

St. Augustine and St. Aidan Tonge Moor and Hall i'th' Wood

PARISH PAPER

“Partial Lockdown Edition 6” - October 2020



Dear friends

It is October already, and there has been a definite change in the weather. We can but hope for an Indian Summer!

It is also 7 months since the lockdown was first imposed in England in response to the coronavirus pandemic which was - and is still - sweeping the world. Although the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Furlough scheme was quite rightly lauded, many of the Government's actions have been criticised, some criticism being more justified than others. Certainly, the Government's record on developing a Track and Trace app has been less than optimum!

While Government-sponsored IT projects can usually be guaranteed to fail majestically, this is one whose functionality is really essential to the nation's health and well-being.

It is, then, good to be able to report elsewhere in the *Parish Paper* that the NHS Covid-19 app is now available to be downloaded onto smartphones from the Apple Store and the Google Play Store. We are told that the information it gathers will be destroyed after 21 days, as it will no longer be relevant by then.

The information the app gathers is anonymous in any case, and comprises the locations the phone has been in on any given date, and the other phones carrying the app that were there at the same time. All these details are hidden in the inner workings of the app, and cannot be accessed other than by the app itself. And the only reason the app would do this, is if the owners of any of those phones turn out to be carry the coronavirus, the app will be alerted, and will in turn alert its owner to self-isolate. The app will also alert other apps which have been in close proximity, so that their owners, too, can self-isolate.

In the Gospels, Jesus gives us a summary of the Law: “Love the Lord your God with all your hearts... and your neighbour as yourself. This is the basis of all the Law and the prophets.” Loving our neighbour is one of the keystones of the Christian life, and the duty of every Christian.

Just as face coverings are not for our own protection but for the protection of others, so this new NHS app is not for our own protection, but to prevent us potentially passing the virus on to others while being unaware that we may be infected, and to alert those we've been in contact with to do the same.

Part of the beauty of the system is that we don't need to do the work: the app does it all for us. All we need to do is exercise human - if not Christian - decency, common sense, and self-isolate when we're advised to.

For the good of your neighbour, download the app if you have a smartphone, and use it when you enter church, and when you go to any venue displaying the NHS Covid QR Code.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Tony

CELEBRATING CREATION

Usually around this time of year we would be holding our Harvest Thanksgiving, and celebrating the Harvest together with our brothers and sisters from the other Christian denominations in Tonge Moor.

This year, in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, Churches Together in Tonge Moor have decided instead to celebrate the Church's Season of Creation, during a service to be held on Sunday 10th October at 4.00pm. Since other churches in Tonge Moor have not yet returned to public worship, this service will be conducted online, either via Zoom or YouTube, and the precise form will be communicated nearer the time.

Please put this date in your diary, and join with us and our brothers and sisters in the area, in praising God for the wonder of his Creation, and reminding ourselves what we can do to help preserve it for the good of all mankind.

Fr Tony

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Due to the Coronavirus lockdown earlier in the year we were unable to hold our Meeting of Parishioners (where the Churchwardens are elected) or the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (where members of the PCC are elected). The legal rules were amended to allow these meetings to be deferred until the end of October at the latest.

The parish will now hold these important meetings on Sunday 25th October in St Augustine's nave at 11.30am, immediately following the 10.30am mass. This year it is legally possible to conduct these meeting in person or over the internet, and while we hope everyone who can will try to be present in person, we hope that those who are unable to do so will join us on YouTube.

Participation

There are two notes that flow out of this. The first concerns the nature of the meetings: they are not simply presentations, but are by their very nature are interactive: for example, questions may be asked about the Parish's accounts or any of the Reports presented to the meeting. This is straightforward enough for those present, but those following proceedings on YouTube will be able to ask questions by using the Comments section to the right of the screen. Please make sure the name displayed is identifiably you, and not something like PC-Lounge86!

Voting

Secondly, all those eligible to vote in the elections should be able to do so. Since we have not passed the resolution required to use postal voting, so this is restricted to those attending the meeting, which this year will include those following proceedings online.

If there are elections to be held, those present will vote in the usual way, using voting slips, which will be securely locked in the church safe. Those following online (whom we can see from their screen names have a legal right to vote) will be sent link(s) later in the afternoon to one or more online polls, which will close later that evening. The two sets of votes will

be combined, and the results will be published the following Sunday.

