

# St. Thomas' Moorside

May 2021

£1



...by faith we might  
receive the  
promise of the Spirit

Galatians 3:14

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## Love, And Do As You Wish.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I was reminded of the quotation at the top of this letter recently in a book I've been reading. It's a quotation from St Augustine of Hippo, and it's one I've been aware of and reflecting on for some time.

At first glance it seems quite extraordinary, a kind of 'Love is all you need', response to life. 'Love and do as you wish' or 'do as you want', could easily seem to be an encouragement to self-indulgence, and a selfish and self-centred life. I can do what I like as long as I love, or say I love.

I've always felt that the Beatles way of understanding love, 'Love is all you need', is inadequate as, although love is obviously very important, it can't stop there. It's how we act in and through love that really demonstrates love in its truest sense.

I think this is what St Augustine meant in the 'Love, and do as you wish' comment. If love is our foundation and at the heart of all we do and say; if love is our deepest desire, then all that we do will be done out of love, and a selfless love at that. I'm sure Christ's teaching about love also says and means the same thing.

If we truly love than all that we 'wish' or 'want', as St Augustine put it, will be love.

It's a very high bar. It's a very high standard. It might even be impossibly high for us as fallen human beings. But as Christians we are asked to reflect constantly on our priorities and motivations and to hand the unhelpful ones over to God, and to ask forgiveness for those times when we have acted in less than loving ways. One of the joys of the Christian life is knowing that we are forgiven completely when we confess our sins. We can begin again with a clean slate, and more importantly a clean heart. A heart ready to love those around us, to love God's creation and to reflect God's love to all we meet.

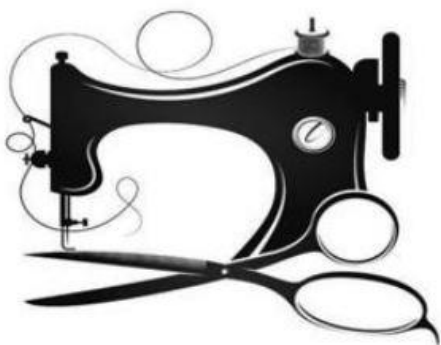
So, what does 'Love, and do as you wish' mean to you today?

Yours in Christ,

Revd Denise



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*The following services are subject to change.*

8.30am (BCP) and 10.30am on Sundays and Wednesday Worship at 7pm

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – STYLE online Raffle and events

Thursday 13th May - Ascension Day - Holy Communion at 7pm

Sunday 23rd May - Pentecost (Whit Sunday) - Holy Communion 8.30 & 10.30am

Sunday 4th July - Patronal Festival - Holy Communion at 8.30am and 10.30am

Sunday 21st November - Christ the King - Confirmation Service with Mark,  
Bishop of Middleton

## **Wardens Letter from Simon and Sam.**

Well, it is a very exciting period at the time of writing this. Both wardens have received our 1<sup>st</sup> Covid vaccination, one has had a haircut, the other is able to go back to work and we have been asked to continue as Wardens for the next 12 months. This is a role we both consider to be a great honour and are proud to accept the invitation.

The situation around pandemic seems to be improving, as the lockdown roadmap is on track and whilst continuing to provide services via Facebook, we look forward to seeing more people physically in church. We still miss our Church family. The last twelve months have been such a wrench for us.

St Thomas' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is upon us, and we will be considering all sorts of fun activities to commemorate such a special occasion.

We'd like to remind each and every one of you that we are here to offer support, whether it be virtually or in Church.

Peace be with you and stay safe,

*Sam & Simon.*



Beavers 127 St.Thomas is a great Scouting group for Boys & Girls.

We are looking forward to starting back as soon as we can. We are planning lots of outdoor adventures and completing badge work, where you can gain new skills.

To all our current Beavers we have missed you all very much and cannot wait to start up again.....

To anyone out there who would like to join Beavers please contact Karena on 07958102062. Beavers runs from age 6yrs to 8yrs old.

SEE YOU SOON!



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A large, stylized graphic of a paintbrush with a black handle and a red bristle head, positioned diagonally on the left side of the advertisement.

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A red circular logo containing a white silhouette of a paintbrush.

## **LETTER FROM REVD DR PAUL MONK**

As I write, hairdressers, shops, and other activities are restarting in response to the Government's Pandemic 'Roadmap'. We anticipate a return to the good things from the past that we miss. Life could soon look different and better.

As I write, we're also reopening the relationship between God and humankind in response to the Easter season—the days between Easter Day and Pentecost. We anticipate the return of the Holy Spirit. Again, life could soon look different and better.

In both cases, that 'reopening' and 'feeling better' come with pre-conditions. We must use our freedoms wisely if we wish to maintain our privileges. We're not responding to human rules: viruses and eternal deities behave differently to humans.

