soul-searching, but I think that makes joining in with things such as virtual choir recordings, online quizzes with friends and virtual drawing clubs all the more important. By being kind to ourselves we can better be kind to others. By being connected through art and music we can better understand each other and express ourselves. You can help others **and** have creative moments.

It will be good to have museums reopening again soon - these are great places to connect, spark learning and inspire. However, it will be not be an instant fix. It will take a lot of planning and thoughtfulness to make it a good visitor experience again. So, I will be continuing to create things in my own time to help destress and find myself again. And maybe daydreaming of that 'Eat, Pray, Love' style trip to Italy I hope to make one day soon.

Here are a few of the drawings I have made over the last few weeks to share with you. But remember to go into the next half of 2020 at your own pace and be creative in the way that works for you.

Bea Llibert



Don't lose heart

During the pandemic, the shopping habits for most of us changed. We have had to adapt in order to stay safe. For some of us this meant shopping online, for others relying on friends and neighbours, and for some like myself, bigger shops but much more infrequently in a mask and gloves and taking great care. In the beginning it was hard to find many items as people panicked and the shelves emptied, but then items slowly came back into stock. However, it was, and still is difficult to find many Traidcraft products, eco cleaning products, items in glass containers rather than plastic, and other environmentally friendly items that many of us now regularly buy.



Many of my good purchasing habits have fallen by the wayside. To add insult to injury, professionally I have to wear plastic aprons and wraps in a clinical setting as part of my PPE to keep me safe. All single use. This doesn't rest easily with me but we can all only do our best in the given circumstances. Hopefully, in time, our eco-friendly products will reappear and if they don't we'll find acceptable alternatives. Biodegradable PPE might be a future development, too. I keep hoping.



For many of us, we've had to accept a temporary compromise, but don't give up. Remember all the good things that have been achieved during this strange time; the eco lessons learned that have been mentioned previously that we'll talk about together when we can.

Most of us have had to deal with huge life changes that have preoccupied and dominated our thinking. Stay strong, stay focused and if, like me, you've had to lower some of your eco standards for just a little while in order to get what you need, then so be it.

God knows our struggles. He knows when we're doing our best. These have been unprecedented circumstances in modern times so we've had no protocol to follow. Let the Holy Spirit keep you strong and eco centred. I'm sure if some of us lost our eco way a little, we'll soon work out how to get back on track.

*Dear God, help me to do the best that I can to preserve your world. Send the Holy Spirit to inspire me to make good choices and to focus on all the positive signs that have been apparent in your world during this pandemic.
Lord, I pray that I am able to continue to play my part in caring for your creation, giving it a chance to recover from its destructive manmade brokenness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Sandra Anderson

Saint of the Month: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Feast Day July 31st



Ignatius was the youngest son of a Basque nobleman. He was born at the end of the 15th century. As a boy he dreamed of battles and fighting and longed to be able to go and fight for his king as his older brothers did. At last the day came when he could go and fight. But his dream did not last long. At the siege of Pamplona, he was wounded, being shot in the leg by the French. He was carried to a nearby convent to recover. This took a long time and during his convalescence he read the books that were in the convent: the bible and lives of the saints. This inspired the course of his future life. He realised he could no longer fight for his king with his sword but he could fight like the saints for his heavenly king with his whole life.

After he had recovered, he went back to school and eventually to the University of Paris to study Theology. Here he met with a group of like-minded young men who planned to take the Christian faith to Palestine. However continuing wars in that region made it impossible and so they sought the advice of Pope Paul III. He ordained Ignatius and several of his companions and directed them to go out into the world as missionaries. And so, the Society of Jesus – the Jesuits – was formed. It is a

very large order which continues to work throughout the world. One of Ignatius's companions was St. Xavier who was one of the first Christian missionaries to go to Japan

Ignatius wrote a famous book 'Spiritual Exercises' which details a method of study and prayer based on the bible, which continues to be used today, especially during Retreats. It was translated into English early in the last century and considering it was published in 1548 is remarkably modern and useful. It was originally written to be used during a 30-day Retreat but of course that would be impossible for most people these days as well as in Ignatius' life time. But Ignatius put together a version which can be used during ordinary life. I did the Spiritual exercises myself several years ago guided by my Spiritual Director. It took about 18 months and she taught me about Ignatius prayer. So, Ignatius continues to influence Christians long after his death.

Cathy Dallman

[Image: Portrait of St Ignatius of Loyola, by Peter Paul Rubens. Held by the Norton Simon Art Foundation, Pasadena, California.]