If each of a couple (or family) following online is eligible to vote but generally uses a common email address, it may be possible to send the link to a smartphone, which will usually have its own distinct email address: please let me have this on the day.

Elections

This year we are electing our 3 representatives to the Deanery Synod, as well as our two Churchwardens and a number of PCC members.

Nomination forms will be set out on Sunday 11th October, and those nominated must be on the church's Electoral Roll (its Revision closes on Sunday 4th October) and need both a Proposer and Secunder. It is also a requirement that those elected, as members of the PCC and therefore Trustees of a charity, are required to complete Safeguarding training, which isn't onerous: in agreeing to be nominated, candidates agree to this.

These meetings are important to the life of the Parish, and I hope you will join us at St Augustine's or online.

Fr Tony

FINANCIAL GIVING

We wish to record our thanks to all those who are unable to attend church in person, but who are nonetheless continuing to support the worship and mission of the Church in this parish through their

continuing financial donations. All such donations are recorded against the name of the donor, where this is known, so be assured that none goes astray.

If Freewill Giving Envelope-holders send a cheque, enclosing an Envelope will enable the donation to be recorded against the Envelope number: either way, it will still be recorded against your name, and will be included in the end-of-financial-year letter sent out annually.

Perhaps you might consider an easier and less-burdensome way of giving to church? This is to send your donations by Standing Order, which allows you to determine the amount given, and is transferred by your bank to the parish regularly each month. Please see Sue Loftus, our Treasurer, or Pam Davies, our Parish Stewardship Officer, for a form.

Fr Tony

GENERAL SYNOD BY-ELECTION

Following the sad and sudden death of Mike Hepplestone, a vacancy arose for a representative from Manchester Diocese to sit on General Synod, causing a by-election to be held recently.

Pam Davies was asked to stand by the Clerical Chairman of Forward-in-Faith, Manchester, and a few days spent phoning round the Deanery Synod representatives from parishes associated with The Society and our brethren in conservative Evangelical parishes followed.

The system of voting seeks to reflect a broad consensus, so the candidate with the lowest number of counts is eliminated, and their voters' next preferences are redistributed among the remaining

candidates. This process continues until there are only two candidates remaining: the one with the higher number of votes is elected.

Did you follow that?! It is certainly more complicated than the traditional first-past-the-post voting system. The upshot, though, is that Pam got more first votes than any other candidate, and was leading through all the rounds but was piped at the post in the last round and came 2nd by just 3 votes.

This is an excellent result for a first attempt, and we thank all those who voted for her. Wish Pam all the best should she decide to stand again next year in the national elections to General Synod.

NEW NHS TRACING APP

The NHS Covid-19 Tracing app has now been rolled-out nationally, and is available to download from the Google Play Store and the Apple Store. This is an important new tool to help fight the virus. It will alert people if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus and, very importantly, has a built-in QR scanner to check-in at venues. This is vital for the NHS Track and Trace service to contact the necessary people if coronavirus outbreaks are identified in the venue.

Each of our churches now has a QR Code displayed near the door. If you have downloaded the app, simply open it to scan the QR Code: will not even need to tick-off your name on the attendance sheet. The information gathered will be kept securely for 21 days, and be destroyed as soon as possible after that period. All venues, including our churches, must take all reasonable steps to prevent entry to those not providing details in either of these ways.

Enforcement Officers will be carrying out checks to ensure that these measured are followed and enforcement action will be taken against operators where there is non-compliance: there will be fines of up to £1,000 for venues that fail to comply, rising to £4,000 for repeat offenders. Fortunately, we are committed to keeping our parishioners and worshippers safe, and thank you all for following these potentially lifesaving measures.

If you have a smartphone, download and use the NHS Covid-19 app.

Fr Tony

4th October - St. Francis

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Church-goers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix. He renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy

garments in a public square in his home-town, Assisi. For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart, St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity - a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, overcrowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that he came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

6th October - William Tyndale

This month is the 501st anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, and so a good time to pay tribute to an outstanding English scholar, translator and martyr of the Reformation.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 - 6th October 1536) was born near Gloucester, and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He could speak seven languages, and was proficient in ancient Hebrew and Greek. As a priest, his abilities would have taken him a long way, but by 1523 Tyndale's only desire was to translate the Bible, so that English men and women could read it for themselves. It became his life's passion.