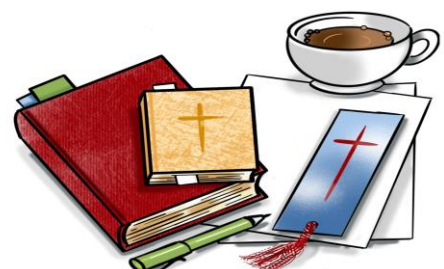
This lack of human agency makes some aspects of planning ahead much easier. We simply learn the rules then follow them. Both sets of rules—those dealing with the pandemic and those pleasing God—are framed in terms of cleanliness. We must avoid germs and stay clean to avoid Covid; and we strive toward a life of holiness and Godliness to please God.

The end goal of human living is communion with God. It's a promise of mingling and mixing with divinity. The central message of Pentecost says it all: God and human beings can enter into closer communion than ever more. Heaven touches earth.

A further effect of God the Spirit living in a human soul is to inspire us to live differently. The Spirit fills us with desires and gifts, the principal desire being for God Himself.

With prayers that life improves as the effects of Covid recede; and as your spiritual life expands in response to the limitless love of God:

PAUL





Hi all, just a little update about Sunday school.

At the time of writing we are planning to meet on 25<sup>th</sup> April and we look forward to seeing you all. In fact by the time the magazine is out we should already have had our first meeting. Please keep checking the Sunday School Facebook page, as well as the churches Facebook page for further updates, as this arrangement could alter if the advice changes.

We hope you all managed to see the Easter children's magazine which Julia Haigh produced in April. It is a fabulous resource of fun activities and wellbeing tips. If you didn't get one and would like a copy please email [Julia.haigh@btinternet.com](mailto:Julia.haigh@btinternet.com) for a digital version. If you would prefer a paper copy please ask next time you are in church as we had a small supply printed.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

*God bless*



## **St Thomas 2022**

In 2022 St Thomas Church is celebrating 150 years since it first opened.

Could you help in organising special events to mark this very significant year?

Big ideas and little ideas are all valuable.

Please contact Revd Denise if you're interested in joining an organising group.



# STYLE



Do you recognise these two Easter bunnies? Yes, it's our very own Salt sisters, Karen and Kathy. They organised the virtual Easter treasure hunt and announced the winners of the bigger treasure prizes live on Facebook on Easter Saturday. Thank you ladies; you made everybody smile, as always.



Revd Denise and Mayor Ginny Alexander judged the competitions and were thrilled with the high standard of the entries, although this made their job harder! The Easter Cake-Off was won by Eunice Sarsfield (adult) and Danielle Cheetham (children). Fabulous cakes, well done.



The Easter bonnet winners were Susan McKenna (adult); Ava, Max and Thomas (children); and Coral (pets). Aren't they eggstra-special....



**Thank you** to everyone who entered the competitions, the judges, Hannah Dashwood for baking a wonderful cake prize for the adult bonnet winner and the Style ladies who organised each competition. You are all very talented and we hope that you had a lot of fun taking part.

**MAY DAY** - Eunice Sarsfield, has very kindly filled an empty tub of Heroes and added some additional chocolate goodies. She's also included an envelope with a mystery cash prize! Corinne will be running a 'Guess the number of Heroes in the tub'; £1 a go and Kathy will be running a May Day raffle. Keep an eye on the Facebook page or message any of the STYLE ladies if you want to have a guess and/or buy raffle tickets.



Looking ahead to early June, we are planning on hosting another quiz night. More details in the next magazine.

STYLE are still holding online Zoom meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and are eagerly looking forward to the time when we can all meet up face to face again. Everyone is welcome to join STYLE, even if you don't attend church; just speak with any of the ladies.

## Treasurer's Letter



**We really appreciate all your financial support.**



### **HOW YOU CAN HELP US TO RAISE FUNDS?**

- \* Join in the STYLE May Day fundraising activities - see the STYLE article.
- \* HUGE THANKS to Gail Randall who sold a piccolo through eBay and very kindly donated the funds to church to continue to fund the live-streaming of services. Gail is also selling a flute, violin and fold-up bed to raise more funds. If you are interested in any of the items or know of someone who would be, please get in touch. Have you got anything you are willing to sell to raise funds for St Thomas Church?

#### **\* FOR SALE:**



**Violin outfit £1,200:** Comprising violin – German origin, circa 1900. Good state of preservation, violin bow no. 1: stamped 'A R Reichel', violin bow no. 2: stamped 'Gotz', violin case with outer cover and violin 'Wolf' shoulder rest. Buyer to collect or can post if postage paid.



**Silver flute: £750:** Mateki Takeuchi MFG Japan flute. Serial number: MO – OO 3 1614. Pre-owned but in great condition. Buyer to collect or can post if postage paid.

**Single folding bed £75:** with 10cm mattress and headboard – as brand new – never been used. Buyer to collect



HUGE THANKS to Sarah Edwards (one of the STYLE ladies) who ran an Easter raffle and donated half the funds, £50, to church. The winning prize was a £50 voucher to spend on products from the FM World catalogue through Sarah's business, *Sarah Jane's Scents*.



\* Registered shoppers raised £43.08 for St Thomas Church in March. Thank you to everyone raising donations for St Thomas Moorside with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 4,600 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping at no extra cost to you. Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up and share today.