Memories of St Ignatius in Lockdown

Cathy's piece on St Ignatius and the Jesuits brought back so many memories for me. In 1971, my very first full-time academic post took me to Antwerp, to the University Faculty of St Ignatius, the Jesuit university in the Prinsstraat.

Although most of the brothers lived in a house known as Loyola, academic staff offices in those days were intermingled with Jesuit brothers' extended accommodation – a mixed blessing in a country with unisex bathroom arrangements – but they were large, and fabulously located rooms, around the courtyard of an old Flemish building, taking you back in time whenever you looked out of the window.



I very quickly became good friends with a delightful, shy, young man – Guido de Baere (<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/staff/guido-debaere/>) – with an office further down the corridor from mine, a scholastic brother who was a teacher of Dutch philology and already a world expert on the Flemish mystic Jan van Ruysbroek, John of Ruusbroek, an Augustinian canon. At this time, Guido was completing his Doctorate on Ruusbroeks' *Vanden seven sloten* (translating roughly as 'Of the Seven Locks'). Specialising in Dutch and German, his English was less fluent than that of other colleagues, but he was an interesting and eager conversationalist, modest, but with enormous knowledge so typical, I was to discover, of members of this teaching-focused, all-male society.

Guido, retired now but still living in Loyola, with his eight Jesuit companions, has remained a friend. During lockdown we have been in contact. I sent him a postcard (a picture of Quarr Abbey) to check he was OK. He responded with a postcard of his own (a picture of the Premonstratensian Abbey Averbode, in Brussels). Now in his 80s, he is fine, and working hard on a new edition of the Middle Dutch *Die evangelische peerle* ('The Evangelical Pearl' – a mystical treatise which was published in an English translation about ten years ago in the series *The Classics of Western Spirituality*). Like me, he feels that the pandemic has brought us an unexpected gift – the gift of uninterrupted time, for which we are both very grateful.

Coincidentally, in the context of the Jesuits, in 1972, my head of department changed and I had a new boss named Xavier! (Saint) Francis Xavier was the Jesuits' co-founder, alongside Ignatius of Loyola. I wrote a book with my boss Xavier, Xavier Dekeyser, and was working on another collaborative venture at the time of his death four years ago.

So yes, Cathy's piece brings back memories. The four years I spent with the Jesuits were happy and interesting years, teaching me at the very least to look for God (if not always to succeed in finding him) in **everything**. That is something for which I will always be grateful.

Patricia Ashby

[Image: The historic centre of the University, from nl.wikipedia.org]

Music for the Trinity Term

I much prefer the liturgical titles for academic terms. The Autumn term becomes *Michaelmas*, the Spring is *Lent* and the Summer...*Trinity!* In addition to being “classy”, these titles also serve as reminders of the important role of the liturgical calendar in the creation of our modern academic timetable. The first two-thirds of the year fall into two neat musical journeys with a clear sense of direction – Michaelmas moves towards Christmas, and the Lent Term takes us Easter. Both terms can be seen as a *crescendo* of musical works, both in their character and complexity, which transport us to a final destination.



While the Trinity Term does not have that same finality, it provides instead a rich variety of different paths for us to travel. Trinity takes us through the triumphant celebrations of Eastertide, the wonder of the Ascension and Pentecost, and the teachings of Jesus through his public ministry in the Sundays after Trinity. Far from being a journey with no end, it contains a rich spiritual landscape which we are free to explore.

When we return from the Easter holidays, Eastertide is in full swing. After the big sing of Easter Day, one can forget there are another seven weeks to go with plenty of the Easter story still to tell. Some real gems of the Easter repertoire include settings of the text *Christ Rising Again* by William Byrd (c.1540-1623) and Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656), with the wonderful words from I Corinthians 15.20-22, “For as in Adam, all men do die, so by Christ all men shall be restored to life,” sung in virtuosic antiphonal exchanges between soloists. Indeed, Byrd’s setting of *Christ Rising Again* is thought to be one of the first Tudor verse anthems to have ever been written (verse anthems contain many solo verses sung alternately with chorus sections). Another Eastertide masterpiece is the setting of *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) with words by Henry Vaughan (1621-1695). We often hear the songs sung separately, the most well know being *Easter* (with the text “Rise Heart! Thy Lord is risen”, *The Call* (“Come my way, my truth my life”), and *Let all the Word in every corner sing!* These settings contain both celebration and a sense of awe about the miracle of the Resurrection.

