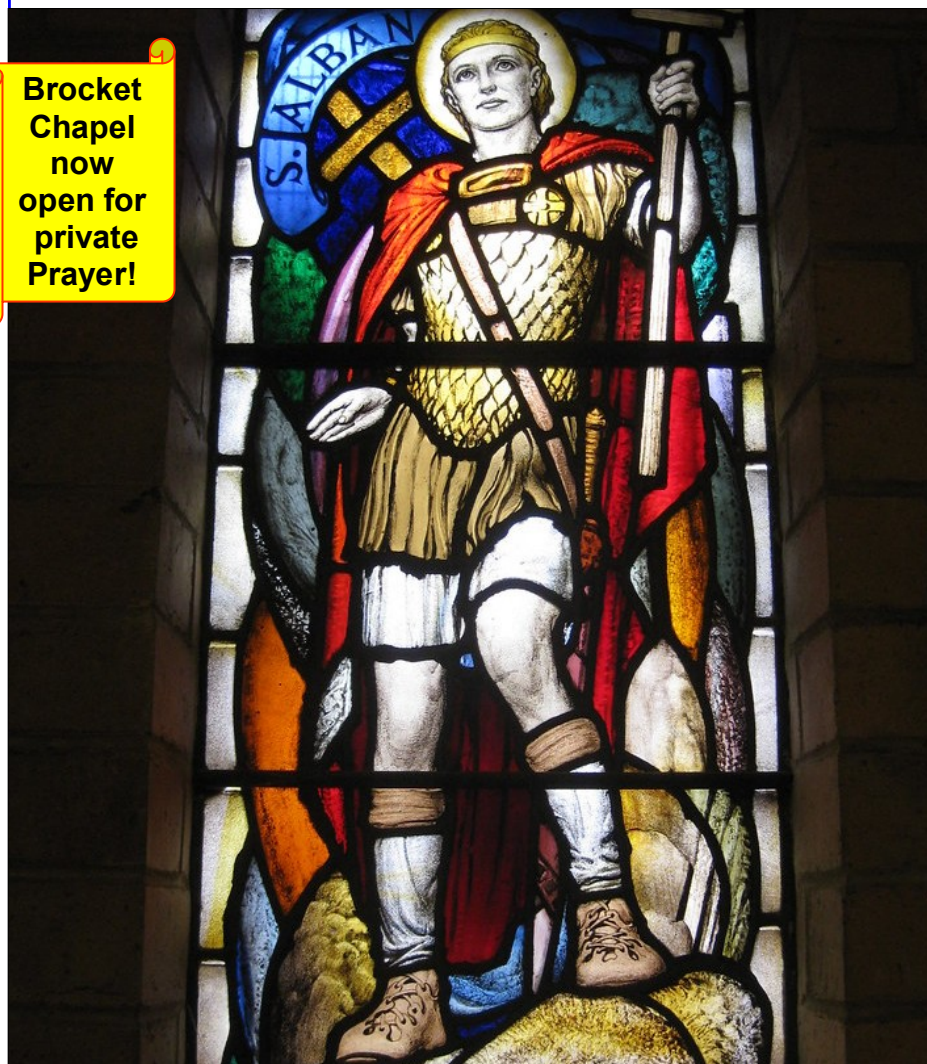


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**Parish Magazine**

*June/July 2020*

**£1**



**Front cover: see page 25. Chapel open for prayer see page 4**  
**Above: Zoom Coffee morning, courtesy Frank Puranik;**  
**Bottom: Garden Working Party—see page 6 and further picture inside**  
**back cover.**



## From the Vicarage

**F**or this Issue I was asked to describe what it was like to be a vicar during lockdown. The first word that came to mind was “busy” and the next “change”.



In some ways it seems like yesterday and in other ways like it was a lifetime ago, since I last sat down to write a parish letter. When I wrote the last letter nothing like so many people had passed away and nothing like as many people had been infected and there were huge questions about what the lockdown would mean for us all.

Well by now we all know. Some of us have not got out of our homes in the last 12 weeks; others have got out but in limited ways—possibly only to do the shopping. Others have had to learn to work at home instead of going into an office, some are home schooling children. Others have been furloughed and maybe feeling that they should be back at work or indeed that they're scared to go back to work because they're not convinced it's the right time yet.

For me lockdown has felt surreal, only recently allowed back into my churches. We are now beginning to plan to open them for private prayer and for funerals but no certain dates or plans as to when they will reopen fully. I don't suppose I'm alone for one moment but I'm finding the uncertainty harder to deal with than the fear of the virus itself. Of course when you read this no doubt things will have changed again.

