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MENSTON
PARISH CHURCH
St John the Divine



JESUS - The Bread of Life

ROOF APPEAL ~ What's happening!

Our target ~ £102,000

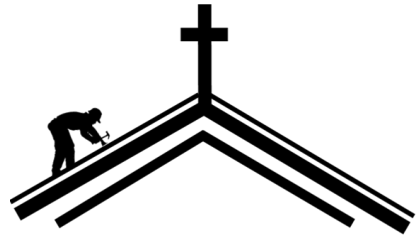
Income to 30/8/2020

Congregational giving £25,414
Fundraising Events £1,191

TOTAL **£30,422 with Gift Aid**

We are still short of our fundraising target so it is not too late to donate either by

- BACS to: Menston PCC 40-22-28 A/C 40572640
Reference (most imp) : Roof + surname
- or cheque payable to Menston PCC. Send to the Treasurer, Hillcrest, Kelcliffe Lane, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 9DE or post through the Parish Office letterbox. If you are a taxpayer please consider Gift Aid. A gift aid declaration form is available from the Treasurer if he does not already hold your details.



FUNDRAISING

Fundraising events are currently cancelled due to the ongoing issues associated with Covid-19. Definite events will be notified in good time via the Parish Notes and magazine.

From the Editor

Welcome to the September edition of St John's magazine. Once again, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to print and distribute the magazine to all our subscribers.

Harvest will be celebrated on **Sunday 20 September** with a Zest service at 9.30am followed by a Service of the Word at 11am. See p 9 for further details and the request for **cash donations** only this year.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will take place at long last on Sunday 27 September - see page 8.

Do check out the article and link to the image of the controversial painting in St Albans Cathedral and consider sharing *your* thoughts in the next magazine.

The deadline for copy for the October edition will be **13 September**. Please send to me janmalexander@btinternet.com or post through the office letterbox. I sincerely hope that we can print and distribute as *'in the old days!'*.

My thanks as ever to all the contributors. Good wishes to you all and continue to keep safe.

Jan Alexander



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Dear Friends

Last time I wrote for the Parish Magazine I drew parallels between the release of lockdown and Noah's family coming out of the ark. It feels like it's been a long and unsettling summer and this sense of release has, like for Noah and his family, perhaps opened up other pressures and uncertainties. Some of us feel we are still locked in the ark, others have left the ark but are now struggling with how to settle. Some of us have managed to travel, but become stuck elsewhere or quarantined when we return. Still others perhaps find the strange new world, into which we have been semi-released, difficult and perhaps we even long for a return to lockdown when things were simpler. For some, the world we now face with its anxieties about economy, finance, R-rates, local lockdowns, face masks, and so on, is almost as scary as the world we were released from. I'm sure it was similar for Noah and his family.

However, lockdown has given us time and space to take stock of what is important in our lives. Like an enforced retreat, our lockdown experience holds up a mirror to our lives and makes us take notice. I've said it before, how we leave lockdown – even if that leaving is bumpy and at times circuitous – is important. Do we just go back to the way things were, or do we live differently after this chance to reflect?

If you follow on from the Noah story in the Bible, you will discover a truly sad fact: the humanity which survived the flood returned to their old ways really quickly. No sooner have Noah's feet touched the ground, it seems that they've started to place humanity at the centre of everything again. Noah gets drunk and one of his sons gets cursed. Then there's some ancestry where God doesn't get a look in, but instead humans are placed front and centre again. Then we build up towards the arrogance of humanity being manifest in the great tower of

Babel. God reappears in the story, but this time as an onlooker from outside - so far has humanity drifted away from the God who saved them and their ancestors from global judgment. And so the cycle repeats. Humanity won't listen to God or each other and so becomes divided and scattered across the very world they were created to populate and enjoy together.

It is a sad tale. For us though, it raises questions. What will change for us as we come out of lockdown? Will life be as before? When the mirror was held up, were we happy with what we saw? What was important then that isn't so important now? What did we pass over then that we came to learn was really important to us now? What have we learned about God in lockdown that we need to not lose now?