Halfway through the term we mark a bonanza of festivals including Ascension, Pentecost, and Corpus Christi. Works for Ascension Day, such as Gerald Finzi’s (1933-1956) *God is Gone Up!* or Vaughan Wilams *O Clap your hands!* retrain the Eastertide triumph proclaiming Christ as “King of the Earth” (Ps.47). Pentecost presents an interesting subject for composers who attempt to capture the Holy Spirit as both a mystery and a gift. Grayston Ives’ *Listen Sweet Dove* (a favourite of the Choristers) captures the reassurance that the Holy Spirit can give us when we let him enter our hearts. Another approach, and one I find more exciting, is taken by Thomas Tallis in his anthem *Loquebantur* which sets text based on Acts 2.4 “The Apostles spoke in many tongues of the great works of God, as the Holy Spirit gave them the gift of speech, alleluia.” Tallis (1505-1585) captures the exciting, chaotic atmosphere of the “many tongues” with fast passages of music with the different voices overlapping each other in quick succession giving the music a sense of unrelenting activity.

For Corpus Christi, I am often drawn to *Panis Angelicus* by César Franck (1822-1890) which sets words by Thomas Aquinas written specifically for the liturgy of the Feast and includes the words, “O res mirabilis” which means “O wondrous gift.” Franck’s setting also has one other notable feature – a beautiful melody!

Towards the end of June, we finally arrive at Trinity Sunday and “ordinary time.” There is some wonderful music written for Trinity, including the hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy!* with words by Reginald Heber (1783-1826), and the anthem *I Saw the Lord* by Sir John Stainer (1840-1901), another favourite of the Choir. Personally, I really enjoy settings of the Cherubic Hymn by Russian composers including Tchaikovsky and Grechaninov which I feel capture the mysteries of the heavenly angels, cherubim and seraphim running about. Trinity Sunday is also a good opportunity to dust off settings of the *Te Deum* including Stanford in B flat and *Britten* in C.



I very much look forward to the future when we will be able to meet again to sing and listen to these majestic spiritual choral works. In the meantime, the choir will be maintaining its virtual church output for as long as needed. I wish you all well, and happy listening.

Richard Brain, Director of Music

Prayer of the month

Since the June copy of *The Spire* came through the letter-box, we have seen unimaginable horrors, horrors inflicted on us (Covid-19) and by us (racist murders and unrest). And we have experienced God’s love and grace as we returned to our familiar and beautiful church building. Making sense of such contrasts is hard and can be confusing. Why are we being hurt? Why are we hurting others? Conserving the planet, we’ve spoken at length of environmental pollution. We’ve prayed for guidance and help. But hard as it is to act responsibly towards our environment, it can often be harder still to act that way towards each other. The veritable kaleidoscope that is mankind is – in its totality – made in the image of God. John Henry Jowett, the famous Yorkshire protestant preacher from Halifax – known as “the greatest preacher in the English speaking world” – left us a prayer that might help:

*My Father in heaven I remember those whom in prayer I am inclined to forget.
I pray for those whom I dislike.
Defend me against my own feelings;
Change my inclinations;
Give me a compassionate heart.
Give me, I pray, the purity of heart
Which finds your image in all people.
Amen.*

[J.H. Jowett, 1846 – 1923]



Parish Life in Pictures

June 2020



A selection of images showing the preparations for re-opening the church for private prayer



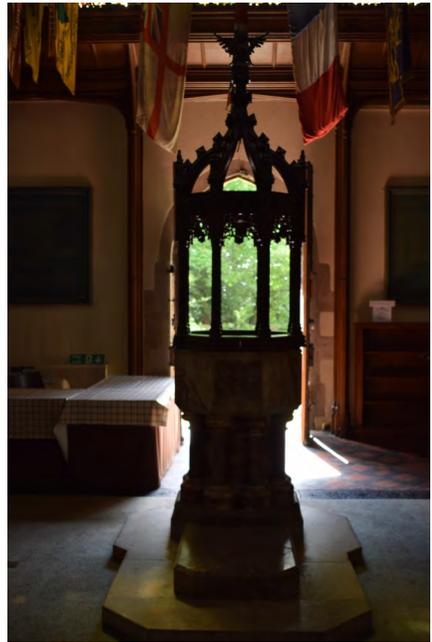
Private Prayers for use before or as you re-enter the Church Building

Almighty God,
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship you
in this house of prayer:
and we pray that all who seek you in this place
may find you,
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Loving God,
thank you for this house of prayer
where we praise and thank you
for all you have given us.
Help us to go out into the world,
refreshed by your Spirit,
to do what you have called us to do
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord God,
sustain us in this vale of tears
with the vision of your grace and glory,
that, strengthened by the bread of life,
we may come to your eternal dwelling place;
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



O Christ, door of the sheepfold,
may we enter your gates with praise
and go from your courts to serve you
in the poor, the lost and the wandering,
this day and all our days.
Amen.