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomasmooreside/?invite=1UC8CV%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomasmooreside/?invite=1UC8CV%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

## Charity

There is still time for you to bring your jars of change/donations to church for our Lent charities, The North West Air Ambulance and Water Aid. If you need them to be collected, please let me or Revd Denise know so that we total up the amounts to be despatched.

**Money related questions, just for fun...** What is the surname of the previous Vice President of the USA?

**Answer to the March question:** Which old coin is still manufactured by the Royal Mint in very small quantities for inclusion in sets of the Maundy Money? A thruppenny bit.

Corinne

Another way you can help with church funds is to sponsor the altar flowers. All you need to do is pick a free date which might be a special date to you; a birthday, anniversary, in memory of a loved one or just because you want to see the church looking dressed with fresh, seasonal flowers.

Please contact Helen Cunliffe [helen\\_cunliffe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_cunliffe@yahoo.co.uk) 07761 056110 to arrange or add your name to the rota on the A-board at the back of church.



**11<sup>th</sup> April onwards** – all other weeks are free at the time of writing

**23<sup>rd</sup> May** – Helen Cunliffe for Mum

**30<sup>th</sup> May** – Susan McKenna in memory of Harry Eastwood (1<sup>st</sup> June)

## Bedding Plants – Last chance to order



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This is your **last chance** to order bedding plants as orders must be with Millicent And Donald by **9th May** (we have a slight extension to the date advertised on the form). Forms are available from Millicent and Donald. Call 0161 633 0850 or email a request to [dandmfeber@hotmail.com](mailto:dandmfeber@hotmail.com) and they will send an order form back to you to complete. The plants will be delivered on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May** and if you could arrange collection this would be greatly appreciated. On this occasion all profits will be given to Church.

The order form will also be available on the church and Style Facebook pages. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Donald and Millicent*

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### Letter from Larry

Dear Everyfurr,

It's me Larry T Cat, again! Revd Denise constantly tries to stop me from walking across her computer keyboard, but I always manage it, so here are my latest thoughts.

As you can see this month's picture is me having a lovely long nap in my comfy cat igloo. I think having a good rest is very important, and do it as often as I can. Revd Denise has told me that God has said we should all rest from work for at least one day of the week so we can re-charge our batteries and do things we really enjoy with our families and friends.



Fortunately, I love resting and have a strict timetable throughout the day consisting of rests, naps and sleeps. My cat igloo is my night time sleeping place, in the morning you will find me on my cat tree near the front window, and in the afternoon, I usually go upstairs to one of the bedrooms. Of course, however deeply asleep I am, I keep an ear open in case I hear the rattle of a Dreamies packet.

What do you do to rest and recover from all the work you do? Do you have favourite places like me?

Love from,  
*Larry T Cat*



# Moorside Church

	ALL PLANTS ARE F1 hybrid	PLANTS PER BOX	COST	NUMBER REQUIRED	TOTAL COST	
1 AGERATUM	Blue Edging	6	2.00			1
2 ALYSSUM	White Edging	12	2.00			2
3 ANTI RHINUMS	Bright coloured mixture	12	2.00			3
4 ASTERS	Tall mixed colours ideal cut flower	12	2.00			4
5 BEGONIA	Long lasting	6	2.00			5
6 COSMOS	Tall mixed colour flowers	6	2.00			6
7 DAHLIA	Mixed colours	6	2.00			7
8 DIANTHUS	Mixture of pink & reds	9	2.00			8
9 FRENCH MARIGOLD	Mixed oranges & gold	9	2.00			9
10 GAZANIA	Tough colourful flowers	6	2.00			10
11 MESEMBRYANTHEMUM	Sun lovers, brilliant colours	12	2.00			11
12 AFRICAN MARIGOLD	Huge Flower Heads	9	2.00			12
13 IMPATIENS	Long lasting	6	2.00			13
14 LOBELIA	White Edging	12	2.00			14
15 LOBELIA	Blue edging	12	2.00			15
16 NICOTIANA	Mixed fragrant flowers	6	2.00			16
17 PANSY	Mixed variety of colours	9	2.00			17
18 PETUNIA	Mixed variety of colours	9	2.00			18
19 SALVIA	Dark foliage/scarlet spikes	6	2.00			19
20 STOCKS	Mixed colours/strong scented	12	2.00			20
21 VERBENA	Colourful upright flowers	6	2.00			21
22 NASTURTIUM	Mixed - per pot	10	2.00			22
23 SWEET PEAS	Mixed colours - per pot	10	1.00			23
24 FUCHSIA - trailing	Single Plants for Pots/Baskets	1	1.00			24
25 GERANIUMS-trailing	Single Plants for Pots/Baskets	1	1.00			25
26 HANGING BASKET	Fully planted - 12" diameter		15.00			26

Please return orders by Sunday 2nd May

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## **May: Day of Pentecost, Whit Sunday**

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning 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. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.