**J**ust about every day starts the same for me; coffee, have a shave, then I do the Daily Prayer recording. I've called them daily prayers as they consist of a short reading, a reflection then a prayer and a blessing at the end. Each week I have recorded a Sunday service for both of my parishes to join, as time has gone on they have become slightly more proficient. Now they have words to the hymns so we read as we go along and more video from others. I have been good with computers for a long time and worked with them for several years but learning to film, upload, edit, re-edit, put music clips in and overlay words to be read is all new to me.





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**M**y attempts at live broadcasting were nightmares. As a result I learnt to stick to what I can do and become better at it rather than beating myself up about things that that I am no good at. Possibly a good life lesson?

Perhaps the hardest thing has been the funerals. I have been blessed in that I haven't had to officiate at too many, none the less for each family for whom I lead a funeral, I can't meet them first, and the services are not what they would normally have been because very few people may attend. This doesn't feel good to the families or indeed anyone involved.

On the other hand there have been times of joy where people have said how glad they are to receive the daily prayers or how much they have gained from the Sunday services which have gone out to the community wider than the church and led to some deep conversations.

Like most of the rest of the country we have found the power of the Internet in the use of Zoom so that we can have coffee times or quizzes together and still enjoy seeing friends and even praying together.

In a conversation with Bishop Michael (of Hertford) during the early part of the lockdown he said this situation would change the church. It has certainly done so with remote meetings. Some churches are planning to stream all services after we go back and I hope we can be part of that. I have no doubt that before this crisis is over the church will have changed forever just as society has. For all of us going forward we must seek to find the positives in what the media call the new normal. Where there are people of hope there will always be good things.

**T**here are two good things to share though. The first is that the church has continued to worship God and we are there for you and to help you find your way to God and peace. The second is that people smile at each other more and are more ready to say Hello.

**Paul**

**GOOD NEWS!**  
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The Brocket Chapel will now open for private prayer as above. A Warden or the Vicar will be there to ensure every care is taken to guarantee social distancing and hygiene. Please wear a **face mask** if you have one—disposable ones will be available though. Many thanks to our Wardens Jenny and Nigel who have put a lot of work into getting this right.

#### **Website Prayer Team**

If you would like others to pray privately for you or someone you know, please send a prayer request by email to Paul or the prayer coordinator. Your request will then be sent out immediately to the members of St John's who have asked to be on the list of those who would like to pray for others. Your request will not be shared with anyone else.

For further information about prayer, or to join the prayer team, please contact Paul or the prayer coordinator, by visiting the prayer

page of the church website and clicking **Email:prayer**, or use the contact form at the bottom of the Who's Who and Contacts page. The website address is **[www.stjohnschurchlemsford.org](http://www.stjohnschurchlemsford.org)**

**Foodbank** “The food bank still needs donations - about 50 families are being supported on a weekly basis ( I am pleasantly surprised that the numbers are not higher ).

I am collecting food at my house and Ian Matthews will pick it up on a Tuesday for the Wednesday ( 9-11 am ) distribution. Or it can be delivered personally on a Wednesday morning . They are in great need of cereal and long life milk ( some adults and children have cereal as a main meal ). They have pasta and beans aplenty. Any donation would be gratefully received.”

**Marion Cleveland**  
**01707 391774**

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **19th July**

The Bible has frequent references to *hide*, for example: “hide me under thy wings”; “in time of trouble, he shall hide me” .... many of these are found in the Psalms. However, one instance that drew a severe rebuke was when Jesus told the parable of the man who *hid* his talent and did not use what God had given him. *Seek* has some wonderful connotations of those aspiring to find God. “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found”; “you shall seek me and you shall find me if you seek for me with all your heart”.



During Lockdown a great deal of work has been done in the garden area. Before that you may have looked around the church garden and thought it looked very acceptable. The truth is that only by looking at what was hidden in the bushes and trees could one seek out the detritus and dead wood, clear it out and then look forward to rejuvenation and fresh growth. Here's what has been happening:

- Hidden along the tree border with our neighbour have been some rotting sycamores. They have now been removed and you will see the picture of the Michael Hahn with Ben and Sam working away to clear so much of the hard roots and level the earth so that the wall is visible.
- Along the mound behind the church, there is a huge amount of ivy roots and humus. Work has started to clear this before re-sowing some attractive bluebells. The amount of rubble, broken glass and discarded bricks in this bank is a cause for concern.
- The two hedges encompassing the Garden of Remembrance were grossly overgrown and leaning over. They have been trimmed down to rejuvenate them as box hedges as they were always meant to be. New growth is now appearing.
- Along the boundary wall there has been a lot of work on the juniper tree adjacent to the floodlight. Dead and overgrowing branches have had to be cleared so as not to encroach on the lighting.
- Before lockdown, Sue Goldie has worked tirelessly to clear an enormous amount of dead wood, twigs and branches from the Western Red Cedar behind her husband's headstone. Much of this hedge has been hindering passers-by on the pavement. More work needs to be done here.
- Behind the cross in the Garden of Remembrance much holly and weeds are being cleared. The large sycamore overhanging from the school side is a problem in trying to maintain a clean and respectful area for mourners.
- Much cutting, clearing and trimming has been undertaken by John Blanch. That will prove so useful in allowing fresh growth to take root and blossom again.



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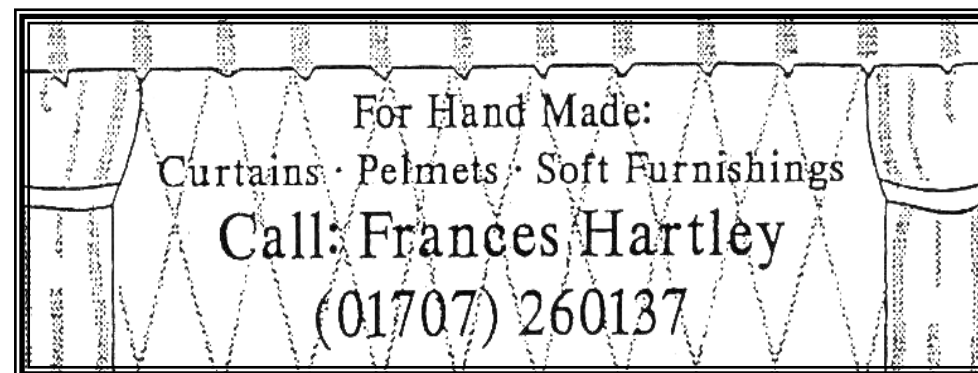
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- During the really hot weeks, it has been wonderful to look out on the flourishing meadow around the graves. Paul Butler has trimmed these very nicely and one can still enjoy the buttercups, daisies and other wild flowers.
- With so much cleared it has been very generous of Julian Sherriff to take away three huge loads in his tractor and trailer. I suspect a few more trips will be needed.
- Finally, if you could volunteer your work, it would be much appreciated. One interesting task is this. There are 6 benches around the church. They all need a good brush down, clean the brass inscription and Ronseal the lot. Please get in touch. Mary

And remember, *You are nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.*

**Your Editor writes:** Having asked others to comment on their experience during Lockdown (see pages 8 & 9) I felt I should write too, and this seems the perfect place.



You will of course recall the initial fear that supermarkets were going to run out of food after panic buying. Swept along by the publicity about growing your own fruit and veg I rushed out to buy seeds and compost from a Nursery before it was shut down. A friend helped by donating some runner bean plants.

Where to put them? My efforts to have a perfect English front lawn had been abandoned some years ago. RSPB appeals to set aside some land for insects had given me the perfect excuse to cease mowing. It has developed into tall grass dotted with ant hills and many natural plants that some might classify as weeds, others as meadow plants. It occurred to me to dig up a section of this Environmental Area to create a Vegetable Plot. So a rectangle was dug. It looked rather pathetic so I ordered some wooden beams to make it into a sort of raised bed (very trendy). Next came a load of bamboo canes and preparation with well matured horse manure.

You can see the result *inside the back cover*.

Voltaire said *We must cultivate our own garden. When man was put in the garden of Eden he was put there so that he should work, which proves that man was not born to rest.*

## How the virus is affecting us

A friend planned to celebrate her 40th birthday with a lavish venue-hired party in mid-May, which of course was cancelled. To alleviate her disappointment I suggested a Zoom party on the day. 'But I only have pockets of friends who don't know each other so not sure it will work.' I pushed a little further at a suspected open door. 'It will be so fine. Conversation will flow because right now everyone has something in common - this lockdown experience.'



As predicted, her friends - from a range of age groups, locations, backgrounds and faiths - happily chatted away for 90 minutes. The we-are-all-in-this-togetherness, is a silver lining in this global crisis. It is an extraordinary thought that every person in the world has a new problem, a new lifestyle, a new story, and a new script to share with others.

Small talk has become so much easier. How are you getting on with at-home haircuts? What or who do you miss the most? What's your lockdown routine? What's your lockdown low? What have you baked, grown, sewn, made, written or painted recently? What have you run out of? Guaranteed conversation.