Saving God,
open the gates of righteousness,
that your pilgrim people may enter
and be built into a living temple
on the cornerstone of our salvation,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Passages of Scripture for study and proclamation

Psalm 24 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it

Psalm 84 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts

Psalm 100 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth

Psalm 122 I was glad when they said to me

Psalm 127 Unless the Lord builds the house

Genesis 28.10–22 This is none other than the house of God

1 Kings 8.22–30 Will God indeed dwell on the earth?

Haggai 2.6–9 I will fill this house with splendour

Luke 19.1–10 Jesus and Zacchaeus

Ephesians 2.19–end A holy temple in the Lord

1 Peter 2.1–10 The living stone and a chosen people

Revelation 21.22–26 I saw no temple in the city

Acclamation at the re-opening of a building for personal prayer

How awesome is this place.

*This is none other than the house of God,
and this is the gateway of heaven.*

I saw a ladder which rested on the ground
with its top reaching to heaven,
and the angels of God were going up and down it.

*This is none other than the house of God,
and this is the gateway of heaven.*

You will see greater things than this.

You will see heaven wide open,
and God's angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

*This is none other than the house of God,
and this is the gateway of heaven.*

You are the temple of the living God,
and the Spirit of God dwells in you.

The temple of God is holy, and you are that temple.

*This is none other than the house of God,
and this is the gateway of heaven.*



Material issued by the Church of England Liturgical Commission for the Re-opening of Church Buildings after Covid-19 Lockdown.

A short-lived view of Church taken over the Walker School site following demolition of the school buildings



Audrey selecting one of the rainbows drawn by the cubs

CHRIST CHURCH FILLED WITH LOVE + PRAYER...

We are all missing being together to worship. Use this outline to help us pray for all the different people, groups and organisations at church. Pray for our different activities, our friends & all we are missing & seeing. Add the words into all the spaces until your church outline is full... like graffiti! Cut it out, pin it up and pray for everyone until we meet again.



Images to welcome us into church again

Going Online. Fr Chrichton gives the trade secrets behind the weekly pre-recorded services

After our Director of Music Richard Brain explained last month how the virtual choir was put together, I thought I would complete the picture by telling you how the finished product comes together.

Sadly, even though I spent almost 30 years at the BBC, I don't actually own any video or audio editing equipment or software, so the need to produce a pre-recorded service every week while we could not all be together in church was tricky. Towards the end of my TV career, I spoke many times at conferences and broadcast stations across the world and had developed a good working knowledge of the most popular tool for giving on-screen presentations – PowerPoint. This simple tool comes with the standard Office set of products, so has become the answer!

If you have never used it, it allows you to make up slides of images or backgrounds with text over the top – with different clever ways to move things around and bring images and words on and off screen. It is very good at lots of bullet pointed lists. You can also make it play (often odd) sounds and show moving pictures in different ways. It is mostly used by talking live to an audience while clicking a mouse to change on to the next slide. However, deep in the hidden bits is a way of recording the clicks so that it can run everything on its own. I'll explain later.

The first stage of producing a service is to assemble a complete document with all the words of all the prayers, readings, psalm and hymns for the particular week. These can be found on the C of E and other websites if you are lucky – if not, there is a lot of typing. The choice of hymns and anthem is agreed with Richard who sets about producing the virtual

choir or looking in the audio archive for the music to add. Meanwhile, I send out the readings and prayers to people to record their own contributions. These days that is potentially everyone, as every smart phone can record a voice memo, so people record their readings and send them back to me.



Before the parts start coming in, I make up the master PowerPoint slide show. Each time a background picture or a line of text changes, that is a new slide. So a hymn of 5 verses with 3 pairs of lines will need 21 slides to change the text and have a blank one between verses. Some of the Bible readings, broken down into sentences and phrases are even longer. For each item I will choose a suitable backing picture. Early on I had a choice of the pictures that were in Phillip Dawson's archive or that Judith and I had taken, but recently (since I was allowed back into church) I have been able to take pictures to suit, and make sure they are framed to make space for the text. The time-consuming bit comes when pasting in the short lines of text – making them the right size, colour and then adding shadow – onto each slide and checking they and the background don't move about when each slide changes. The first milestone is reached when all the slides are finished and checked – this is usually over 100. I then need to write the homily.