The temptation will always be to slide back into old habits. To return to ways of living that we didn't miss when they were removed which we realised weren't that important after all. We need to pray that we would not slide back into being the centrepiece of our lives, and instead remember what is important to us. Perhaps lockdown gave you chance to spend more time with God – why let anything crowd that out! Perhaps lockdown reminded you about the importance of family and friends – why let other stuff get in the way of that?

Jesus tells a parable about seed falling in thorny ground where the stuff of the world chokes the seedlings. For us, lockdown has removed a lot of the weeds that choke us. Let's prayerfully make sure they don't grow again, unbidden, as we emerge back into the world.

Steve

A View from The Pews by Dominic Hall

I hope you are all well and continuing to cope with the current restrictions. One of the most useful outlets for many of us at this time has been the internet. The use of social media and electronic contact during the pandemic has increased markedly. It raises, however, an interesting issue about how we communicate with one another.

Anybody who uses Twitter, Facebook and so on cannot fail to have noticed that there has been an increase in angry exchanges and online abuse. For every cute dog video there is someone venting their spleen about politics or race or the state of society.

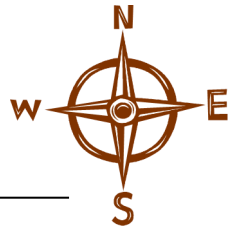
These issues are, of course, incredibly important but they should be debated in a calm, civil and understanding manner. I know sometimes those in the public eye do not necessarily provide the best example but I am not convinced that they should be our guides.

Isolation has led us to see many people through the prism of a screen. It seems that we are more connected but less engaged than ever before. This provides us with a dreadful problem but also an exciting opportunity. The problem is that, if we do not know somebody, it is much easier to cause them pain. When someone writes something with which we disagree on social media we might write an abusive message for them to see. We might belittle them in a public arena. We might dismiss them as unworthy of the common courtesies of daily life. One thing we tend not to do is to consider why they hold the views they do. We do not consider their background, education or the way they see the world as being the consequence of their own family life. We assume in our bubbles that we have the right of it and that everyone who disagrees is wrong and riddled with faults.

This actually presents us with an opportunity. A chance to engage with a wider community, to burst our bubbles and reach out to those with whom we disagree, whilst maintaining all the rules about social distancing! Those of us using social media could set ourselves the task to respond in a positive manner to a disagreeable post. We could ask questions that are a genuine source of enquiry. We could explain that our experiences have led us to a different conclusion. We could sow the seeds of politeness and friendliness. In short, we could take the connections we have made and turn them into constructive and decent engagement.

I hope you continue to stay safe, connected and engaged and wear a mask!

Prayer Points



In an uncertain and worrying world we might not have been able to find consolation and comfort in some of the usual places – in the church, in the homes of our family and friends, or in doing the everyday things we used to take for granted.

Some of us might have felt it was difficult to summon up and express our faith as we used our energies to deal with the new situation we found ourselves in.

At times like this, I read the words of a young woman who, having been diagnosed with terminal cancer, speaks about where she finds her faith:

'I have started kneeling down in forest glades and old, cold churches and asking for help. The God I find there – the one who helps me cling on to a still, small voice of calm – is the God of churches at dusk, a God who swims in cold seas, inhabits high mountains and wild places. Being outside, among nature, among all this, is the one unfailing way I have found to stop my Achilles' heel from crippling me.'

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Lord, help us to understand
that the world is not binary nor perfect.
Show us that the scales of suffering are there
but so too are those of peace and joy.
Help us to find a way to realise our faith in You.

With thanks to Susan Druett for this month's Prayer Points

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Sunday 27 September ~ 11am

To be held in church within a Service of the Word
with additional seating in the Parish Room.

AGENDA

- Election of 2 Churchwardens
- Election of 6 PCC members:
 - 4 to serve for 3 years*
 - 1 to serve for 2 years*
 - 1 to serve until 2021 APCM*
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of sidespersons
- Reports from church groups

Please think and pray about nominations and whether you are prepared to stand for any of the vacancies.