I have noticed how sensitive we are to the idea that our lives may have changed differently from others'. Some peoples' plates have suddenly filled up with nursing, caring, grieving, home schooling and key working; to them sewing, gardening and baking conversations feel unreal. Frustratingly, social distancing and furlough rules prevent the 'have little to do' group helping the 'absolutely burnt out'. Some people are struggling with hundreds of balls in the air while others yearn for a couple. Another friend of mine beautifully confessed and lamented 'all I have done as a contribution is stay out of the way.'

One common denominator is a strong desire to meet online, chat on the phone, discuss the changes, check on each others' welfare, listen, support and do what we can to help. Some of those who pre-Covid were too-busy-to-talk jugglers have now found themselves furloughed, and have learned or re-learned the art of chatting positively. ***Whatever that is new to you and good, whatever silver lining you have woven, I hope you hold onto it.***

**Sarah Lawrence**

We are sure as with others we have missed our family and friends and whilst virtual and telephone contact keeps us in touch. This last week of lovely weather enabled us to sit in the garden (social distancing) speak with them and see for ourselves that they really are ok.



During the last few weeks we have enjoyed social gatherings on zoom with St Johns friends, but have to say Paul's Daily Prayer and Sunday Services have kept us spiritually connected with them and would like to offer Paul our sincere thanks.

### **Jackie and Brian Spry**

I am so used to living on my own, and finding myself something to do, plus I have my garden, which has been so beautiful as the seasons passed.

At first I was told I had to stay at home, which I didn't understand but sort of accepted – on Lemsford Zoom I found that other people were going for a walk every day! Then after 4 weeks the local doctor rang me to say I was sent the letter in error, I could go out like other people, just keep my distance.



It started off with 10 days decorating my bedroom, then I went from one thing to another, plus 4 zooms a week, and Gareth Malone 5 times a week (30 minutes), so by the time we could meet more people I was ready to move on.

The changing point for many of us was the Dominic Cummings interview, which made me very angry, after so many of us had stayed at home, or kept within a few yards of our house while shopping. So now if he can do what he likes so can we all. Many of us have stopped listening to the reports.

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We are all adjusting to these difficult times and trying to do the very best we can for the children and families of St John's School and for each other. After a very difficult and worrying few weeks before lockdown, we closed the school on 22<sup>nd</sup> March - a very strange, sudden goodbye to staff and families with no real 'roadmap' of where we were heading!



Like everyone else, we felt bereft and concerned about the future, but now we have returned to a phased re-opening of school, with the joyous sound of children laughing and playing (outside my office window as I type this!), we are beginning to feel that a version of normality is slowly becoming evident. Our teachers and teaching assistants worked together over lockdown to provide home learning for all the pupils and spent a huge amount of time helping to prepare for the safe return to school.

We have had very similar attendance numbers to the national average, about half of the eligible pupils have returned to school. Our planning and systems have worked really well and the class bubbles are happy little groups with their own designated areas to work and play.

School feels a little different, but as much of normality is still going on for those children attending and St John's staff have been amazing in their commitment to making this work in our small school and Governors have given great support at this challenging time.

We all miss coming to St John's Church and hope that in September, normal service can be resumed!

We hope that everyone is well and still staying safe and look forward to seeing you as soon as is possible.

**Mandy**

**O**n Sunday a couple of weeks ago we celebrated **Pentecost**. This is a very special day in the church year and some people call it the birthday of the church – I hope you had cake! Why is it the birthday though? You can read the story in **Acts chapter 2 verses 1-42**, but here's what happened.



**One day, in fact ten days after Jesus' friends had watched him go back to heaven and fifty days after he had been raised from the dead, all the friends were together in Jerusalem. They were praying and praising God for all that he had done. They were also wondering what would happen next. Jesus had told them that it was their job to tell everyone the good news that we can be part of God's family, and he had promised them a helper. But who was it and when would they arrive? At that moment there was a sound like a rushing wind and something like flames appeared over each of the friends, bright and shining. They weren't hot like ordinary flames. And as the flames danced the friends began to praise God in other languages! Lots of people from other countries were amazed because they could understand what the friends were saying. Jesus had sent his helper, the Holy Spirit. That day thousands of people became Jesus' friends too. And ever since that special day the Holy Spirit has helped Jesus' friends to tell people about him and has helped more people to join God's family. That's why we call it the birthday of the church!**

**Y**ou can ask the Holy Spirit to come and help you too. He'll help you to talk about Jesus with your friends, he'll help you to talk to God, and he'll help you when you feel sad, or lonely or frightened.