Halfway through the week the audio recordings start to come back in. They are inserted into the first slide of their item and the "in and out" points are set and the sound level is adjusted to match everything else, and then they are set to keep playing while the slides are changed – the voice keeps going while the words change. At some point Mrs. Vicarage acts as cameraperson to film the opening and closing sections as well as the homily on my normal



SLR camera – my record to get it right is 7 takes, but it can be a bit of trial to fight with the weather and noise! The last things to arrive are the virtual choir videos. The videos are dropped in their places as well, but this is where you have to fight PowerPoint a bit as you are making it do something it really doesn't want to. Unlike audio, videos stop suddenly and flash back to the start when you change slides. This means that any text and pictures needed for the video have to be piled up on top of each other, as they all need to be on the same slide, but with clicks to bring them on and off. The final cheat is that the background image for the next slide is dropped over the slide with the video, so that the flash and rewind that it does is always hidden!

The completed slide show now has all the audio and video recordings inserted with all the "clicks" sorted to deliver the whole "show" as a live presentation. I then use the little-known record presentation function, when it records all the clicks to "perform" the service. This has to be right all the way through – if you miss the last word change at the end of a 30 minute service, you have to start again! With a copy of the complete text fully marked up where all the slides change I can usually do it in a couple of

goes. Usually!

This stage gets you a finished product of a presentation that will play on its own with all the audio and videos and text that you see in the services but is still not ready to send out. The final and most uncertain stage is to "export" the presentation as a video. This takes longer than the service actually lasts for the computer to work through the presentation, turning the different bits into a continuous TV programme on the basis of the clicks it has recorded. After a cup of coffee while waiting, the final video pops up and the process of checking starts, to see if it has actually worked. It usually gets longer, by up to a minute, and the gaps (usually after videos and audios) are often longer than I would have liked, but this is pushing an Office tool to do things it was not really designed for. One week I could not persuade the software to stop adding a 30 seconds' pause in the same place every time. I remade everything and re-recorded it but there was something in this particular video that upset it.

It is amazing that having to prerecord a service takes so much more time than turning up at church and delivering the words and music live, but it has been the best way of keeping us together during these difficult times. A few years ago none of this would have been possible, so we should all be grateful for how much we have all been able to stretch the technology to keep us united in prayer while apart.

Fr Chrichton

Note from the Editors

Lockdown has certainly accelerated the time between magazines. June has gone by really quickly! However, in July – as always – we have our double edition for the summer and we can all look forward to a month off before we start again in September. For once, going on holiday is probably not going to happen for most of us, so we hope *The Spire* will provide a little bit of pleasure. As normality returns to our way of doing things, the magazine will also slim down again to its pre-lockdown size, and with that in mind we would ask you, please, to be strict about the 400-450 word limit on contributions. Over the past few months, we've been given pieces that sometimes are two or three times that length – under normal circumstances, we simply wouldn't have room to include these. Occasionally, however, we have a particular theme which requires a longer piece of writing, and when that happens, we will always discuss it with you beforehand. The next deadline will be here in no time and we look forward to your contributions which you can send in at any time up until **Tuesday 25th August**. We both wish you a good summer. Stay safe!

Clare & Patricia

The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation by Nahum Tate

*Tell me, some pitying angel tell, quickly say,
Where does my soul's sweet darling stay?
In tiger's, or more cruel Herod's way?
O! rather let his little footsteps press
Unregarded through the wilderness,
Where milder savages resort:
The desert's safer than a tyrant's court.
Why, fairest object of my love,
Why dost thou from my longing eyes remove?
Was it a waking dream that did foretell
Thy wondrous birth? no vision from above?
Where's Gabriel now that visited my cell?
I call Gabriel, he comes not; flatt'ring hopes,
farewell.*

*Me Judah's daughters once caress'd,
Call'd me of mothers the most bless'd;
Now fatal change of mothers most distress'd.
How shall my soul its motions guide,
How shall I stem various tide,
Whilst faith and doubt my lab'ring thoughts
divide?
For whilst of thy dear sight beguil'd,
I trust the God, but oh!
I fear the child.*



Tate dramatizes Mary's distress in Luke 2.41-48, where the twelve-year-old Jesus stays behind in Jerusalem, his parents at first assuming he is in the company travelling home and then returning to Jerusalem in distress to search for him. Although Luke generally refers to Jesus' parents (not Mary individually) in this story, Tate makes it a moment of intense isolation for her. His poem looks back explicitly to the Annunciation ('Where's Gabriel now that visited my cell?'), and implicitly to a future occasion in Jerusalem when a sword will pierce Mary's soul.