For Tyndale had rediscovered a vital doctrine that the Church had been ignoring: that of justification by faith. He had found it when reading Erasmus's Greek edition of the New Testament. In fact, his life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: "Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that [the Gospels and the epistles of Paul] were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known."

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press.

It was to cost him his life. For Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England in maintaining the Church's position.

When the authorities had tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the

Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious.

Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work.

Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale. Even today we honour him: in 2002, Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.

12th October - Edith Cavell

Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers this year: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety.

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

She told Gahan: “I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone.”

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

18th October - St. Luke the Evangelist

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke’s gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on

poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke’s gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.

28th October - Simon and Jude

Jude the apostle and martyr (1st century) warns us in his epistle that not all ‘evil’ comes in the form of obvious ghosties and ghoulies. He writes instead to warn the Christians of the greater danger of people who infect others with heresy and moral failure. He writes that they are nothing more than “blemishes on your love-feasts...feeding themselves. They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea,

casting up the foam of their own shame, wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever.”

Such dangerous people can be frightening, but Jude also encourages his readers to remember “...him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing...the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time, now and forever...”

According to Western tradition, Jude and Simon went to preach the gospel in Persia, where both were martyred.

31st October - All Hallows' Eve

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or ‘Summer’s End’. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints’ Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called ‘All Hallows’ Day’. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called ‘All Hallows’ Eve’, The Holy Evening, later shortened to ‘Halloween’.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows’ Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



Thank you to Fr. Tony for our MU Mass last month.

Manchester Mothers' Union are on YouTube, where you can view a series of videos, Lockdown Poetry and images which are about time in lockdown. These have been submitted by members and friends of Manchester MU.

Remember to look at the Mothers' Union website (mothersunion.org) which is full of information and resources.

Prayer Square, from Mothers' Union resources

A pattern for small knitted squares with a cross incorporated into the pattern to give to those who may welcome the knowledge that someone is praying for them, and to help them to pray.

You will need:

A small amount of DK yarn (each square takes approximately 6g of yarn) 4mm (size 8) knitting needles

Method:

To create a neat selvedge: work to the last st on every row,

bring yarn to front and slip last stitch

Cast on 23 sts.

Row 1 - Row 4: Knit

Row 5: K2, p19, k2

Row 6 (*and every other even row*): Knit

Rows 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15: K2, p8, k3, p8, k2

Row 17, 19 and 21: K2, p4, k11, p4, k2

Row 23 and 25: K2, p8, k3, p8, k2

Row 27: K2, p19, k2

Row 28 - Row 31: Knit

Cast off and sew in ends

To include with the prayer square:

May this square, knitted and given in love, be a reminder of my prayers for you at this time, and bring comfort and assurance of the love of Christ and his constant presence with you.

Whenever my wife uses the phrase "I was thinking", that means I either have to move, build, paint or buy something.

Behind every angry woman stands a man who has absolutely no idea what he did wrong



The Cell of St Nicholas and News from the Shrine

We kept the Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the 8th September, with a 7.30pm Mass and Fr Tony leading us through the Rosary. Our Cell meeting on the 24th wasn't quite the one we planned at the start of the year. Nevertheless we kept the Solemnity of Our Lady of Walsingham with a 7.30pm Mass with Devotions when we said a Litany, praying for the life and work of the Shrine and rejoicing in Mary's prayers and protection in England's Nazareth and our nation. We are missing the chance to socialize on these days, especially as our Cell meetings have become much more regular and so very well attended. At this point in the calendar, we would usually be looking forward to our annual Walsingham Festival on the first Saturday in October. All preparations liturgical, floral and hospitable would now be in their final stages but sadly not in 2020. Hopefully, we shall more than make up for it next year.

The main news from the Shrine is Fr Ben Bradshaw, his wife Dannii and daughters Georgia and Bethany, finally managed to leave the Isle of Man and move to Walsingham.



Fr Ben was licensed by the Bishop of Norwich on the 3rd September so then his ministry at the Shrine was officially able to begin. He and Fr Kevin alternate being the celebrant or preacher at the live-streamed Sunday 9am Mass from the Shrine Church and has been doing his share of leading the daily live broadcast of 6pm Shrine Prayers, rotating with Fr Kevin and the Chantry Priest Fr Andrew Greany.