You can find great stuff on the internet to help you keep on praising God. Here's one I've found recently that has some super ideas, songs and activities. [www.engageworship.com](http://www.engageworship.com). Or visit the Diocesan website for good links – try their 'Journeying with Jacob' series for primary or secondary <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools/journeying-with-jacob-home-open-access/primary-resources-home/>

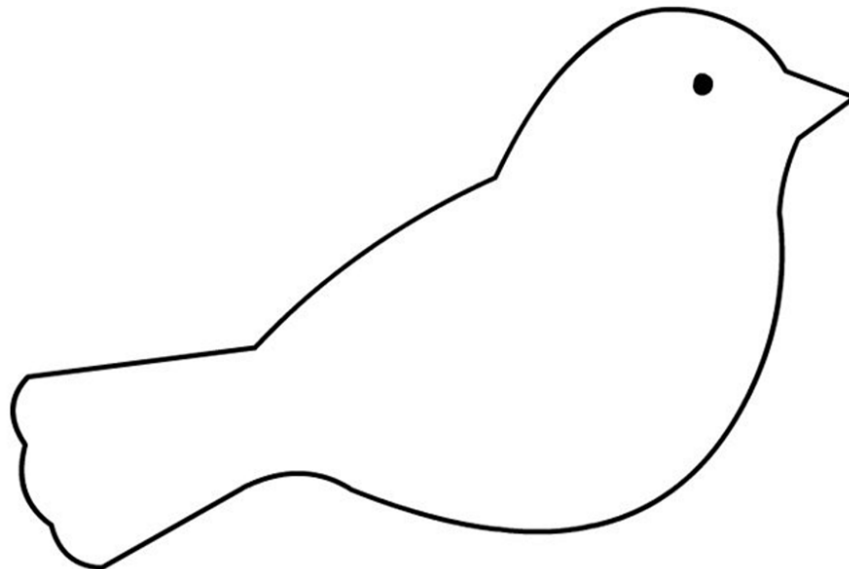
On the next page you will find something you can do.

**I**n this story the Holy Spirit is in the form of the wind and the flames. In other Bible stories the Holy Spirit is in the form of a dove. If you'd like to make a reminder of the day the Holy Spirit came here's an idea: Draw round your hand on a piece of paper. Ask a grown up to help you cut it out (when you've finished reading the magazine). Make two hand shapes and attach them to the dove shape like wings. You could hang this up in your bedroom. Or, take your hand shapes and colour them in with flame colours, red and orange and gold. Fix the coloured-in hand shapes to a headband or a strip of paper to look like Jesus' friends at Pentecost. Or, make a dove and some flames from your hand shapes and attach them with cotton thread to a strip of card to make a Holy Spirit mobile. Here is a template of a dove to get you started.

When you've made your Holy Spirit model, why not **pray**? You could use the five fingers on your hand shape to pray for five people or things. Don't know what to pray for? Why not just ask God to send his helper, the Holy Spirit, to those people or places you prayed for. One for each finger. Then don't forget to say **Aaaaaamen!**

**Do send me pictures of your work for the next issue.**

[joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com)



## When I needed a neighbour where were you?

*This article is written by **Rev Sue Stilwell**, Associate Team Minister in the Bishop's Hatfield Team and Chaplain to Methodist Homes (MHA) and **Rev Richard Allen**, NHS Mental Health Chaplain. Richard and Sue are members of a group in the Diocese of St Albans who seek to encourage our churches to be places of welcome and inclusion and promote positive mental well-being.*

The recent pandemic and consequent lockdown has, for many, been a difficult time. Speak to one person though and their experience of it will be quite different to another. In other words, the situation is the same, but our personal circumstances are not. It is the same for the effects on our mental well-being. Our ability to manage periods of isolation, insecurity in the workplace, working from home, concern for distant loved ones or becoming ill ourselves from the virus are just a few things that may test our lives now. In the foreseeable future as the lockdown slowly reduces this will bring about different kinds of anxiety and fear. Without doubt, this period of lockdown and isolation will have many unintended consequences, including the effect on people's mental wellbeing.

As chaplains, we notice much higher levels of anxiety in our workplaces for both those able to remain in work and those who were furloughed. For those whose work involves health and social care, the anxiety of inadvertently passing on the virus to anyone, not least vulnerable people, was felt as much as contracting the virus themselves and putting their families at risk. Anxious family members place pressure on loved ones not to go into work, which compounds the situation. Those who normally appear to embrace all that 'comes their way' instead experience a fear of dying (even though they remain in good health) as they struggle with feeling out of control in a situation far bigger than they and indeed any of us, have dealt with ever before. So, what has become clear, is that there is an even greater need to talk with one another about how this situation affects us and to respond. This situation shows us just how vulnerable in one way or another we all are and that we really are in this together.