The intensity of Mary's isolation is constant as she apostrophises firstly to any angel who will listen; then to her absent child; then to Gabriel (who does not answer her) and then to herself – as though she has given up on calling on others. Her memories, by contrast, evoke moments of startlingly intimacy: the language used for Jesus - 'my soul's sweet darling', 'fairest object of my love'; the visit of Gabriel to her 'cell' and the memory of being 'carress'd' by her relation Elizabeth. It's a poem that makes me feel as though I am intruding on intimate happiness and a grief that (knowing the continuation of the story) I can anticipate but not understand.

The first stanza invites the reader to assume that they know more than the speaker: Mary describes the present moment as one when being 'of mothers the most bless'd' turns to 'of mother's most distress'd' and we at once share her anguish and understand that the moment for the superlative 'most distress'd' has not yet come. But the last three lines make us revise that assumption – she does know more. Her exclamation 'I trust the God, but oh! / I fear the child' is compelling, though ambiguous. She seems to sense that the trustworthiness of God and the fears she suffers for her child are inextricably linked. The last line is intuitive, inconclusive and haunting. It is intensified by our knowledge that her distress will be replayed in the same city in years to come.

Anna Hughes

[Image: *Jesus Found in the Temple* by James Tissot - Online Collection of Brooklyn Museum; Photo: Brooklyn Museum, 2007,0.159.41_PS2.jpg, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10195808>]

Social Responsibility Committee Report

During lockdown many of us have improved our use of technology, me included.

I recorded a reading for Corpus Christi and sent it to the vicar to be included in the service for that day, all on my phone. Zoom meetings are also being used more and more and the other day I was in a Zoom meeting with two friends who used to be members of our congregation. One asked what we were doing about services and if we were opening up our building. I was able to tell her about our YouTube services and say that I visited church on Sunday 21st June, the first day open for private prayer. Then they wanted to know if the building felt and smelt as usual, and if the lovely windows were just the same. I reported that all is as it was; the same welcoming, homely beautiful building, with our 'Fig Tree' in full blossom, waiting for our return.

Lockdown is easing and each day brings us nearer to that time. Please keep adding to your **Jar of Hope** and we will let you know when and how to return it to us.



As I have said before on this page many charities are finding fund raising really difficult in these unusual times. However some things continue and Sylvia Burt and Briony Hadjidaniel have knitted Hearts for the

Whittington Hospital Baby Unit. These are in pairs; one is given to the mother and the other to her sick baby. This is to help the mother feel close and connected to her baby while they are apart.

We have had a report and request for help from the **Institute for Indian Mother & Child (IIMC).** This is a charity working in Sonapur in

West Bengal. They work with families who have very little of anything and because of the Indian lockdown are suffering as they have no work and no money and thus no food. Conditions in the area have been made more difficult as Super Cyclone Amphan hit the mission on 20th May. Even so IIMC have been doing amazing work delivering 500 family food packs each week and sewing face coverings for the people, using funds sent out from the UK.

Noah's Ark in Barnet has also reported to us, writing:

Since the start of the pandemic, we have been welcoming children and families to our newly opened inpatient unit, Woodlands and our family unit Meadows. We have supported a very young baby from GOSH whose condition our nurses were able to stabilise; a girl with severe cerebral palsy whose mum (a single parent) fell ill and our carers looked after; and a teenage boy whose overseas brain tumour operation was cancelled due to COVID-19 (who died peacefully at The Ark after receiving three weeks exemplary end-of-life care from our nurses and carers, therapists and family link workers, and whose family were accommodated at The Ark with him).

For all charities day to day running costs carry on whatever is going on in the rest of the world. These are just two examples where the need is great. Please continue to donate to your favourites, put non-perishable food in a collection basket, and add a contribution to your **Jar of Hope**. If you need further help with charitable giving please contact Jackie Anderson or Hilary Meur either by phone (see the Parish Directory at the back of the magazine) or by email via the Church Office (office@christchurch-southgate.org).

Keep safe & well. Thank you again for your continuing support.

