

# FORWARD MOVE

July 2020



Parish magazine for the Church of St Mary, Kippington

Our mission ...  
To be a bridge between God and our community  
sharing the love of Jesus and  
growing in worship, welcome and witness

## *The Church Wardens write:*

Dear church family,

I am writing this on a day when the sun is blazing down, the temperature has soared and summer seems to be well and truly here!! We have been able to open our church for private prayer, and soon we will be able to have services of one kind or another again in our beautiful building. Life seems to be heading towards some sort of normality and for this we are all very grateful, I'm sure.



Life often does not play out in a normal routine however, much we would like this to be the case. Some of us have had a very lonely anxious three months, worrying about our health and those of our loved ones, while others have really enjoyed the slower pace of life and have been able to reassess all manner of things along the way.

When we moved to England as a family 35 years ago, it was an enormous journey that we decided to undertake. To uproot and move with 4 small children to a foreign land, with no job, friends or family was daunting to say the least, and we had to trust God every step of the way. I remember standing in our rented home, a few weeks after arriving here, on a freezing cold winter's day, and being briefly overwhelmed with pangs of homesickness. I felt like an alien in a foreign land. Gradually though, God spoke into my situation, and like the Israelites journeying towards the Promised Land, I realised there was nothing to be gained by looking back with rose-coloured spectacles. God gave me a verse then which I have held onto ever since:

*"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29v11*

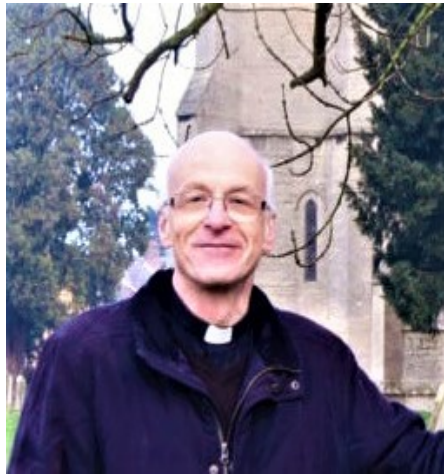
All of our lives are journeys of one sort or another, and the big thing is to keep going and keep trusting that God, our heavenly Father, will be there with us, in the valleys as well as the mountain tops. We stand at the threshold of something really exciting here in our life at Kippington - let us embrace it and look forward to what God has in store.

We have asked our new rector Mark Bridgen to introduce himself to us in this issue of Forward Move, and so his letter follows on from this. He and his family are moving into the vicarage on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and his induction will be on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to pray for them all.

With our love  
Sally and Sue

## *Our new Rector writes:*

### **Journey's end and Journey's beginning:**



In the midst of bringing another journey here in Peterborough to a close and preparing to embark on a new journey with you all at Kippington and wider, as part of the newly formed Team Ministry of West Sevenoaks, Sally and Sue invited me to take this opportunity through the magazine to 'introduce' myself.

At this stage where a journey ends and a new one begins I value what has been called the Traveller's Psalm 121. The Psalmist begins: 'I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot stumble and he who watches over you will not slumber.' It goes by the title the 'Traveller's Psalm', as it was sung by God's people as they gathered to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship God at the temple. People would come together and say this psalm as their fellow pilgrims would depart; and those same pilgrims would sing the psalm as they made the journey then together. It is the picture of people praying for the Lord's protection upon one another – those making a journey, a new journey – and those who remain, bidding them farewell. It is the knowledge that no matter where we travel the Lord is in this place – the place where we have left, the place where we are going, the journey in-between: the same Lord who is the maker of heaven and earth is in all of those places. And perhaps as we face our final earthly journey – so we lift our eyes up – to the Lord and his everlasting kingdom.



It goes without saying that we are looking forward to making our journey now to Sevenoaks and to be with you at this stage in your journey as the people of God.

As we do so, we would like to thank Sally and Sue for all their kindness and help as we prepare for the journey to be with you all; and indeed it has been wonderful, through the opportunities provided by Zoom, to be able to begin forging relationships with all of the churchwardens and others in particular before arrival.