The  
Tale of the  
**TWO  
BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

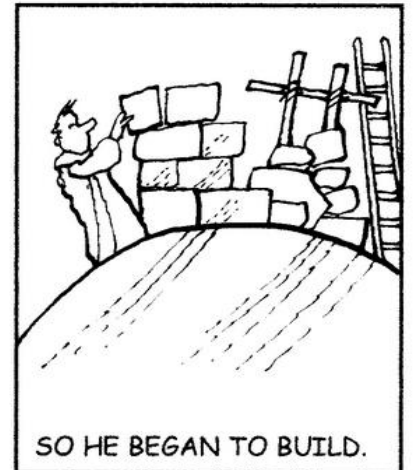


ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO  
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH  
AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON  
WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE  
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.



THE OTHER BUILDER  
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE  
BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND  
WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



BUT ONE DAY THE  
STORM CAME....

...AND THE WIND BLEW....AND  
THE RAIN FELL....



...AND THE HOUSE ON  
THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE  
ROCK STOOD FIRM.



JESUS EXPLAINED -  
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE  
A FIRM FOUNDATION.



## **'The Call' – and Twitter!**

Well, in July it will be one year since I bought and became the owner of my very **first** Smartphone! Up until then I was proud to own my twenty-year-old and seldom used mobile phone. As far as social media was concerned, it was something I didn't really understand and certainly didn't 'do.' But then, Revd. Denise opened my eyes to the joys of this. 'You could follow @Number10cat,' she said 'and look at Gladders yoga' (that's yoga for cats) 'on a Wednesday evening.' That was my introduction to Twitter. Since then, however much I've enjoyed following the two government felines, Twitter has become far more useful to me because it's one of the ways I know when my music is being performed.

I've composed music on and off over the years but without having any formal tuition in composition. I began violin lessons at secondary school and I taught myself to play the piano. After working out how the viola clef worked, I composed a string quartet when I was thirteen. I still have it; it's called Easter Suite and the movements represent Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day. Then I taught myself to play the flute. Finally, after spending two happy years studying A level music, I had five subjects at Grade 8 as well as my A levels, and left for London to study at Trinity Laban Conservatoire. My instruments were flute, piano and voice, but I continued to compose and was awarded a fellowship in composition.

During my career in education, I composed and arranged for the groups I worked with – usually instrumental groups – youth wind bands and orchestras. When I retired, I decided I must try to compose for choir, something I had very seldom done. At the same time, I felt a call to ministry and in 2014 began the Diocese 'Foundations for Ministry' course, followed by ALM training. Around this time, I was drawn to the poem 'The Call' by George Herbert and knew I wanted to set it to music. I felt a complete affinity with the words which seemed to express my own 'call.' It was several months before I had the initial ideas for the piece and about a year before it was completed. The first performance was in London in May 2016 where it was very well received. It was published in an anthology of sacred music by women composers in 2019 and it has become extremely popular. Even during the last year when it has been so difficult for choirs to perform, it has received some high-profile performances at concerts as well as church services.

Because the music has been published, I don't need to be contacted when it is performed. But thanks to Twitter, every now and again my name pops up and I see it has been performed in Ipswich, London, Cambridge, Nantwich, Glasgow and a few days ago, New York! At the time of writing, I have just



learned it will be recorded by the BBC Singers in a couple of days as part of an upcoming Radio 3 broadcast.

Since beginning training for Reader ministry, composing has taken second place but I do have new works which I hope might be performed when choirs are able to meet again. I believe composing church music is part of my ministry. In New York, 'The Call' was sung as a meditation before the sermon; at St Mary-le-Tower in Ipswich one of the choir members commented (on Twitter) 'The Call' is so simple, yet so beautiful and it helped me to worship.' I can ask for no more.

Gail Randall

*Well done Gail – this is a lovely and inspirational story. Thank you for sharing it with us. I'm sure everyone at St. Thomas' feels very proud of you and your success (Ed)*

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## **Thy Kingdom Come**

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Christians from more than 170 countries and 65 denominations have taken part. Thy Kingdom Come runs between Ascension and Pentecost, and in 2021 will take place from **13-23 May**

### **New For 2021**

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/new-2021>

Keep an eye on the above page for all of the new resources for **2021** as they become available. They have lots of fantastic new resources in the pipeline, including; an **escape room resource for young people**, daily videos, more **Cheeky Pandas** resources, an **updated Digital Family Prayer Adventure Map and much more! We are also giving away 100,000 Prayer Journals!** (you just pay for postage)

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources>

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

Hello All,

I've spent a pleasant couple of weeks enjoying all the early signs of spring. I've been able to get out and about visiting local National Trust and English Heritage sites. The weather has been dry and sunny though still cold on some days, but it's been amazing to see so much of God's awesome creation. New-born lambs, daffodils, bluebells and so many other flowers blooming, blossom on the trees, squirrels chasing up and down trees, deer foraging bird nesting and the dawn chorus are just some of the more obvious things. But have you seen the growing number of insects that provide food for the birds, bees that collect the pollen to make honey, wood lice and worms that help to break down the dead plant? And yet during this period we have also had some freezing temperatures and snow and I've had to keep a close eye on the weather to make sure I can bring in my bedding plants to protect them from frost! April has seen extremes in the weather from snow and ice to quite warm days, temperatures ranging from -5°C to over 20°C. It makes me wonder all the more about how much of this is the result of our stewardship.