Please notify the Vicar by 20 September, by email or in writing, of any questions you may wish to raise at the meeting.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts and reports from church groups will be available on **Sunday 20 September**. Please take one per household and bring with you to the meeting.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sunday 20 September

There will be two services on this Sunday morning. Both services will follow a different format to allow for Covid-19 restrictions but will have a Harvest Thanksgiving focus.

9.30am	Zest service
11.00am	Service of the Word

Once again St John's is supporting the Bradford North branch of the Trussell Trust but please

DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD OR TOILETRY ITEMS

Due to the restrictions on movement within a church building and problems associated with the handling of donated items imposed by Covid-19 restrictions, Steve has asked that we help the Food Bank with **donations of money only this year**. There will be a Big Jar at the back of church for cash donations.

The Food Bank provides 3-day emergency food parcels to people in crisis in North Bradford / Shipley / Rawdon / Yeadon or Guiseley areas. From April to July, throughout the Covid-19 outbreak, the Food Bank has successfully continued to provide support to those most vulnerable in the community; in food poverty, crisis, self isolation or lock-down and in need of emergency food.

They have issued a total of 771 food parcels, helping 3,273 adults, a 28% increase on last years figures and a total of 2,631 children, a rise of 60% on last years figures. Our cash donations will help them to purchase much needed items to replenish their shelves.

If you would like to be part of the regular prayer support for the Food Bank check out their website:

<https://bradfordnorth.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/become-a-prayer-partner/>

Outreach Group

RHYTHM OF LIFE

Following the Lay Conference in 2018, the Diocese has been working on the best way to encourage how to put ‘Loving, Living, Learning’ at the centre of our Christian calling. ‘The Rhythm of Life’ initiative is the response to this and is gradually being rolled out to all congregations.

The idea is to reflect on how we are ‘*loving*’ in our lives and so consider our prayer life, how we encourage others and how we share the generosity we have been shown.

Then to reflect on our ‘*Living*’- how we celebrate God’s goodness, and how we face the difficulties of everyday life as well as how we rest or are restored.

‘*Learning*’ suggests we look at how we grow in Christian maturity through study or new skills; and how we use our creativity.

A commitment card has been produced to help us keep track of what we have said we will do and also suggesting regular reviews!

Doing this in small groups is being encouraged - a bit tricky at present but could be done online or in physically distanced settings.

There are lots of online resources available here: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/rol/> Bishop Tony will be running a ‘get started’ session online on Tuesday 8 September and you can sign up here: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/event/rhythm-of-life-get-started-session/>

If you want to chat about this, give me a ring: ***Marilyn on 874220***. If you want to find others to form a group, do get in touch with the Parish Office.

St John's Parish Church, Menston

licc. Transform
Work UK



TRANSFORMING WORK

Discipleship for the workplace

Encouraging each other to live out faith in the workplace

From September

Once a month for 8 sessions

In the evening, via Zoom (at least to start with)

If you want to know more or get involved,

email vicar@stjohnmenston.org.uk

Each session includes:

- A ten-minute 'table talk' video on a key workplace topic
- Interviews and stories from working Christians
- A Bible passage and teaching on how to read it 'through workers' eyes'
- Time for group discussion and individual reflection
- Suggestions for prayer and going deeper

www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/transformingwork

SIX REASONS TO CHOOSE FAIRTRADE CHOCOLATE

Think all chocolate is the same? And what about all the different sustainability labels you find on supermarket shelves? Think again...

If you love chocolate and you want your choices to actually make a difference for farmers, please read on.



1. **Farmer-owned co-operatives are central to FAIRTRADE**

When small farmers join together and organise themselves democratically, they have more resources and more power in trade relationships, ultimately resulting in higher incomes.

Co-operatives and their farmer members choose to learn more on a range of topics, including governance, financial management, good agricultural practices, occupational health and safety, gender rights, income or crop diversification, and more. Almost nine out of ten co-ops report taking further action on their own, such as rolling out a training for their own members, developing a strategic plan, or strengthening their management systems.