I feel privileged to be able to take up this position as Team Rector; to come alongside the journeys you are making with the Lord; to share ministry with others and, as the Team expands, with new appointments, to welcome others into our journey as well.



We recognise that in coming to be with you all, in our journey as God's people together, is now undertaken against certain realities. The reality that the church, no-matter Covid 19, remains the same as it has always been in the daily rhythm of its life, witness, worship, fellowship and structure. Nevertheless, the reality with Covid 19 is that we are called now to be church ministering with great sensitivity and care as we come alongside the fears of the times and work through how these impact upon those daily rhythms. Yet, with excitement, grasping the opportunities, provided through digital and social media, to create new ways of being that Body of Christ - inviting more to know the Lord and make that journey with Jesus in ways appropriate and relevant. And all of these realities set against a newly formed Team Ministry of three churches still with their own unique journeys but now that journey of ministry together. What a wonderful, challenging, exciting time to be making a journey as God's people!

As fellow pilgrims, as we make the journey together, being forever upheld by the psalmist: 'I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.'



A few personal introductory words of my own and my family's journey.

I was born back in 1963 in the urban sprawl of Coventry, before the family moved into the East Midlands rural environs of Stoney Stanton, a village just outside Leicester. Dad had been a song and dance man but upon marriage knew he had to get a 'proper' job and so worked as a draughtsman, with Mum working as a primary school teacher. There were the three of us as children, two sons and daughter, with Paul dying at a young age.

Following A levels I did a gap year as an accredited volunteer with the Probation service, and after completing a theology degree at London, I spent time helping to 'teach' (no qualification or experience by the way!) at St Augustine's Mission School in Penhalonga, Zimbabwe. I got by with a modicum of Shona, endeared myself to the locals by joining in their late night drinking sessions consuming vast amounts of Mobuku, a maize based alcoholic drink, and then, successfully disentangling myself from the perpetual hugs of the Mother's Union ladies, travelled to explore Botswana, South Africa and Zambia.



I trained for the ministry at Cranmer Hall, based at both Durham and Gateshead, before undertaking my curacy in the West Kidderminster Team Ministry. Following curacy my journey in ministry has been varied with being an Assistant Priest at St Peter Mancroft Church in the city centre of Norwich; Vicar of St John the Baptist Longbridge in Birmingham – time also there as an Industrial Chaplain at the slowly declining Rover/ BMW car plant; Vicar of St Bartholomew's, Wednesbury – a former manufacturing town in the Black Country once described by Jeremy Clarkson (of Top Gear fame) as "the worst place in the world" (not exactly true!). I moved for the first time into rural ministry as Team Rector of the newly formed Staffordshire Border Group of Churches – bringing together a parish of two churches with a neighbouring parish of another four: and then latterly as Rector of All Saints, serving a large outer estate parish within the city of Peterborough.

I am married to Karen who has been involved in nursing and community care, in between raising our four children. In the early days as a psychiatric nurse and latterly in delivering community care to the elderly and vulnerable. Karen's particular wider involvement in Christian ministry has been as Street Pastor coming alongside vulnerable young adults and the homeless through the night in the city centre, working generally with children and young people in church, and, as a Cathedral guide, helping as well to deliver their programme of education to local schools.



Kristopher is our eldest – now a sergeant in the REME. Kris has seen service in many different parts of the world, including Afghanistan. He is now married and has two young daughters. James is well and truly into data of all types, having completed both a degree and master's in economics. Grace ranks next in age, now this September embarking on her second year on an acting course at St Mary's University in Twickenham; and Olivia, our youngest, who as we speak is exploring either University or taking a gap year. (The photograph – taken two years ago – is without our second granddaughter, not yet born). We are moving in on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July with a licensing on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August.



Very soon our journey will come together. In the meantime I hold you all in my prayers.

God bless,

Mark



## *Joan Taylor, our LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) writes:*

Letter writing is not my favourite occupation but thought it was time to put down some of my thoughts about the year 2020 as we are now entering the seventh month July. The year started at the beginning of January on a sad note as we said our goodbyes and wished David and his wife Cathie a very Happy Retirement. Next we turned our attention to the future. We knew that we were fortunate in that we probably would not have a long interregnum as our church had been selected for the position of Team Rector of the Benefice of the West Sevenoaks Team of Churches and it would not be possible for the vicars of St. Luke's and St. Mary's Riverhead to be appointed until the Rector was in place and they both had already been in Interregnum for some time.