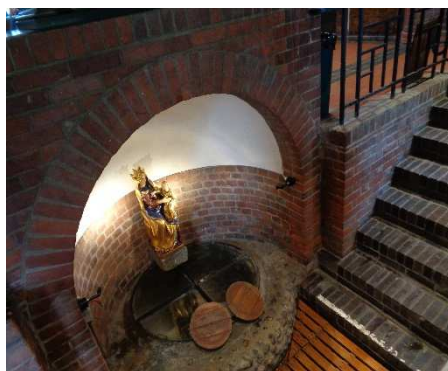
The Shrine Shop is not selling 2021 calendars or diaries this year. With their restricted opening hours and lower numbers of daily visitors and pilgrims, a decision was made that it was too risky to stock specifically dated items. They are, however, selling Christmas cards and an excellent range of gifts. If anyone finds something they would like to order from the on-line site (www.shrineshoponline.co.uk), wants to save postage and doesn't mind waiting until the end of November, then I will gladly shop on your behalf if you get in touch.



At the time of writing this, there is an intention to sell calendars for the Priory's 2020 charity, Tariro - a small charity in Zimbabwe which supports orphans and young people. The calendars will feature photographs of the Priory & garden and the Shrine gardens, some of

which have been taken by Sister Carol and one or two of mine. I have a sample if anyone would like to see one and the cost will be approx £4.00. I encourage you to support this new idea if you feel able. I can order and collect them for you so there won't be any postage costs and hopefully they will be available from the end of October. The calendars are not available through the Shrine Shop as this is a Priory project.

Finally, we have booked for our Parish Pilgrimage in 2021, the date being Monday 30th August - Friday 3rd September, the cost of which is to be confirmed at a later date.



Linda Parkington

I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart while they've never even seen one of his paintings

You know when you are getting old when everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work!

*And the Lord said unto John, "Come forth and you will receive eternal life."
But John came fifth and won a toaster.*

100 CLUB NEWS

The fifth monthly draw was via a Zoom meeting at 12 noon after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 2nd August 2020. Pam and Fr Tony were in charge of the drum containing the numbers at the vicarage, inside again for this draw. Ruth & David had list of numbers and names, in their dining room.

First Prize Number 42 - Ted Hale wins £25
Second Prize Number 84 - Elsie Hollinrake wins £15
Third Prize Number 191 - Hilda Heath wins £10

A reminder for those who pay in instalments, it's time to make another payment. Do contact David or Ruth Taylor to arrange payment or If you are not a member and would like to join it is just £1 a month.

The sixth draw for this term again drawn via Zoom on 13th September 2020

First Prize Number 7 - Gina Jones wins £25
Second Prize Number 41 - Derek Turner wins £15
Third Prize Number 27 - Ruth Taylor wins £10

The seventh draw will be Sunday 4th October 2020, probably again via Zoom, watch for details.

Churches Together in Tonge Moor

The Virtual Prayer Walk took place on 19th August and is available to watch on You Tube. The links had been posted on Facebook.

The full version with prayers and hymns can be found at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds2JSaMDys8>

Or the just the video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_OfRetyl9A&t=3s

We are planning an event about Creationtide, in place of Harvest focusing on God's creation, It's hoped that this can take place in St Augustine's Church on Sunday 11th October 2020 at 4.00pm.

Also, it is hoped that we can hold an Advent service this year and it is being planned for the week commencing 6th December 2020. Watch out for further details.

The Rectory

St. James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

I am unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the church vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes in, which are kept "just in case" and dead animals in various states of decomposition; but they are no place for bike chains, disc brakes and inner tubes.

I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can't bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. And even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.

One thing I can't keep out of the vestry are the portraits of all my predecessors, who stare down at me reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, stare smugly, knowing that I am still

being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that *they* all held doctorates from Oxford. The hand-drawn portraits from pre-1870 are the worst - they all look as if they drank vinegar for breakfast and argued Pelagianism over lunch, just for fun. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors, probably because it spares them a walk to the dustbin. So, a five-foot, 18 stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six-foot, ten stone successor. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door, to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking.