This month has also seen the country face a period of National mourning following the death of HRH Prince Philip. One of his legacies is the World Wide Fund for Nature of which he was president from 1981 to 1996. The highest award given by the organisation is named after him 'The Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Award.' This is just one of the Environmental and wildlife causes the Prince supported and is one of the organisations which the royal family has asked people to donate to instead of sending flowers or other items of condolence.

Prince Philip was ahead of his time in many of the causes he supported and not least of these was his passion for the environment and how we should be taking better care and reducing our impact. We are still taking steps each month to reduce the impact our church has and are working to reduce our carbon footprint. This month has seen us changing all the lightbulbs in church to ones which use less energy and we now have a water butt so we can collect and use rainwater to water the flowers in the grounds. We have also installed water saving devices in the toilets in the church hall as well which cost less than £1 each. As well as saving energy and water these steps will also help reduce our utility bill so it's a great win. Why not have a look into making these changes in your home. Try looking on your utility website they often have some great bargains that can save you money and help the environment.



### **#13 Grow your own herbs**

For herbs such as basil, mint, coriander and parsley are easy to grow and saves on plastic bags and plastic containers as well as being cheaper in the long run. They also don't take up much space and can be grown on a balcony or windowsill.

### **#14 Grow your own Salad**

Lettuce is another easy grow that doesn't take up much space. You can also harvest but cutting the leaves once they are about 3 inches and they will grow back several times. And when they stop just change the compost and replant the seeds to start over.

Best wishes

Angela x

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## **Nectar in your garden**

Our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps in towns and cities.

They yield 85 per cent of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology.

Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees.

One ecologist has called home gardens "pivotal" in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the county. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.



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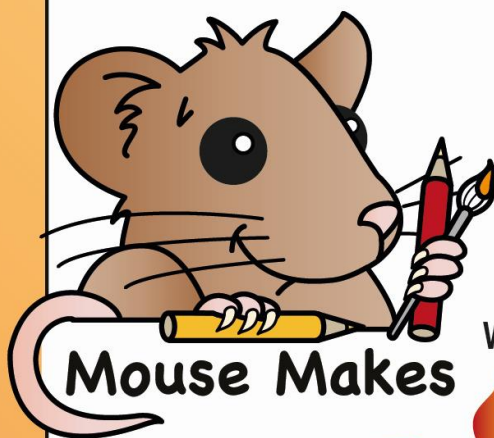
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Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit  
**V S E I L**  
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit  
helps us to  
**W K N O**  
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit  
**H C T S E E A**  
us about God.

The Holy Spirit  
**K P E S S A**  
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit  
**P H L S E**  
us to tell others  
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit  
helps us when we  
**A Y P R**



On the day of PENTECOST  
the disciples were gathered  
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6



Which countries  
had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was  
their reaction?

Acts 2:12-13



Who explained  
what was  
happening?  
What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many  
people were  
baptised  
that day?

Acts 2:41



Change each letter to the  
letter before it in the  
alphabet and see what  
the **Holy Spirit**  
produces in us:

KPZ  
IVNJMJUZ  
TFMG DPOUSPM  
GBJUIGVMOFTT  
LJOEOFTT  
QBUJFODF  
QFBDF  
MPWF  
HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the  
**Holy Spirit**? What does He do?  
Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC \_ ES  
COMF \_ RTS  
REVEA \_ S  
IN \_ OU  
TRAN \_ FORMS  
HEL \_ S  
GU \_ DES  
GENEWS  
CONV \_ CTS  
SANC \_ IFIES

# Health & Wellness Body Management

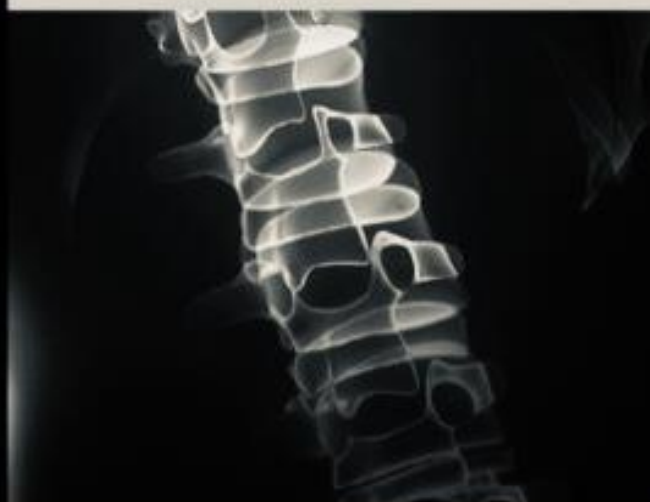
- Spinal/Joint Manipulation
- Sports Therapy
- Advanced Remedial Massage
- Injury Rehabilitation
- Post Operative Rehabilitation
- Post Operative Breast Cancer Rehabilitation
- Women's Wellness Exercise for: -  
Pre & Post Natal Pregnancy  
Menopause  
Bone-Safe Osteoporosis
- Pilates
- Core Stability Exercise
- Thermal Auricular Therapy

Home Appointments  
Available

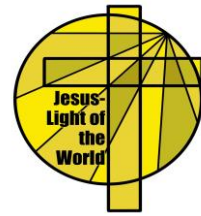
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## Foreigners?