In due course the post was advertised. In the mean time I and my Home group were planning to run The Bible Society Course on the Bible to which the other two churches would be invited to join, however a suitable gap in the Centre's busy schedule was proving difficult to obtain. Suddenly the talk of the CoronaVirus which started in China became a reality here and to try and prevent it spreading, our country was put into lockdown. Normal pattern of life ceased to exist and instructions were enforced. I, along with all the ministers with permission to officiate who were over 70 years old, were told by Bishop James that we must obey lockdown instructions and not carry on as normal. We were limited to phone calls, the Internet and of course PRAYER.

Thank goodness I have a garden that I could escape into. I could not imagine what it was like for people living in flats with nowhere to stretch their legs and have fresh air especially those with children.



Suddenly there was a new way of life. Churches, schools were closed, events cancelled including Wimbledon *sob,sob*, people were told to work from home and many people were dying from the virus. Good was also coming out of the situation, neighbours spoke to one another, shopped and generally looked after each other. The church community phoned each other, provided meals, made sure everyone was O.K. made masks and provided information online, including church services. It is interesting to hear that people who do not attend church are dipping into these services, opportunities to bring people closer to God, and latterly services and meetings on Zoom where you can see and speak to each other including the weekly prayer meetings of the three churches together.

Meanwhile some good news. Our new rector has been appointed - Rev Mark Bridgen from Peterborough. We now know that he, his wife Karen and family will join us late July, Virus restrictions permitting. A wonderful surprise was that on our Birthday Sunday those of us that joined the zoom coffee meeting afterwards met Mark and Karen as they popped in to say hello. Everyone is looking forward to their arrival in Sevenoaks.

Gradually restrictions are being lifted. Church is now open for private prayer two days a week and it is possible small services may be permitted soon. We are waiting for the Church of England's instructions. Sally and Sue our churchwardens are working their socks off and I do thank them. Sadly Lynette resigned from her position as Associate Vicar at Kippington, we will miss her and wish her well in whatever she does next.

We are going through disturbing times, the virus is not under control in the world and we pray that a vaccine can be developed to contain it. Knife crime seems to be rising and discord increasing between coloured and white communities. A lot of prayer is needed and we have the promise from Jesus at the end of Matthew's Gospel "I am with you always to the very end of the age."

Joan xx

PS The Bible Course will happen. A big welcome back to Kippington Cat.

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## Monkeys



In these different times it's hard to know when we'll be allowed to be back in The Centre hosting St. Mary's Monkeys.

But we want all you Monkeys to know how much we miss you! We miss your smiling faces and your happy tales whilst your grown ups enjoy drinks and catch ups.

As soon as we are able we'll be back welcoming you on a Wednesday morning.  
In the meantime stay happy, safe and well.

Helen, Sally, Jeb, Anne, Gayle and Claire

xxx 🐵 xxx



## *Our Church Family Perspective on Lockdown:*

Some members of our Church Family have very kindly put pen to paper to express their thoughts and feelings during lockdown and as life begins to vaguely resemble normality:

### **Lessons from Lockdown**

As we come out of lockdown and two of our three children return to school, I've been reflecting on the journey it has been. What an extraordinary time to experience as a family; a mixture of real blessings and times of joy and moments of wanting to run away screaming!! I'm a teaching assistant so you might presume that gives me a head start on the homeschooling front. Whilst it definitely helped, I wouldn't say it prepared me for the 'teaching' of three very different age children. We started off organised and willing to get it all done, but soon I realised I'm not their teacher I'm their mum and, although structure was key to getting through each day, what matters is smiling; enjoying our time together and surviving this strange time still happy and sane!

I've learnt that I like order and routine and that's not for everyone! I've learnt children learn best when they're happy and relaxed. I've learnt it's okay to get things wrong with your children say sorry and move on. God forgives us freely and the joy is so do our children when we do our best, mess up and own up!

