

st martin's magazine

60p

April 2020

DORKING ANGLICANS AND METHODISTS TOGETHER
with St Mary's, Pixham & St Barnabas, Ranmore

Easter Blessings



“I shall turn their grief into gladness,
comfort them, and give them joy
after sorrow”?

Jeremiah 31:13

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SUBSCRIPTIONS for St Martin's Magazine

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COPY FOR MAY MAGAZINE

By Friday 17th April please, or sooner!

Any material is preferred on disc, in a PC format such as Word or Publisher. Handwritten material is still accepted! If you would like to send material by e-mail, the address is kikronfran@aol.com
Thanks. Ed.

REGISTER

BAPTISMS

"In my Baptism I was made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven"

We welcome into the family of the Church:

March

8th Finley Hawthorne (St Martin's)

FUNERALS

"Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them"

We pray for those who have died and for the bereaved:

February

25th William (Robin) Radclyffe
(St Barnabas) Aged 75

WEDDINGS

"Marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh"

We pray for those who have committed themselves to each other:

March

7th Benjamin West and
Catherine Jones (St Barnabas)

The editorial team is always open to ideas for improvements to your magazine. Feedback from readers suggests that, for a publication of this type, articles should normally be no longer than one page, i.e. a maximum of 730 words. Please bear this in mind when submitting copy. Suitable photographs are always welcome.

Editorial policy

The Editor, consulting the Magazine Committee, reserves the right not to publish any article which is deemed unsuitable for any reason, but our intention remains to include contributions from across a broad theological spectrum (and also on other matters of community interest). Contributions to the magazine thus reflect the perspectives of individual authors and do not thus necessarily reflect an agreed view of the church's leadership team.

A Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of Guildford



This magazine is being put together in unprecedented times when much of a daily newspaper is out of date if you don't read it before lunchtime. Here is Bishop Andrew's pastoral letter sent round in the immediate aftermath of the decision to suspend church services; some of it of course was designed for the very short term – like the call to a Day of Prayer on 22 March – but the rest is all about what we really need to hold on to for however long this virus disrupts all our lives - Loving God and Loving our Neighbour.

A Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of Guildford

Dear Friends,

The last few days and weeks have been a confusing and bewildering time for us all. A growing number across our communities have contracted the coronavirus, of whom a small proportion have died. A far greater number are now self-isolating, including many able-bodied men and women over the age of 70. Social gatherings have increasingly come to a halt. The economy is in freefall.



And yesterday we all received the news that church services are to be suspended for the time being, so as to seek to contain the virus: another unprecedented move at a time when the very word 'unprecedented' is becoming almost a cliché.

In all this there has inevitably been much talk of closures, cancellations and postponements, including the postponement of a visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to our diocese, which was due to begin today. Is the Church just shutting up shop, people might be wondering - to which the answer is a resounding No! For this current crisis is a time for Christians (including we clergy) to step up not to give up: to let go of what's less important so as to focus on what's most important: to be not just the Church of England but the Church for England;

to go deeper in our commitment to what Jesus described as the greatest commandment of them all: to 'love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves'.

So how might we love our neighbour at this time? Perhaps through committing ourselves to ten acts of kindness every day, especially in relation to those who are poorest and most disadvantaged among us: making sure that our Foodbanks remain properly stocked with provisions and volunteers; leafleting streets with offers to pray and to help; arranging for daily phone calls to those who are frail and housebound; joining in with local community initiatives (because Christians don't have a monopoly on good ideas or compassion).

Even the self-isolating can love their neighbour at the end of a phone-line, or in front of a computer, or by writing a good old-fashioned letter. How about expressing your appreciation of your Vicar, for example, at a time when she or he is likely to be feeling really pressurised?

One of our churches has followed the Italian example in providing a little outdoor concert for those who are self-isolating in a block of flats in their parish. Another has taken round a hamper to their local GP surgery, to express their huge admiration and support of those on the frontline. Clergy will shortly be invited to join a diocesan Facebook group to share good ideas and learn from one another; and do please consult our diocesan website daily as we respond to the most pressing questions that are cropping up in our churches and our schools.

Loving our neighbour is one thing, but how about loving the Lord our God when corporate worship is on hold? What might that look like?

As you know, we're in the season of Lent, 40 days and 40 nights in which Jesus went into self isolation, to be tested, yes, but also to pray, to meditate on the scriptures and to deepen his sense of calling for the future. During that time he was echoing the 40 years that Israel spent in

the desert before entering the Promised Land: a time in which there was no church or temple, but just a makeshift tent (the tabernacle) in which Moses used to meet with God day by day.

So how might we meet with God over this time as we take time out to pray, to meditate on the scriptures and to reflect on our calling, now and in the future? What's our tabernacle? Again parishes around the diocese are being really creative on this one, keeping their churches open where possible, providing spiritual resources for those who need them, making use of technology to help people feel connected, and above all praying, and calling others to join in. This coming Sunday the Archbishops have called us to a Day of Prayer, symbolised by putting candles in the windows of our houses and together lighting it at 7pm. And again there are some wonderful resources appearing on the diocesan website to help spiritually nourish us during this time in the wilderness.

Loving God, loving our neighbours; and how important too, to love ourselves at this time: to be kind on ourselves as well as others, as we all adjust to a rapidly shifting landscape.

And so finally to God's Word through the prophet Isaiah: that 'I will give you the treasures of darkness and the riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by name' (Isaiah 43:5). So what might be the treasures of darkness during this time?