Among the estimated 130,000 people from Hong Kong who are making their way to the UK, there are bound to be thousands of Christians. What kind of reception will they get from the churches here?

We shudder when reminded of the cold shoulder shown to the 500 Jamaicans who disembarked the SS Empire Windrush at Tilbury in 1948, and others who followed. They came in response to a recruitment drive by London Transport and the NHS. Many were practising Anglicans, so naturally they made their way to English parish churches. Many were told they didn't belong there.

St Paul's nightmare about the Church had become a reality, with the eye saying to the hand, "I don't need you." (1 Corinthians 12.21) As a result, the Church of England missed out on the faith, experience, and witness of brother and sister believers from the Caribbean.

Hong Kong citizens who hold British National Overseas passports can now apply for a work visa, enabling them to live and work in the UK, after which they may apply for permanent UK citizenship. They will bring a wealth of knowledge with them, including the experience of living under an increasingly repressive regime.

This is our chance to learn from past errors and to turn hostility into hospitality. We will soon discover that we have at least as much to receive as we have to give. UK society has already been enriched by immigrants, especially those who belong to ethnic minorities in this country, but are in the majority, worldwide. The NHS alone would collapse without them.

In Bible times, Christians who were from Jewish backgrounds found it hard to believe the Church could accommodate foreigners. First there was a division between Hebrew-speakers and Greek-speakers. An even bigger row followed, when new Christians in other countries were regarded as sub-standard. Then St Peter had a visionary experience which contradicted his narrow upbringing.

Chinese? African? Caribbean? European? British? The real Church will accommodate everyone and then look for others to welcome.





## **Mea Culpa**

A group of lads took a trip to France and decided to attend Mass in a small town, even though none of them understood French. They managed to stand, kneel and sit when the rest of the congregation did, so it wouldn't be obvious they were tourists. At one point, the priest spoke and the man sitting next to them stood up, so they got up, too. The entire congregation broke into hearty laughter.

After the service they approached the priest, who spoke English, and asked him what had been so funny. The priest said he had announced a birth in the parish and had asked the father to stand up.

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## **The puppies**

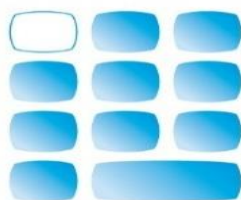
A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."

---

## **Coronavirus – warning about vaccine**

This is an important lesson....A friend had his second dose of the vaccine at the vaccination centre. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home. He rang the vaccination centre in a panic and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told NOT to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once to the vaccination centre...and pick up his glasses....



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## *Parish Registers*



### **Baptism**

We pray for families planning to have their children baptised at St Thomas in the coming months.  
We continue to pray for our confirmation candidates whose confirmations have been postponed.

### **Holy Matrimony**

We pray for couples whose weddings will be held at St Thomas this year.

### **Funerals**

We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently



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## Millions join worship online during the pandemic

The Church of England's national online services alone have attracted more than 3.7 million views since the first restrictions on gatherings for public worship to limit the spread of Covid-19 were introduced. Clips and content from the services have been seen 40 million times on social media channels. The Church of England's prayer and discipleship apps have been accessed eight million times, up 50 per cent on the previous year.



The figures for the online services are thought to be just the tip of the iceberg, as churches' response to the pandemic triggered a major change in the way Christians worship and reach out to their neighbours.

As churches look ahead, many are assessing how to incorporate the lessons of the last year into their regular patterns of worship and outreach after the pandemic.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said: "I think there has been a digital coming of age.

"Of course we long to meet in person, but online services can be very beautiful. People of different ages, from different parts of the country or even the world, families sitting together, people watching whilst having a cup of coffee are all coming together to worship online in ways that we just couldn't have imagined a year ago."

Many of those attending online services were worshipping for the first time. The need to find new ways of meeting for worship amid lockdowns and local restrictions has also helped the wider public engage with a broad range of Anglican traditions. For example, Book of Common Prayer services have seen a large increase in people attending as a result of being available online.

Amaris Cole, the Church of England's Head of Digital, said: "The last year has shown the incredible creativity of our local churches, which have worked quickly to engage with their communities, despite restrictions.



"It's been incredible to hear the stories of those being reached through these online services.

"With the national weekly services shared on our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#), we've been able to connect with people who may have never engaged with church services before and have seen communities form in the comments while these services are streaming on a Sunday morning.

"They regularly share prayer requests, ask questions about the Christian faith and offer to support others online. With services being led by bishops, chaplains, vicars and lay people, featuring classic hymns or worship bands, readings from television presenters and children from our primary schools, the diversity of the Church of England has been showcased through our national social media channels and we've ensured corporate worship is accessible wherever people may be."