This forced period of family time has been such a blessing for us as a family after our scare with Jonny's health last year. That had already taught us both to live more in the moment, which helped greatly through lockdown. God's blessings and gifts are abundant and ever present, and sometimes it takes times like these to force us to slow down and really appreciate what we have right here, right now.

Like I'm sure all of us are doing, I pray our world comes out of this a better, kinder and more compassionate place; but personally I hope I never forget to stop and be thankful for my blessings every single day.

### Numbers 6 v 24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace

*Sarah Beddell*

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## My Lock Down Learning

I recently read a brilliant blog post written by a new mother called Casey Wilson. A New Cup: Shots of Grace for Every Transition, began with these words ...

“Life throws us transitions. Some can feel like they come out of nowhere and some come because of choices we make. Regardless, transitions are a part of being human and they come in many forms, such as new jobs, relationships, diagnoses, pandemics, and more. Transitions exist as an in-between space of letting go of the old and embracing the new but somehow managing to grasp both for a little while. Embracing this time can mean letting go of some formerly held sense of security for the sake of gaining a renewed sense of passion for life. Good or bad, planned or unexpected, transitions shape and change us. We come out a different version of ourselves on the other side, with different needs and capacities.”

For me, amongst the myriad of all that the Covid-19 Pandemic has brought, one of my transitions has been going from Mum to Teacher. Home became school and my patience became a distant memory.

Home schooling our daughter, Darcy, seemed pretty easy – she was keen and compliant and is of an age where she just gets on with it. I think I caught a glimpse of what GCSEs and A-Levels might look like for her.

Wilbur was a different kettle of fish. Our struggles were real and loud. Our personalities and passions clashed. Our patience and negotiation skills were at loggerheads. Each day I started anew. Each day I asked God to fill my cup, equip me, help me, encourage me, to speak into Wilbur. Basically, each day, I begged and bargained with God that this whole situation might change. Change for my benefit. A change that was my selfish demand.

I didn't stop, listen or look to see how God was answering my prayers. I just carried on thinking my prayers weren't being heard or answered and that I would have to continue with the transition of home being school and me being a teacher.

Looking back, now the children have returned to school and things are slowly opening up, I can see how God has all along been in this transition. How that letting go of what was and accepting our new approach to school has meant I can embrace that which might return and accept that God is in it all. And that the change might mean that next time, I am better equipped. The transition may have felt uncomfortable and unwelcome but actually now, looking back, it just looks like part of my journey. Looking back now I can see that we have had times together which are more precious than I could have ever imagined, we have experienced things which we could never have dreamt of and all of this has shaped and changed us. For the better.

Wilson ends her blog by reminding us that God is full of grace. She prompts us to think that, “If He cares about the birds of the air and lilies of the field then it follows, He would care about our transitions”.

No matter what our transition ... God is part of it. He knows it. He is in it. He has it as part of our path.

Justin Welby succinctly said the other morning that “in this Covid Time, God remains unchanged”.

It is us who are changing. It is us who are meant to change.

*Jeb Hogg*

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## Lockdown Rambles

During the lockdown period, getting bored with the normal Sevenoaks walks that I had done for so long, I decided to try the Wildfowl Reserve down past Bradbourne stables, just off the A25. There I found a new area to explore, with two main lakes, one large (2 miles round it) and the other smaller, both with paths to circumnavigate them. They were both quite tranquil, once away from the main entrance, and very shady, which was good on all those sunny days. At first I simply enjoyed the walks round, then was told about some herons nesting. Having found the nests, in trees on a small island, I watched the young herons growing up over a few weeks, then leaving their nests in ungainly first flights. Beware, they will enjoy feasting on your ponds if they are uncovered!

View of Wildfowl Reserve (not a heron!)



*Roger Fishwick*

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Written by a friend and former colleague, Ling Thompson, and with kind permission from her to publish it:

May we all be excused for the madness this pandemic has inflicted on us. May we be forgiven for our hysterical laughs at silly videos. May we be watchful for going beyond posting de-stressing jokes to airing our frustrations and prejudices. May we strive to learn discernment, humanity, fairness and compassion for all.

Amen

*Submitted by Sharon Fishwick*

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Things that Lockdown has robbed us of...