2. **FAIRTRADE are the only major certification that guarantees farmers earn a price that supports costs of sustainable production.**

They recently increased the Fairtrade Minimum Price by 20%. Farmers can always negotiate and earn more when market prices are higher. In Côte d'Ivoire, the higher Fairtrade Minimum Price resulted in farmers earning more than \$15.1 million more than they would have with standard prices from October to December 2019.

3. **FAIRTRADE Co-operatives earn a premium and control it 100%.**

The mandated Fairtrade Premium for cocoa also increased by 20% last year: the highest fixed premium of any major certification. Co-ops are paid the additional Premium amount on top of the Fairtrade Minimum Price, and they decide how to invest it in projects of their choice.

What types of things do co-ops spend their Premium on? The biggest categories are investments in the co-ops themselves and services to farmers, including direct cash payments to boost incomes, and procurement of tools and other farm inputs. A cocoa producer

organisation in Côte d'Ivoire was able to install hydraulic water pumps and build new classrooms for their communities – making the farmers benefactors within their communities. What's most important is that the farmers themselves decide – and benefit.

4. Women cocoa farmers are growing as business owners and leaders. The Fairtrade Women's School of Leadership in Côte d'Ivoire will soon graduate its second cohort of women cocoa farmers – and male allies – who are developing themselves as leaders within their organisations, and realising their own economic empowerment. The year-long programme provides practical training in skills such as finance, negotiation and decision-making, and builds a community of camaraderie and support.

FAIRTRADE require equal treatment of women and men, and encourage formation of things like Women's Committees within co-ops to raise up and address the issues that women farmers are facing.

5. Farmers can make progress toward living incomes

In West Africa, the majority of cocoa farmers still live in poverty, driven by many factors including small farm sizes, low productivity and low global prices. Even Fairtrade farmers are not immune, especially given that many co-ops are only selling a portion of their harvest on Fairtrade terms and earning the accompanying Fairtrade Minimum Price and Premium.

We're committed to putting the pieces in place that will enable cocoa farmers to earn living incomes.

6. THERE'S A LOT OF DELICIOUSNESS TO CHOOSE FROM!

FAIRTRADE certified chocolate producers are found in more than 20 countries, primarily in West Africa but also in the Dominican Republic, Peru, Ecuador and more. The majority of **FAIRTRADE** cocoa comes from Côte d'Ivoire (about 80%), while most organic Fairtrade cocoa comes from Latin America. So no matter whether you're looking for baking chocolate, cocoa power, or specialty origins, the more than 320,000 cocoa farmers represented in the **FAIRTRADE** system have you covered.

Chocolate is delicious – but fair and sustainable chocolate tastes so much better. So grab your favourite **FAIRTRADE** chocolate today and enjoy!

Outreach Group

THIS MONTH from Andrew

MOTHER JULIAN of NORWICH

During the lockdown I have had the opportunity to do reading and thinking that perhaps I do not usually have time for. One of the people that I have been looking closer at is Julian of Norwich. An anonymous woman who lived over 600 years ago, and yet she is someone that scholars and learner alike frequently return to, to learn more of her sixteen visions and to understand what she described as her '*shewings*' in her writings afterwards.

So why is she still relevant today after all those years? Perhaps it is that our age of uncertainty, inconceivable suffering, and seemingly perpetual violence and war is not that dissimilar to fourteenth-century Europe. Julian shows us the way towards finding contemplative peace. Perhaps in a world of deadly diseases and ecological disasters, Julian teaches us how to endure pain in patience and trust that Christ is at work transforming every cross into resurrected glory.

The other thing that strikes me is that over the six centuries Julian's voice speaks to us about love. She communicates *personally*, as if she were very much with us here and now. I think that there is part of us all that hungers for love. Our hearts yearn for someone we can trust absolutely, and of course divine love can never fail. Julian reveals this love because, just like Mary Magdalene, she *experienced* it first-hand.

It must have taken great courage for Julian of Norwich to become the first woman ever to write a book in the English language. Even more impressive was that this unscholarly woman created a mystical theology that was second to none during the fourteenth century and that continues to speak to us today.