**I**t also shows us just how closely balanced survival and struggle really are, as we experience the changes in our usual patterns of daily living, separation from our families and friends and a lack of a clear and certain future. For some, the tables turned and suddenly we experienced what it meant to support others both practically and emotionally in ways we have not done before. What new insights this brought!

It is also interesting to note how our language changed during the lockdown. Already, the term ‘new normal’ is becoming widely used. We are getting used to the idea that Covid-19 is not a short-term blip, but something that will change individual, family and communal lives and relationships in the long term. As Sam Wells (the Vicar of St Martins-in-the Fields in central London) reflected on a recent Thought for the Day, the Hebrew Scriptures record a number of grave national events that had a lasting impact on the whole population. He observed that the prophets spoke into these critical situations. They offered words of comfort and solace. Then, and only then, they advanced a vision of a future that could not be based on going back to the past. Whatever ‘normal’ was to be, it would not be the normal the populace had experienced before. It will be a new normal. For, Wells concluded, that is precisely what God offers us each time we face an existential crisis, such as Covid-19; the opportunity to be honest with ourselves and each other, reflect on all we are going through, and work out what we might do for the better in the future.

**W**hat is clear to both of us in our chaplaincy roles is just how much the various parts of our lives interact with each other. There is no way that we leave our home life at the threshold of work, and somehow pick it up at the end of our shift; no way that our mental and spiritual wellbeing does not impact on our physical health. It is simply remarkable how many people in the health and social care fields (and others as well) have found the courage to continue working whilst living with the stress, anxiety and trauma of family and friends battling with Covid-19. That is where neighbours have come in. They appear in all shapes and sizes – work colleagues, delivery drivers, the grumpy person in the flat next door and so on.





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And, in a crisis such as this, neighbourly roles do not follow the usual patterns. Cleaners listen to managers, children care for parents, health care assistants look out for chaplains. When it comes down to it, we can all be neighbours in a crisis. The question “*Who is my neighbour?*” started Jesus off on the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 29-37). For the man who was robbed, neighbourliness came from an unlikely source: from someone who should, by all the conventions of the time, have had nothing to do with the victim. Yet Samaritan looked after Jew and God again showed how a new normal could be born.

If all we do right now is to let our mental health emotions, experiences and questions run round our heads, we shall indeed be tested to the limits! But being able to name them and talk about them, whether directly, by phone, Zoom or email, reduces their impact on us. It enables us to manage our mental wellbeing. Not everything gets sorted out, but somehow a problem shared really does feel like a problem halved. Maybe, that’s what those Hebrew prophets were trying to get at, 2500 years and more ago.

The new normal is that which takes our human experiences, including that of our mental wellbeing, and applies new and healthier ways of dealing with them. Perhaps we need to recognise the Samaritans amongst us, those who do NOT think as we do, and embrace them (adopting appropriate social distancing of course!) for what they can offer us and what we can offer them. Then ‘them’ and ‘us’ cease to have any meaning as we are all neighbours in the new normal. Nothing will be lost in this experience; instead it has opened our hearts as we share in the struggle and bear the load. Isn’t that exactly what Jesus wanted us to do all along? In the words of John Bell and Graham Maule:

*To the lost Christ shows his face; to the unloved he gives his embrace;  
to those who cry in pain or disgrace, Christ makes with his friends, a  
touching place.*

**Prayer:** *Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of compassion and peace to the praise of God the Father. Amen.* (Collect from Church of England – Daily Prayer)

**G**reetings. I have recently started as the Chaplain to the Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury at Hatfield House, which is a joy and a privilege. It's a shame to arrive in the midst of the restrictions which make it difficult to meet many people but I have received a warm welcome from those I have.



Once the restrictions are eased **you are invited** to the service of Morning Prayer in the Chapel each day at 8.45 (which lasts around 15 minutes) and to Holy Communion each Sunday at 8.30. When the House is open to visitors we plan to have a short daily Service of Prayer each weekday at 12. And, once I get my bearings, I hope to begin a programme of Evensong from time to time, with some guest Preachers and Choirs.

**A** little personal background: I was born and raised in Cleveland, USA on the edge of the Great Lakes (what we call the "North Coast"). After college in Massachusetts I lived in New York before moving to England in 1985. My father, who was based here during the war, was a great Anglophile, and it must have somehow rubbed off on me.