- The fellowship of worshipping together
- The familiar, loved rhythms of services and communal prayer
- The blessing of taking communion
- The moving sound of the organ
- The joy of traditional hymn singing
- The teachings from the pulpit
- The awe of being in God's house



Things the Lockdown has given us...

- The sound of silence (no traffic, no airplanes!)
- The break in the busy-ness of our routines
- The chance to re-evaluate what really matters
- The opportunity to appreciate how important are the people we love
- The challenge of being isolated and finding the strength to cope
- The time to contemplate God's word
- The time to contemplate God's world



Each of us has such a very personal relationship with God, but even with faith, the lockdown has meant

- A sense of alienation provoked by not being able to worship together
- A yearning for leadership in worship and teaching to understand His word
- An increased sense of isolation and of being alone in our faith
- A deep sadness that – after years of familiarity and a sense of belonging – we are now cut off and adrift from our church family
- A need for renewal, for reassurance and for a rebuilding of our relationship with each other, all in God's grace.

My experience of Lockdown has been a bit like living out chapter three of Ecclesiastes, or, in other words, a balance of negative and positive experiences!



For everything there is a season,  
a time for every activity under heaven.  
A time to be born and a time to die.  
A time to plant and a time to harvest.  
A time to kill and a time to heal.  
A time to tear down and a time to build up.  
A time to cry and a time to laugh.  
A time to grieve and a time to dance.  
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.  
A time to embrace and a time to turn away.  
A time to search and a time to quit searching.  
A time to keep and a time to throw away.  
A time to tear and a time to mend.  
A time to be quiet and a time to speak.  
A time to love and a time to hate.  
A time for war and a time for peace.

Think about it – I'm sure that you can all think of examples of all of the above.

I just pray that the next stage in the life of our parish will be one of rebuilding our sense of community, re-establishing ties of friendship, re-invigorating our worship and rejoicing in God's love.

*Paula Blair*

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## Reflections on lockdown – March to June 2020 (so far)

We soon came to realise just how blessed we were having a decent sized house to move about in and a large garden to get out into. Each day we set ourselves a 'task', some tasks would take several days and I tried to ensure that I could get Jennifer out into the garden and fresh air and helping me with the pottering around. We started off wearing our anoraks and ended up getting tanned in the glorious sunshine we have had recently.

Our plans were to do lots of things that have been hanging around for a long time, in the house and in the garden. Most of the garden ones have been achieved but we are still short on some of the household ones, thanks to the glorious weather. The days and weeks have flown. It was not very long before our thoughts turned to all those people who were not as fortunate as we are; in flats without even a balcony and not being able to get out into the fresh air except by leaning out of the window! We prayed for all those, to give them strength as they tolerated their ordeal, the first couple of weeks being a novelty, the next a bit harder and thereafter every day a trial. We began to feel rather guilty, pottering for a bit then drinking coffee in the sunshine and having our exercise around the garden.

We have been fortunate enough to get Waitrose slots, they have been fantastic for us and not only saved us from sending our daughter into the supermarkets but also from having to keep popping round and worrying about us.

For VE day we searched out my grandfathers 8ft x 4ft Union Jack, which he purchased during the war especially for VE day and erected a flag pole in his small garden in Greenhithe. It is a treasure for the family so I hung it between two trees at the front of the house. Our grandsons were intrigued to hear the history of the flag so I took pictures, which went into various school projects they were working on. Then of course we looked forward to the weekly Thursday evening 'clap' on the front drive, when we actually saw most of our neighbours from afar more than we have for a very long time!

Our 55 wedding anniversary came and went again but by this time my son had from afar introduced us to the wonders of Zoom, so at least the family got together 'virtually' for a nice greeting and also this for the first time enabled me to explore and join in our wonderful Sunday services, which have been such a help and inspiration. Thank you Daphne and everybody involved in making them happen.