Julian is also emotionally raw, often tempted by self-doubt and discouragement, yet constantly renewed in hope. She does something extremely dangerous for a layperson living in the fourteenth century: she shares her struggle between the predominant medieval idea of a judgmental and wrathful God and her direct experience of the unconditional love of Christ on the cross. She makes herself totally vulnerable and transparently honest, without any pretence. She is down-to-earth, familiar, and easily accessible. She is keenly aware of her spiritual brokenness and longs to be healed, in the same way that many of us do. Leading up to her '*shewings*' she had experienced great

suffering of body, mind, and soul. She experienced raw moments of doubt, where she felt she had no faith, and she tried to answer the age-old eternal questions about meaning and purpose. Suddenly, it seems she experiences a turning point where she is overwhelmed by joy and 'gramercy' (great thanks) for the graces she is receiving. We too, can occasionally experience graces and find ourselves filled to overflowing with gratitude.

Again, and again, Julian reassures each one of us that we are loved by God, *unconditionally*. In her writings, we hear Christ telling Julian, 'I love you and you love me, and our love shall never be separated in two.'

The love of God creates in us such a oneing that when it is truly seen, no person can separate themselves from another person. - Julian of Norwich

Julian tells us, again and again, in a variety of ways, that God is our friend, our mother and our father, as close to us as the clothing we wear. She employs homely imagery and language, the vocabulary of domesticity, to tell us her experience. At the same time, she demonstrates a degree of sophisticated theological language. Julian is firm and steady on these points:

God is One.

Everything is in God.

God is in everything.

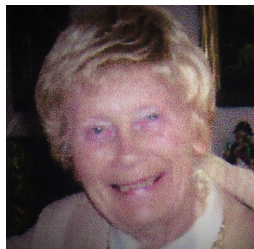
God transcends and encloses all that is made.

Holy Wisdom, Mother God, you hold my time in your hands.
Your providence guides the stars and my cells.
Your compassion opens my heart to healing in the midst of pain.
Help me rest in you, trusting the future in your care
and giving comfort to those who mourn, hurt,
and face personal challenge.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Andrew

HELEN MARJORIE GILL

Shirley Burnhill has sent some lovely memories of her sister Marjorie, a long-standing member of St John's, who died at the beginning of lockdown following a fall at her home on Clarence Drive.



In 1938, when Shirley was born, Marjorie was staying with a German family in Bonn where she learnt to speak German. She was hurriedly brought home after Hitler had invaded Poland by her father Albert. She enlisted in the RAF to 'do her bit for the war effort' and learnt to drive and understand the inner workings of 10 ton trucks! After the war the family moved to Clarence Drive, Menston and Marjorie worked as a book-keeper for her father's firm in Bradford which made all types of waterproof clothing.

Marjorie played golf at Bradford Golf Club and was a demon Bridge player. She travelled extensively on holiday mainly on cruises and until two years ago usually enjoyed 3 cruises a year especially those with Bridge evenings. Her favourite destination was India where she loved the buildings and people. After her father's death, aged 95, Marjorie stayed on in the bungalow she and her father had built. She loved gardening and was fortunate to have a wonderful gardener who produced plenty of fruit and vegetables for the table. She loved cooking and gave memorable dinner parties for friends and neighbours. Although most of her activities ceased due to increasing ill-health she continued to play Bridge and had many friends in Ilkley and Leeds.

When the Book of Common Prayer services ceased at St John's Marjorie became a regular member of the 11am Eucharist service and an enthusiastic sharer of The Peace. Despite her increasing frailty she always insisted on going to the altar to receive communion.

Marjorie was a remarkable lady, independent to the end. Upon giving up her car she purchased a mobility scooter with canopy and could regularly be seen making her way fearlessly down the very busy Bradford Road to Morrison's supermarket in Guiseley. She was generous too, supporting the Ghurka Welfare Trust for many years which had led to an invitation to tea at Buckingham Palace on Prince Charles' birthday, sadly declined due to increasing frailty.

Editor: My memories of Marjorie go back at least 40 years. We shared the same hairdresser for many of them which seemed to give us a special bond! From 10 ton trucks to a mobility scooter - she loved her vehicles. I will miss her cheerful presence on Sunday mornings.