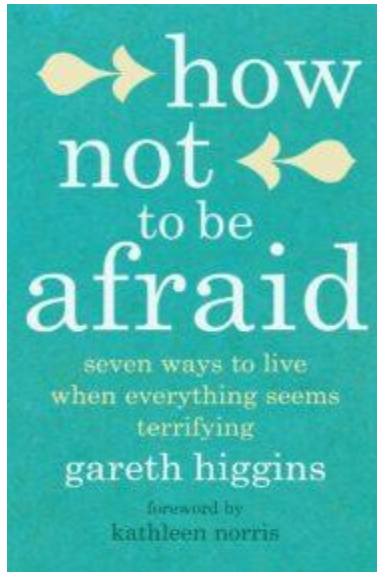
Some prayer apps you might like to try are :-

- The Church of England's [Daily Prayer app](#), offering traditional services of Morning, Evening and Night Prayer.
- The [Lectionary app](#), which includes the calendar, readings and prayer for the Church's year
- The Church of England [campaign app](#) which provides reflections for #LiveLent campaign and the Comfort and Joy campaign during Advent and Christmas
- [Time to Pray](#), which offers simple Daytime and Night Prayer services with audio
- [Reflections for Daily Prayer](#), offering daily Bible reflections, [Sunday Worship](#)
- [Reflections on the Psalms](#)
- [Daily Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come](#)



***We give thanks to Revd. Denise, Revd. Dr Paul Monk, Fr Richard, Angela and Gail for their time and effort to engage with us and adapt to new ways of worship during the pandemic.***

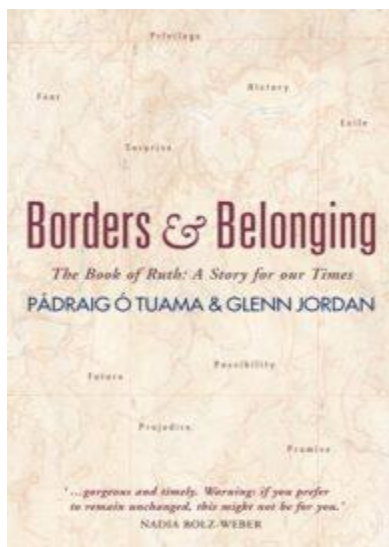
## BOOK REVIEWS



**How Not To Be Afraid – seven ways to live when everything seems terrifying**  
**By Gareth Higgins and Kathleen Norris,**  
**Canterbury Press, £14.99**

We live in a time where we seem more afraid than ever. The rise of populism, polarisation and aggression in politics, the media and popular culture, and the climate crisis have coincided with the collapse of previously cherished norms and expectations about economic stability, community life, and even the future of the planet.

And all this before the pandemic struck. No wonder we are overwhelmed by anxiety. Popular speaker, storyteller and activist Gareth Higgins exposes the root causes of fear and shows how we can break its power through life-giving stories, simple spiritual exercises and practical steps to take as individuals and communities.



**Borders and Belonging – the Book of Ruth – a story for our times**  
**By Padraig O Tuama and Glenn Jordan,**  
**Canterbury Press, £11.69**

A leading poet and a theologian reflect on the Old Testament story of Ruth, a tale that resonates deeply in today's world with its themes of migration, the stranger, mixed cultures and religions, law and leadership, women in public life, kindness, generosity and fear.

Ruth's story speaks directly to many of the issues and deep differences that Brexit has exposed and to the polarisation taking place in many societies. Padraig O Tuama and Glenn Jordan bring the redemptive power of Ruth to bear on today's seemingly intractable social and political divisions, reflecting on its challenges and how it can help us be effective in the public square, amplify voices which are silenced, and be communities of faith in our present day.

## The Travellers

They travelled together sad and forlorn  
With all of their dreams shattered and torn,  
It started so well, their hopes were high  
Never to guess that He would die.

The Man joined the two as they walked along,  
He asked why their faces were sad and long,  
'Have you not heard' disbelieving they cried  
'How the One we followed was crucified?'

Opening the scriptures He began to unfold  
How the Christ should suffer as written of old,  
It was not a disaster, but all of God's plan  
That one should come as Redeemer of man.

They listened enraptured as slowly they saw  
The purpose of God revealed in the Law  
The Prophets and Psalms, it's all about Him  
The One who should come and rescue from sin

O that eyes should be opened and scripture  
made plain,  
To see Christ in its pages again and again,  
That just like the travellers I too should see  
The Master, the Saviour dying for me.

*By Megan Carter*



## Prayer for Pentecost

Loving Father God,  
Thank you for sending your  
Holy Spirit;  
Your Spirit who knows no  
restrictions or barriers;  
Your Spirit who can reach us  
and be with us and in us,  
wherever we are, whatever  
our circumstances;  
Your Spirit who comforts and  
heals and empowers us to live  
with confidence that,  
ultimately, all shall be well;  
Your Spirit who connects us,  
through the life, death,  
resurrection and ascension of  
Jesus.  
Because of Jesus' victory over  
death we have hope and life  
forever.  
Thank you, loving Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## Ascension

To complete Your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, You  
ascended through the air into the heavens, before the very eyes of the  
apostles. In this way You showed that You are Lord of all, and are the  
fulfilment of all creation. Thus from that moment every human and every  
living creature should bow at Your name. And, in the eyes of faith, we  
can see that all creation proclaims Your greatness.