Hilary Meur

Stewardship News

Three months and counting, but thanks to the generosity of some members of Christ Church we have managed to make up for some of the lost income during the closure of our church building. Many thanks to those who have responded.



In the last month there has been some more progress with increased participation in joining our Stewardship scheme with new donors and increased regular contributions with a further addition to the list of those using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), for which we are very grateful.

In my article in June I introduced the next step by the administrators of the PGS, with the introduction of their telephone service. By picking up the telephone and dialling their dedicated number 0333 002 1271 you can join the scheme very easily. The future will soon bring another simple way of joining – it will be possible to join using their new website, more details to follow.

I realise that I have not sent my annual thank you letters for donations in the last tax year, this is work in progress. If anyone is in need of the information, please let me know.

We have all appreciated the continuing work being carried out by the clergy, our musical director & choir and many others during this difficult time. If you also appreciate this, and you normally donate to Christ Church in cash during services, perhaps you might consider making a payment direct to the church's bank account. I can give you the required information if you contact me either by email (see below) or by phone or post (see the Parish Directory at the back of *The Spire*).

Mick Meur, Stewardship Recorder
mikestatistics@gmail.com

Jean Smith and WWII

... although it is sheer coincidence that I live here now, both my parents grew up round here. My mum in Southgate and my Dad in Palmers Green. My mum (then Jean Smith) was nearly 8 when the war finished, and my dad 16. Coincidentally she grew up next door but one to Philip Miall and recalls him being born I think. I have recently found various odd bits to do with the war (National Identity card; a picture my mum drew of the Royal Family and Churchill; a letter about a fundraising event she was in; and brochures for the Official VE celebrations the following year in Southgate and London).

Caroline Robertson



Christ Church – Cherry Tree

Lovely birds singing outside, God’s Creation.
How we worship you, dear, wonderful JESUS:
Sweeter than Springtime, Purer than sunshine,
Better than ice-cream, Better than roses.
You are love, my dearest God. You are my world.

Blessèd, Adored, Great Saviour: You give me life,
By your death on the cross. With your precious blood,
you redeemed me.

How I want you for my life – my service to you is the ethos of this and the ethos of Christianity is the beautiful cross.

This saving sacrifice is for me – how I thank you for giving me Eternity on this day.

Jesus is the sure SALVATION,
BY HIS WORD – the WORLD WAS BORN,
By His Grace we have our lives and attribute this to His Grace.

Give yourself to Him – He will aid you and help your life to be His plan for you as he knows best and is the Truth.

It is right to follow Him, in all his Glorious ways, show your dedication – consecrating your life

to this Great Almighty God
Who is our Leader in the world. Bless His Holy Name.

Bow down and give of yourself, For the sake of salvation which He doth bestow.

Then you will know the love of the Lord.

Bless Him and serve at the altar of God – light the candles in church for the love of OUR LORD.

Dear Christ Church reader, how He loves you and all the great work you do for HIM: the Dear Beloved Jesus.

Keep straight on – and never give up – love Him and keep pure for His Word, For it is your salvation.

This He wrote upon calvary, And claimed the prize for liberty.

Send out your Light – Dedicate your Life, take fast hold of good, and keep wise for your God. These words of wisdom to be found in my heart – I send forth to you, to be loved in return.

When I leave this lovely world, Let me stay within your Hand.

Help me Saviour – you are God – Nothing for me can suffice but your beauty. Your Grace and Favour – to me are the stay and the Peace. Amen.

Lynda Corcoran

Spire Style Guide

- 9 pt Calibri Font
- No complex formatting (i.e. don’t insert pictures into your text, etc.)
- Use only a single word space only after a full-stop
- Ideally not more than 400 words, unless this has been invited, or discussed in advance
- Photos should be sent as .jpeg files
- Respect Copyright – always cite sources if you have quoted text or reproduced images from elsewhere (internet, books, etc.)
- Any questions, please email the editors: churchwardens@christchurch-southgate.org or p.d.s.ashby@gmail.com

PARISH DIRECTORY**Parish Office**

*Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2.30—5 p.m.
Please phone beforehand if you have any special requests or needs.
N.B. Notices for the Sunday pew sheets should reach the Office no later than
10 a.m. on a Friday. If possible, please e-mail them.*

Mail 1 The Green, London N14 7EG
Phone 8886 0384
Email office@christchurch-southgate.org
Website www.christchurch-southgate.org

Clergy

Vicar The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert
Address 1 The Green, Southgate, London, N14 7EG
Phone 8882 0917
Email frch138@btinternet.com