28 NOVEMBER ~ The OCCASION CHOIR of YORK concert at St John's in aid of the roof fund

Who knows where we will be at the end of November? Locked down once again under attack from corona virus mark 2, or free to come and go where we like and see who we like. If it's the former these few paragraphs are redundant, but for a moment lets be optimistic.

The *Occasion Choir of York* is a group of talented musicians whose passion is singing and sharing their love of music with audiences all over the region. As well as regular performances in York the choir has recently sung in Bridlington and Castle Howard.

The choir's speciality is '**words and music**' evenings reflecting the seasons and festivals of the year. Both words and music are selected by the choir's music director Yvonne Robert, a professional musician who was taught by Isobel Bailey, and has broadcast regularly. Her aim is to ensure a sequence where words and music flow smoothly together, complementing each other in mood and style. The programmes include sacred music, opera, and songs from the shows.

The theme for the November concert at St John's will reflect the time of year between Remembrance and Christmas.

At this point I must plead special interest as for several years I have been the reader providing the words for these concerts. I hope that won't put you off and I am relieved that Joyce Simpson has agreed to provide a female voice.

The ticket price will be £8 and will include nibbles and a glass of wine or soft drink.

So please put the date in your diary for a relaxed and convivial evening of wide ranging music and readings washed down by a glass or two of what you fancy.

Oh, and what about the virus? Well if we are still unable to invite people to fill the church then Yvonne and the choir have one message: '*We will come and sing for you as soon as we can.*' So hopefully these paragraphs won't be redundant after all. It will happen sometime so watch this space!

Geoff Druett

St Alban's Cathedral 'black Jesus' stirs up a storm

A large-scale painting of the Last Supper depicting Jesus as a black man is provoking strong reactions and heated debate in the UK and around the world - just as good art should do.

St Albans Cathedral has installed the painting – on show until 31st October – to *'stand with the Black Lives Matter movement to be allies for change – building a strong, just and fair community where the dignity of every human being is honoured and celebrated, where black voices are heard, and where black lives matter.'*

People are responding with a wide range of opinions. Many have welcomed the artwork, but others are outraged, accusing the Cathedral of pandering to a 'political correctness' agenda. Some have described it as seeking to be 'trendy' and riding on the bandwagon of a popular movement.

Built on the site of an ancient shrine to Saint Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr, the Cathedral has been welcoming visitors for hundreds of years. It stands today as a thriving centre of worship and hospitality for thousands of pilgrims who visit each year.

The painting's artist, Lorna May Wadsworth, said: *'I cast Jamaican-born Tafari Hinds as my Jesus to make people question the western myth that He had fair hair and blue eyes . . . there is something in his countenance that people find deeply empathetic and moving, which is the overriding quality I wanted my Christ to embody.'*

Not everyone shares the artist's perspective. A Facebook post from the Cathedral promoting the installation drew 400 comments within an hour, as people from around the world hotly argued the case for and against the artwork.

One person responded: *'The church has not changed the colour of Jesus, they have decided to put on show a piece of art that happens to depict Jesus as black. Let's hope it just gives people a chance to question things they have always just accepted as being right.'*

Other comments were more critical, with a typical response, *'More shameless pandering to Black Lives Matter, bringing trendy identity politics into what is supposed to be the traditional church.'*

People may object strongly or they may welcome the artwork.

(Continued on page 19)

The Mothers' Union

wants to help families of key workers by offering them a range of free day trips/experiences and short breaks. It is appealing to MU supporters to help make this possible.



As a spokeswoman for MU explains: 'There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. But because of their personal sacrifices, quality family time has not always been possible. Therefore, we are extending our existing Away from it all Programme (AFIA) to say a special 'thank you' to key workers in these unprecedented times.

'Any donation will help provide a range of day trips/experiences and short breaks for families of key workers, especially for those who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes – families who would generally be unable to have experiences like this.'