On the 19 April we were encouraged to hear of the appointment of our new team Rector. Jennifer was quite excited that Bishop Michael joined us for our service on 31 May as she was confirmed by him on his first confirmation service he presided at in the Rochester Diocese. The most recent happening just this week has been Jennifer's 77 birthday. With again the use of Zoom and face time we managed to formulate a good day for her, which she enjoyed. My goodness, 77 up, where have all the years gone, I can still remember her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday!! Likewise technology has enabled us to keep contact for all the immediate family birthdays, except for Charlie's which is in September. Fine for the adults but obviously difficult for the 9 year old grandson.

We have not strayed far, to the post box followed by a ride 'round a block' to keep the car going and charge the battery. A couple of trips to the doctors for my Warfarin check, which they considered essential and my goodness, you should have see how Jennifer kitted me out with gloves, mask and garden face visor, stripped me off as soon as we got home, clothes in the wash and me sent to have a bath!! I would say a good couple of words that expresses her mood now as, 'extremely anxious'. Early on our daughter got her into 'colouring'.

Surprisingly this has really helped and brought out talents within her that I never knew existed. It continues to go from strength to strength, which is wonderful. I am however going to have difficulty in persuading her to venture forth as we get back to normal, it is going to take time for confidence to grow, even to visit our flat when permitted or to get back to church or shopping trips.

So, we have survived so far and really can only count those blessings, which we do appreciate and thank God for.

Leah, our granddaughter in Fareham a couple of weeks ago asked gran if she could send her a letter about our experiences during lockdown, a project I believe her school was organising, for the purposes of a time capsule. I feel we can do no better than to close by sharing that letter with you.

God bless you all

Jennifer and Alan

Memory box for our darling granddaughter Leah, aged 5. June 10, 2020.

The last time we came to Fareham to see you was March 14, 2020 when you danced so beautifully on the stage in front of hundreds of people. Next day your mummy and daddy gave us a lovely lunch before we went to the Mayflower Theatre, Southampton to see Anton du Beke.

We had to come home the very next day to be in lockdown in our home for months. None of us knew what was ahead of us and we have not seen you since. Time means nothing at the moment our routines have gone, it is always time for a coffee or food and bedtime seems to come round so quickly. Grandad spends all his time, shared between working on his computer or out in his beloved garden, which at the moment is our lifeline. The lovely weather we have means we can sit in the garden and think about this life in lockdown!

I am enjoying colouring the pictures in my gran colouring book you sent me to relieve the tension we feel. I can recommend colouring to everyone who is feeling stressed. Grandad does his jigsaw puzzles in the evening. We go to church on Sundays, thanks to your daddy showing granddad how to do Zoom.... You will grow up with Zoom but to us it is still a mystery. We are longing to see you and mummy and daddy and have a much missed cuddle and kiss. We pray that this awful time in our lives will end soon and we will return to some kind of normality whatever that may be.

God bless. Love you forever

Gran and Grandad

*Jennifer and Alan Chart*

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## Lockdown

To take Ian Dury's words in vain:

Reasons to be Cheerful:

As I am not commuting every day (and as the weather has been so kind), I have the time to run 4 mornings a week, achieving my first 10k run two weeks ago. Ironically, this is probably the fittest I have ever been;

When I drive Graham to dialysis and when I go into the office, the M25 is a dream, even with the new roadworks. My 90 minute commute is down to 30 minutes, tops;

A combination of listening to Tweet of the Day and the quiet early morning runs without traffic or aircraft noise has enabled me to hear and identify some wonderful bird song;

Our daily walk down to the church and back which should take about 15 minutes can take up to an hour because of all the friends we chat to en route;

Working from home most of the time, I can watch the garden changing daily;

The wonderful generosity of the volunteers and donors to the meals delivery scheme that we set up.

What has made me sad (but I can't think of a song reference): Not being able to cuddle my 18 month old grandson or his new baby brother – heart-breaking.

Sitting above all of this has been God's great faithfulness to us all. How difficult this would have been without Him.

*Wendy Pritchard*

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Dear Mark and Karen,

You will find that the Church Family at St Mary Kippington contains arguably some of the nicest people in the World who look forward to welcoming you both and hope you will be very happy with us!