Assistant Priest The Reverend Hazel Miall
Address 85 Conway Road, Southgate, London, N14 7BD
Phone 07980 740587
Email hazelhmiall@btinternet.com

Lay Readers

Cathy Dallman, 4 Greenacre Walk, Southgate, N14 7DB 8886 5918
Jackie Anderson 8245 0305
Sandra Anderson 07947 027265

Churchwardens

Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR 8367 5961
Catherine Harvey, 1 Ruby Road, Walthamstow, E17 4RE 07872 493556

PCC

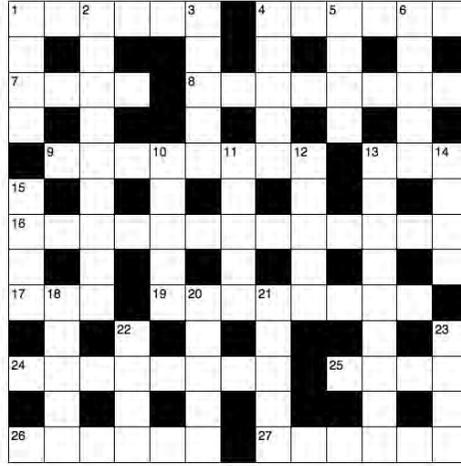
Secretary John Macrory 8440 3258
john@macroryward.co.uk
Treasurer Clare Boulton (as above)
Stewardship Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

Music Department

Director of Music Richard Brain 07979 850546
music@christchurch-southgate.org
*Assistant Director
of Music* David Hinit, 19 Mercia Rd, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6RZ 07734 209662
Treasurer Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

Sacristan	Peter Holiday, 61 Arnos Grove, Southgate, N14 7AG	8886 4126
Sidesmen	Judith Lo	8882 3335
Sub-committee Chairs/contacts		
<i>Outreach</i>	Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)	
<i>Plant and Fabric</i>	Catherine Harvey (as above)	
<i>Social Responsibility</i>	Jackie Anderson (as above)	
<i>Resources</i>	Ronald Lo	8882 3335
<i>Pastoral</i>	Cathy Dallman (as above)	
Electoral Roll Officer	Patricia Ashby	8886 2528
Parish Magazine "The Spire"		
<i>Editorial Team</i>	Copy to be sent to the Parish Office (see above)	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362
Flower Arrangers	Contact the Parish Office (see above)	
Parish Centre/Church Halls		
<i>Chairman</i>	Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD	8882 6738
<i>Secretary</i>	Clare Boulton (see above)	
<i>Lettings</i>	christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michael Meur (as above)	
Christ Church Association Bar		
<i>Contact</i>	Clive Woodhouse, 41b Osborne Road, N13 5BT	8882 0014
Friday Coffee Morning	<i>Every Friday morning 10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Hilary Meur (as above)	
Lunch Fellowship	<i>Usually on 2nd Wednesday in the month at noon in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Cathy Dallman (as above)	
Waterfall Group	<i>1st Tuesday 8.30 p.m. – informal women's meeting</i>	
	Frances Wyatt	8361 5379
	Glenys Rodway, 14 Dawlish Avenue, N13 4HP	8882 5970
Scout Group	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i>	07980 740 587
	Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	8882 0991
Bellringers	<i>Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.</i>	
<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974
Bridge Club	<i>Thursdays 7.30 p.m. – 10 p.m.</i>	
<i>Secretary</i>	Jean Jobson, 26 New River Crescent, N13 5RF	8882 5619
Young Fogeys	<i>For the active and retired, though you need not be either!</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH	8882 8133

JULY CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)

- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards —' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (8)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me'" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

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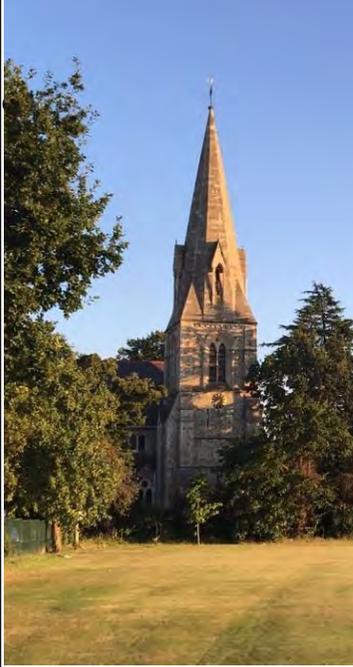
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