My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents - and lost forever in the churchwarden's shed.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Noah and the Ark - 2020 version

In the year 2020, Noah was living in England when the Lord came unto him and said, "Once again, the earth has become too wicked to continue. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing. You have six months before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his garden, but no Ark. "Noah", He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me Lord", begged Noah "but things have been difficult. I needed Building Regulations approval because the Ark was over 30 square metres. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

"The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep and the inside of the Ark wasn't fully

accessible. Getting the wood has been another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to preserve the Spotted Owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

“When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me for intending to confine wild animals without the proper paperwork. The County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority have ruled that I can’t build the Ark until they’ve conducted an Environmental Impact Study on your proposed flood. The Trade Unions insist that I can’t use my sons to build the Ark; I can only employ members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Trades union. Finally, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming I am going to attempt to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

“So, forgive me Lord, but it will take me at least another ten years to finish this Ark.”

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. “No need for me to destroy the world after all,” observed God. “The government has the matter already in hand.”

COCONUT, CHERRIES AND NUT SQUARES

Base

85g	<i>Margarine</i>
113g	<i>Caster sugar</i>
2	<i>Egg yolks</i>
2tbspn	<i>Milk</i>
	<i>Few drops of vanilla essence</i>
170g	<i>Self raising flour</i>
½tspn	<i>Salt</i>

Cream the margarine and sugar and add the egg yolks, milk and essence. Fold in the flour and salt.

Press the mixture into a swiss roll tin or a little larger.

Topping

2	<i>Egg whites</i>
56g	<i>Fine coconut</i>
113g	<i>Caster sugar</i>
	<i>Chopped cherries and walnuts</i>

Beat the egg whites till stiff and add sugar and coconut.

Cover the base (spreading all over base with palette knife). Sprinkle with small chopped cherries and walnuts.

And for a final smile!



PARISH DATES

- Sat 10th Diocesan Synod (via Zoom) 9.30-11.30am
- SUN 11th 4.00pm: Joint Service celebrating Creation (CTiTM)
6.30pm: Evening Prayer and Benediction
- SUN 25th 11.30am: APCM (St Augustine's nave and YouTube)
3.00pm: Baptism Preparation Class
- SUN 1st 11.30am: PCC meeting

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

September 13th Igor Pasula

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

September 18th James Gregory Watson (74)
22nd Thomas Jarvis (89)

Calendar and Intentions for October 2020

Thu 1 S Teresa of the Child Jesus: Religious Orders
 Fri 2 The Guardian Angels: Those who nurture and care for us
 Sat 3 feria: Walmsley Deanery, its churches and congregations

SUN 4 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God

Mon 5 feria: The work of local hospitals and hospices
 Tue 6 feria: Our Sunday School and the Schools in the Parish
 Wed 7 Our Lady of the Rosary: An increase in devotion to Our Lady in the Church of England
 Thu 8 feria: The fire, police and ambulance services
 Fri 9 St John Henry Newman: The unity of Christ's Church
 Sat 10 S Paulinus of York: Stephen Cotterell, the new Archbishop of York

SUN 11 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God

Mon 12 S Wilfred of Ripon: The Society, and Forward in Faith
 Tue 13 S Edward the Confessor: The people of England
 Wed 14 feria: The Bishop of Manchester and his staff
 Thu 15 S Teresa of Avila: A recovery of prayerful contemplation
 Fri 16 feria: Our local tradespeople
 Sat 17 S Ignatius: All retreat houses

SUN 18 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God

Mon 19 feria: The homeless, the unemployed and the lonely
 Tue 20 feria: The Bishop of Beverley, and all bishops of The Society
 Wed 21 feria: The work and mission of the Mother's Union
 Thu 22 feria: Those working towards a vaccine for the coronavirus
 Fri 23 feria: The Churches Together in Tonge Moor
 Sat 24 feria: Those standing for election at our APCM

SUN 25 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God

Mon 26 Ss Chad and Cedd: All missionaries, and parishes planning missions
 Tue 27 feria: The work of ACS and Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood
 Wed 28 **S SIMON AND S JUDE:** The College of the Resurrection, Mirfield
 Thu 29 feria: Our local Councillors and Borough officials
 Fri 30 feria: Religious communities and vocations to the religious life
 Sat 31 feria: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and its Priests Associate

PARISH OFFICE

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CHURCH WARDENS

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