I spent most of my working career in the City, at Lazards, and after 24 years there I decided to pursue a different vocation. In 2014 I started my theological training at Cambridge and was ordained at St Paul's in June 2016. Before arriving at Hatfield I was at Holy Trinity Sloane Square, and most recently at the Sandringham Benefice in Norfolk, to which I will return from time to time.

I enjoy everything to do with the country, reading, bridge, and (when it's open) the theatre. But my greatest love are my 5 dogs: Olga, Lena, Lola, Emma, and Phoebe. Please bear with me if you see me struggling to keep them in order in the park. I am so looking forward to getting to know you, and to complement the work that Fr Darren is doing at St Etheldreda's and in the Deanery. Please don't hesitate to be in touch, even if, for the moment, it might need to be virtually or remotely.





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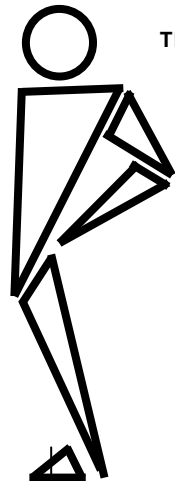
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In these strange times the Lemsford Social Committee decided to establish a **covid-19 volunteer group** to give people in the village a chance to help each other. We sent out a leaflet to everybody in the village offering them the chance either to volunteer to help people, or to register for any help that they needed. We received responses from all around the village which showed how much people wanted to help each other. We now have around 16 volunteers which considering how small the village is appears to me a very good result.

People in need have been getting in touch using the WhatsApp group or by telephone, asking for things like shopping, collection of prescriptions and offering things like spare milk and even spare runner bean plants! This has become established over the last couple of months and we have been registered with the council who offered some addresses of other organisations that could also help.

Next we set up a fortnightly **zoom meeting** where people could meet for a chat and sometimes a quiz. Often a glass of wine or beer were taken during these meetings, adding to the conviviality. We also received updates from Barry Trevis regarding the nature reserve in the village. He showed some amazing photos of the wildlife in the reserve.



On **VE Celebration day** we organised a socially distanced way for neighbours to mark the event. People in Mill Close came out to their front doors to have a “cup of tea” together and enjoy some cake whilst others in the village came out of their doors to toast each other and enjoy listening to the likes of Vera Lynn and George Formby.

**Robert Facer**

On 6th August 1850 Queen Victoria opened the Digswell Viaduct, which transformed the journey time from London to the north. She was reportedly so frightened of its height that she refused to travel across it. The train carrying her had to stop, upon which she left the train and entered a horse-drawn carriage to travel the length of the bridge on the ground. She then re-entered the train at the other end of the viaduct and continued her journey

This moment in time is a pivotal one in the history of Lemsford—the end of the stage coach, the dawn of the railways. The golden age of Lemsford was over. It would revert to a rural community based on agriculture and serving Broom's Barn. Its pubs & inns were reduced to providing local hospitality rather than serving the many coaches travelling the Great North Road which ran right through the Village.



The Welwyn Viaduct is one hour's walk from Lemsford. I imagine the whole village travelled to Digswell to see Queen Victoria open it. Looking at it today it is still an incredible sight. In 1850 one can only imagine what the folks of Lemsford thought, although they would have watched its construction with interest.

It was designed by William Cubitt and styled after a Roman aqueduct. At 1490 feet long, 100 feet high, it had forty Arches at thirty foot span. All the bricks were made on site. The two embankments either end required around one million tons of earth moved by human and horse possibly from Lemsford. It must have been seen as the eighth wonder of the world.

**Andy Chapman**

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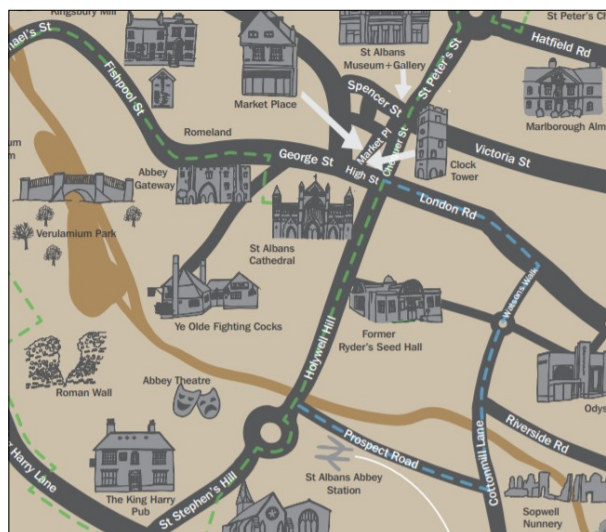
After three months of being closed, we're making plans to open our doors when it's safe to do so, including a one-way system, introducing social distancing measures and a thorough cleaning schedule. But there'll be plenty to do online or outdoors.