You come to us in 'interesting' times. Terrible for people living alone, or in flats with kiddies and, of course, for those who lost loved-ones, but, in all honesty, Lockdown for Wife Heather and me is a doddle. Never have we completed so many projects in house and gardens in a three month period, and the respite from Church 'duties' and Job Rosters has been welcome. Heather missed human contact but enjoyed plenty of walking and watching tadpoles turn into frogs. I missed looking for golf-balls in bushes but enjoyed not having to shave every day and doing Killer Sudokus. We both loved the birdsong and watching the mouse who lives under the shed. We even briefly felt sorry for Boris!

It will be good to get back to some (real, not virtual) semblance of Church life but Lockdown affirmed the wisdom of the plaque Great-Aunt Edie had in her garden in the fifties "*You are nearer God's heart in the garden than anywhere else on Earth*".

Buck up and come soon as you can!

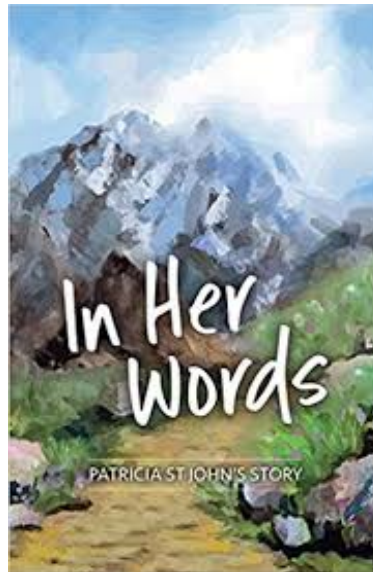
Very Best Wishes

Dave White



## Book Corner

“In Her Words” by Patricia St John.



One of the most inspiring and uplifting books I have read.

In this autobiography Patricia St John (1919-1993), as a nurse and a missionary in North Africa, brings the love of Christ into her life and those she touches in a vivid way. A beautifully written book - a book to gladden the heart.

She has written several children's books. The first of these, "The Tanglewoods' Secret", my godmother gave me at the age of 8 and the second was "Treasures of the Snow", beautifully illustrated and written for slightly younger children. Her other books are well worth reading and are equally enjoyable for adults and children alike. I would recommend them all.

*Mary Evans*

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## Meal Delivery Service



As a recipient early on in the lockdown and now a deliverer, I would like to add my voice of thanks for the wonderful work being done by Wendy, Sophie, and no doubt others, in providing three meals a week to many in our Parish and beyond.

I know just how much these meals have been appreciated together with the chance of a chat!

Well done for initiating such a wonderful service.

*Jenny Gyte*

*To give Mark an idea of who does what:*

PCC: Stephen Day (Chair), Jeb Hogg (PCC secretary), Chris Saunders (Treasurer), Sally Munro, Sue Morrow, Jenny Gyte, Graham Roper, Charlie Medd, Elaine Brewer, Katherine Lang, Keith Evans, Joan Taylor.

Standing Committee: Stephen Day (Chair), Graham Roper, Chris Saunders, Sue Morrow, Sally Munro, Jeb Hogg.

Fabric Committee: Keith Evans (Chair), Graham Roper, Alan Chart, Chris Saunders, Lorna Arduino, Sally Munro.

LLM: Joan Taylor

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Fishwick

Mission & Ministry: No Chair at present

Sidespeople: David Green

Choir: Len Ross (Organist)

Worship Team: Dudley Fauchon-Jones

Sunday Club: Jean Day

Health & Safety: Brenda Ross

Safeguarding: Wendy Pritchard

Monkeys: Helen Lawson

Flowers: Sally Munro

Brass: Barbara Craig

Communion Linen: Vanessa Witchell

Charities: Stephen Day

Lunch Club: Joan Taylor

Weddings: Jenny Gyte

Gardening: Ian Cowdray and Anne Cadwallader

Church Admin: Sue Shepherd

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## WE CONTINUE TO LOOK AT THE PSALMS

### Psalm 46 – a psalm of comfort in anxious times

To say that we are living in uncertain times is an understatement! Psalm 46 speaks into our anxiety and fear, just as it did to Israel originally. At this time, we must focus on God, who alone can deliver us in such times.

**He is our refuge:** *‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.’* (1). In the midst of our difficulties, God promises Himself to be our refuge, strength and help. A *‘refuge’* is a place of trust, where God promises to protect us. When the whole world is turned upside down, we can come to Him without fear.