*A prayer of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153). He was the main  
inspiration of the Cistercian Order of Monks.*

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**Be kind to each other** *'And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.'* (Matthew 10:42)

During the pandemic, there have been thousands of shining examples up and down the country of people going the extra mile to help the elderly, vulnerable and those at risk. The helpers have been shopping, cooking meals, making regular telephone calls, and checking that needs are being met. We must sincerely hope that these acts of kindness will continue well beyond the coronavirus outbreak.

Simple acts of kindness are so important in cementing the fabric of our society. Some years ago, this thought inspired the following poem: ***A Brighter Tomorrow*** By Colin Hammacott

There is much we can do just to brighten  
This world of all take and no give  
There's a great deal that we can contribute  
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours  
Or through lending a hand in some way  
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers  
To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours  
In the service of those most in need  
It's all about setting a standard  
And trying to give others a lead

It's the way that we tend to treat others  
And help and aid folks in distress  
It's the care and assistance we offer  
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple  
The rewards plain for all men to see  
'As you did all of this to my brother  
Then' said Christ, 'you did it to Me.'



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Gail Randall - for selling a piccolo and donating the cash to church.

Mrs E Haworth - for her donation in memory of Colin Haworth.

Phil and Katryna.

## **May READINGS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>Sunday 2nd May</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 8. 26-end	1 John 4. 7-end	John 15. 1-8
<b>Sunday 9th May</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 10. 44-end;	1 John 5. 1-6;	John 15. 9-17
<b>Sunday 16th May</b> Sunday After Ascension	Acts 1. 15-17, 21-26;	1 John 5. 9-13	John 17. 6-19
<b>Sunday 23rd May</b> Pentecost	Acts 2. 1-21	Romans 8. 22-27	John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15
<b>Sunday 30th May</b> Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6. 1-8	Romans 12-17;	John 3. 1-17
<b>Sunday 6th June</b> First Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 3. 8-15	2 Corinthians 4. 13-5.1	Mark 3. 20-end

## **100 CLUB**

Here are the 100 Club winners for March/April.

1st prize.	No. 25.	Darren Martin.	£20.
2nd prize.	No. 18.	Corinne Ogden.	£15.
3rd. prize.	No.98.	Margaret Whyatt.	£10.

Now we have more numbers we have increased the prize money,  
but still doing a draw every two months.



## CONTACTS AND EVENTS

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READER	Angela Bilbruck	StThomasreader@gmail.com	07941 485942
WARDENS	Simon Cane	2 Rossendale Close, Shaw	07775 571305
	Sam Atherton	Sam.atherton@icloud.com	07903 823352
ST. THOMAS' CofE SCHOOL HEADTEACHER	Adam Laskey B.Ed.(Hon) NPQH	Coleridge Road, Sholver, OL1 4RL	0161 624 9290
TREASURER	Corinne Ogden	garycorinne@tiscali.co.uk	07483 836554
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RAINBOWS	Gillian Smith		01706 880116
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GUIDES	Aimee Burns	Aburns4519@gmail.com	07980 962884
BEAVERS	Karena Fairbrother	127beavers@gmail.com	07958 102062
CUBS	Kathy Temple-Heald	Kathy.th@ntlworld.com	01706 663817
SCOUTS	Matt Seville	Matthew.seville01@hotmail.co.uk	07972 310342
EXPLORERS	Ian Temple-Heald	sales@unitedflags.co.uk	07910 416303
BELLRINGERS	Peter Randall	peterrandall@care4free.net	0161 620 5421
CHOIR	Gail Randall	gailrandall55@gmail.com	0161 620 5421
MOORSIDE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Mike Smith	mesmith99_1@btinternet.com	0161 652 5827
CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS	Sarah Edwards	st.thomas.moorside@gmail.com	07852 524300

*Please check with group leaders for start dates or keep an eye on our Facebook pages for more information*

Monday	Handbell Group	10.30am – 12pm	Choir Vestry
	Rainbows	6.30pm -7.30pm	Church Hall
	Brownies	6.45pm - 8pm	
	Bell Ringers	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Bell Tower
	Bible Study	7.30pm	Choir Vestry
	Guides	7.30pm – 9pm	Church Hall
Tuesday	Beavers	6.30pm -7.30pm	Church Hall
	Cubs	7.00pm - 8.30pm	
	Scouts	8.00pm - 9.30pm	
	Explorers	8.30pm-9.30/10pm	
Wednesday	Youth Group for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Age	1.30 – 3pm	Church Hall Lounge
	Wednesday Worship	7pm	Church
Last Weds of month	Junior Bible Study	6pm	Choir Vestry
Thursday	Choir	6.30pm – 8pm	Choir Vestry
Sunday	Parish Communion	8.30am/10.30am	Church
	Sunday School/Sunday Youth	10.25am	Church Hall