Once the Cathedral is open the 12ft puppets from the yearly procession will be displayed, along with a special exhibition that's been created by The Friends of St Albans Cathedral during lockdown.

For those wanting to explore the city on foot, take on the three-mile trail of St Michael's, St Stephen's and St Peter's Churches, the original pilgrimage churches, finishing at the Cathedral and discover their ancient stories.

Or if you're looking for something slightly shorter, go on a tree hunt around the Cathedral with the kids.

Seek out the Cedar tree that's over 200 years old, learn all about the origins of The Vintry garden and find the tree that was planted by Princess Diana in 1989. Both trails are available to download here on our website and print at home.



Online you'll be able to discover the reason why our magnificent city is called St Albans and why red roses are so significant to this story. You can even learn how to make a paper red rose to display in your window alongside your rainbows. Make sure you send us in your photos.

On Sunday 21 June, hear from Cleric, Broadcaster and former Communard, **Reverend Richard Coles** as part of a special live streamed service at 10am on YouTube. Our local MP Daisy Cooper will also feature, as well as other churches from around the world that have links to Alban.





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This year we've added online talks to the programme, so you can join in a poetry afternoon through Zoom – 'Pilgrimage by Poetry', led by Archdeacon Jonathan Smith. Or Mark Vernon, Writer and Psychotherapist, invites you to mark the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the great Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri through a Zoom talk. Tickets are limited, so do book early to avoid disappointment.

St Albans City and District Council along with St Albans BID are also planning a host of activities. Market Traders from past and present will be creating a fun video montage along with special offers to celebrate the occasion. This year will be different, but no less profound, so we do hope you can join the city in celebrating this special occasion.

The picture on the cover is one of three Saints in a church in Melbourne Australia—Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist Church of England. The original church was destroyed by arson in 1955. As part of its rebuilding, Mervyn Napier Waller was commissioned to create new windows in memory of those from the church who served in the two World Wars. Saint Columba, Saint Alban and Saint Aidan were unveiled in 1961. Waller had lost his right arm in WW1 but learned to draw again with his left hand.





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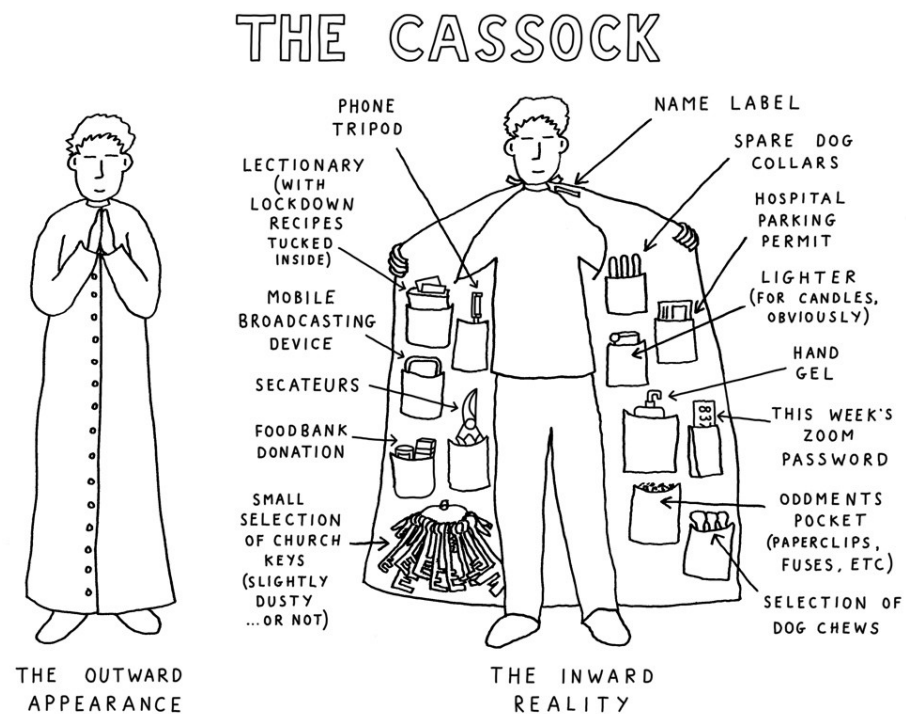
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If we are ill, strengthen us.  
 If we are tired, fortify our spirits.  
 If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field  
 and the birds of the air.

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 See the good in others,  
 And remember there is just one world, one hope,  
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**And finally ... *The New Normal Cleric***





**Mary Douglas at work (page 5)  
Digging for Victory (page 7).**







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