If you would like to send a donation, go to:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/thank-you-keyworker-appeal>



(Continued from page 18)

Either way, it provokes an important debate about the role of race in our society and how we have depicted Christ in western culture. Maybe that's the only way for ingrained attitudes to be challenged, and new perspectives formed.

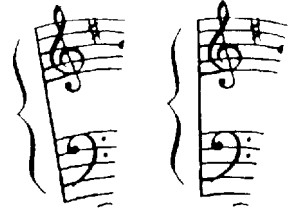
*The Revd Peter Crumpler, a
Church of England priest in St*

*Albans, Herts, is a former
communications director for the
Church of England. Here he offers
a personal reflection on a new
painting in St Albans Cathedral.
The painting can be viewed on the
St Alban's website
<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/event/black-lives-matter-installation>*

*Article supplied by the Parish
Pump News Service.*

MUSIC AND MEMORY

Have you ever heard a certain song or tune that immediately takes you back to your youth? It can be a very poignant moment.



When researchers at the University of Westminster examined the choices of 80 different guests on the BBC radio show *Desert Island Discs*, they found that most guests had chosen music which dated back to when they had been between 10 to 30 years old. This time span was identified as a ‘self-defining period’ in their lives.

The research concluded: ‘The music we know and love between the ages of 10 to 30 will play a significant role throughout our lives, connecting us as individuals to other people, places and times that become central to our identity.’

Editor: I'm sure that music has played an increasing part in our lives for many of us during these strange times. What songs trigger the memories for you? Please consider sharing them - it can be anonymous if you wish. Email to janmalexander@btinternet.com or leave in the Parish Office for me.

Parish Pump News Service

As the Party Conference season begins and the US Presidential election draws closer: Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: ‘Eve was made from Adam’s rib, and that surely was a surgical operation.’

‘Maybe,’ admitted the architect, ‘but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job.’

‘But,’ the politician pointed out in triumph, ‘somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!’

NOW EVEN MORE PLASTIC

Coronavirus has caused innumerable problems, not least that of further pollution...

There is growing concern in the Government, among campaigners, and among scientists over how coronavirus has sparked an increase in single-use plastics.

Not only are millions of disposable masks and gloves now ‘*out there*’, but there has been also a huge increase in disposable cutlery, sachets and containers.

One study by UCL estimates that in the UK alone, if every person used a single-use face mask every day for a year, it would create an additional 66,000 tonnes of contaminated waste, and 57,000 tonnes of plastic packaging.

Two environment ministers, Lord Goldsmith and Rebecca Pow, have said: ‘We are actively thinking across the Government and NHS whether we can safely reuse PPE and we are aware of other countries who have begun looking at the potential to decontaminate and reuse it.’

Scientists warn that it could take up to 500 years for polypropylene face masks to degrade. Meanwhile, according to some estimates, 129 billion masks and 65 billion plastic gloves are being used each month worldwide.

Parish Pump News Service

Julian of Norwich

‘He said: I may make all things well, and I can make all things well, and I shall make all things well; and thou shalt see thyself that all manner of things shall be well. ’

Mother Julian of Norwich during the Black Death which had killed one third of the population of Norwich.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



Why are your disciples harvesting on the Sabbath? That is against the rules!

But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



Don't you understand when God says 'Keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.



The Pharisees left and made plans.



ALTAR FLOWERS

6 September Marjorie Boddy
13 September Judith Knaggs
27 September Ann Hill



Thank you to the ladies on the altar flower rota who have placed an arrangement by the main altar in response to the church now being open for the 4pm service on Sundays. This is much appreciated by all who come into church at the moment.

As the church is currently only open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am, I suggest you bring your flowers early on either of those days, using your own container. Please ensure that there is adequate water in the vase and remember to remove them after one or two weeks. Thank you.

Jan Alexander

WEDDING UPDATE

Many thanks to everyone who has passed on their warm wishes following Phillippa's announcement of her engagement to Andrew. They had hoped the Covid-19 regs would have eased by now, but no; so they have postponed the wedding from 26 September 2020 to 24 April 2021.



Roger and Marilyn Banister

Covid-19 humour

I told my suitcases that due to the pandemic, there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.

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