**He is our resource:** *‘There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.’* (4,5). Jerusalem was able to withstand enemy attack, because of the water that resourced it. For us, this is a picture of the presence of God’s Spirit, who resources us when we are under pressure. This psalm promises that God’s is with us in all our troubles on a daily basis: *‘The Lord Almighty is with us...’* (7,11).

**He is our ruler:** *‘He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.’* (10). When we consider all that God has done in the past, we can see the way in which He has worked among us to provide, protect, and deliver us. We are called to *‘cease fighting’* God and surrender our lives to God. Let’s worship Him, as we let go fear and as we depend on Him in this current time of crisis.

*‘A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing’* (Martin Luther).

Canon Paul Hardingham  
Parish Pump





## PRAYERS TO SHARE

*“Blessing and honour, thanksgiving and praise, more than I can utter, more than I can understand, Oh most glorious Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all people, all creatures now and for ever.”*

Andrew, Bishop of Winchester in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

We have often quoted these words on this page before, but we see them again in this summer letter because we are just beginning the long season where we remember Trinity Sunday with thanksgiving every Sunday until the Church year begins again with All Saints Day and the Sundays before Advent, and for me these are great words of thanksgiving.

As we set out on the next stage in our Christian lives we, here in Kippington, are at something of a crossroads, waiting as we are for the arrival of our new Rector, and to learn more about the joining of our three parishes together. But this period of positive anticipation is shadowed for many of us by Lynette’s departure. She and Richard came to Kippington many years ago when they returned to this country after some years living abroad. As we got to know them we followed Lynette’s journey through the years of reading and study and training, until her ordination and then shared our joy when she became part of the ministry team here in our Parish. Her ministry has been loving and caring, with her unshakeable faith and sincerity shining through. We have seen her concern for others and have shared her infectious laughter – and her sermons have been special always with a clear message for us. We thank God for her years of friendship and leadership amongst us and send her on into the next part of her life with our love and this blessing which I believe she likes:-

*“Lead me Lord, lead me in thy righteousness. Make thy way plain before my face,  
For It is thou, Lord, only, that makes me dwell in safety.”*

So may we all be led in the days that are to come.

We are living in a time of great uncertainty, where there is infection all over the world and where we wake up each morning not knowing what changes to expect – but where we can remind ourselves that God never changes and that Jesus said *“I am with you always.”* I have found this little morning prayer from India - *“Lord, I do not know what this day may bring but each moment is in your hands and I offer it to you in advance. Nothing that will happen or be said today can separate me from you. Let me rest assured in that peace.”* Written by a Canon of Calcutta Cathedral.

And now, we journey on looking forward to the arrival in a few weeks time of our new Rector, the Revd Mark Bridgen. We offer to him and his family a warm Kippington welcome and our prayers and good wishes that they will be happy here. It cannot be an easy time to undertake the challenges he may find in the new Parish arrangements and we pray for the love of God and the strength of the Holy Spirit to be with him and to guide him.

Let us remember once again our Mission statement *“To be a bridge between God and our community, sharing the love of Jesus and growing in worship, welcome and witness.”* And for a blessing for one another

*“May the grace of Christ our Saviour and the Father’s boundless love  
with the Holy Spirit’s favour rest upon us from above. Thus may we*

Dear Readers

Without trying, this issue of the magazine is all about journeys, be they actual, life or spiritual. It is also about love in all its different forms; from kindness and generosity towards a neighbour, to God's love for us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

It is a magical feeling when God takes hold of the reins and steers the magazine in a direction that He chooses. At the start of the process, I am looking at blank pages. Producing the magazine is a journey in itself - turning blank pages into a message from God that always seems relevant. A miracle? To coin a phrase, one of God's little coincidences? My belief is that God is at the helm and yes, particularly now, a miracle.

Is God at the helm in your lives? Can you hear Him? Are you listening out for His voice?

*Sue Shepherd*

It seems quite fitting that the magazine should finish how it started, with Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the mountains –  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip –  
he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord watches over you –  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all harm –  
he will watch over your life;  
the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and for evermore.



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