Perhaps a new togetherness as a nation, following the deep divisions of the Brexit debate. Perhaps a new connection between the church in England and the people of England. Perhaps deeper discipleship and new vocations arising out of those forty days and forty nights of self-isolation (or however long it lasts). Perhaps a new commitment to prayer, and above all a new recognition of the sheer wonder of the Christian gospel – that nothing (not even loneliness or sickness or death itself) can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

And, in recognition that the call to suspend public worship fell on St. Patrick's day, a prayer from St Patrick's Breastplate:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger'.

Every Blessings,
Bishop Andrew

Many commentators in the secular world have drawn attention to the ability of the crisis to bring out either the best in us or the worst. We see that in this very day's (20 March) news coverage – examples of new neighbourliness between the generations in a town rapidly followed by a video of a desperate health worker coming off duty to find supermarket shelves cleared by the hoarders and panic buyers. In our Patron Saint of course we have that wonderful example of sharing his cloak. There will of course be many of all faiths and of none who will be setting equally stirring examples in 2020 but what will each one of us be doing to show that love of both God and of our neighbour in our lives this Spring, this Summer..... or however long Covid 19 is dominating our newspapers.

Philippians 4 vv6 - 7

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 46 v 1

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble'

Psalm 23 - the whole of it!

The lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Romans 15 v 13

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'

I John 4 v 18

'There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear'.

As I write this 'Reflection' we move into the second week of Lent so let us think about Jesus' ministry, particularly his last three or four weeks prior to his crucifixion, death and resurrection.

Jesus had only just turned thirty years of age when he started his ministry which was approximately three years and it incorporated times of healing the sick, prayers, telling parables, performing miracles, teaching and being with people.

How can we personally relate to these last few weeks of Jesus' life?

Michael Baughen, ex Bishop of Chester and now Assistant Bishop at Guildford Cathedral, has some challenging headings that are from a short study he did for Lent entitled 'A Passion for Christ'. He has given six suggestions to help us understand what it is to have a passion for Christ which are as follows:-

- 1) Sharing in the suffering of Christ
- 2) Seeking love in the Church of Christ
- 3) Spreading the aroma of Christ
- 4) Shining with the light of Christ
- 5) Sharing the life of Jesus in our mortal bodies
- 6) Serving with a passion for Christ our Saviour

Here are some reflections on these above six suggestions.

SHARING IN THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST

Each of us has probably experienced suffering with some people having more than their fair share. It might have been a serious illness, losing a loved one, experiencing redundancy, abuse, domestic violence or some such similar circumstance.

In the first letter of Peter he talks about suffering as a Christian.

"Dear friends, do not be surprised, at the painful trial you are suffering, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the suffering of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4 v 12-13).

We must be assured the God of all comfort, comforts us in all troubles. He knows what we are going through in our daily lives and before it even happens. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

SEEKING LOVE IN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

God wants our churches, us, to be marked by love and holiness. He (God) called us to be holy, and to be holy in all we do – it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy". We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you/we may declare the praises of him who called you/us out of darkness into his wonderful light".

(1 Peter 2 v 9).

We can show love to each other by sharing circumstances or situations, by praying together, by studying the Bible together or providing hospitality. Sharing a meal and talking can be a loving way of helping someone and even leading them to Christ himself.

SPREADING THE AROMA OF CHRIST

God leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and to those who are perishing.

People around us can know and savour the fragrance of Christ through seeing the way we live our lives in a 'Christ-like' manner. Let us be the fragrance of life to the people we meet in our daily lives. May the fragrance of Christ fill the places where we live, work and breathe.

May the glory of Jesus fill His church, radiant glory of Jesus; shining from our faces as we gaze in adoration.

May the beauty of Jesus fill our lives; fill our thoughts, our works, our deeds. Our all we give in adoration.

SHINING FORTH WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

God is light!

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood

Reflection contd.

of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1 v 5b and 7)

As the Psalmist David says in Psalm 51, "Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity" (v9) and then he asks God to "cleanse him with hyssop, and he will be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow" (v 7).

God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Psalm 119 v 105)

Paul in Ephesians reminds us that we were once darkness, but now we are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord (Ephesians 5 v 8-10).

Help us to focus on Jesus himself because sometimes the only way a person might come to know Jesus will be through the way we act, behave or speak. Let people see the light of Jesus in our lives.

SHARING THE LIFE OF JESUS IN OUR MORTAL BODIES

We can share the life of Jesus through reading the Bible, particularly the New Testament, with our friends and our Church family. This can be done through Home Groups, Prayer Groups or on an individual basis.

The two previous sections that cover 'The aroma of Christ' and 'Shining with the light of Christ' sum up perfectly how we as Christians can share the life of Christ with others.

SERVING WITH A PASSION FOR CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR

May we be renewed in our passion for Christ and we can do this by the giving of our lives as a 'living sacrifice' in His service.

In Romans 12 v 1 Paul urges us in view of God's mercy, to offer our bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God – this is our spiritual act of worship.

Let us remember Christ's death was for the sins of the world and it is vital for our witness that we are convinced of this too. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has

gone, the new has come! God made him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What an utter privilege it is to be saved; it is by grace that we have been saved.

So drawing this reflection to a close, may we be challenged day by day in how we can share in Christ's sufferings, to be able to seek love in the Church of Christ, spread the aroma of Christ, shine with the light of Christ, share in the life of Jesus ourselves and learn how to serve daily with a passion for Christ our Saviour.

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Lord, you give yourself for me;

May I give myself to you.

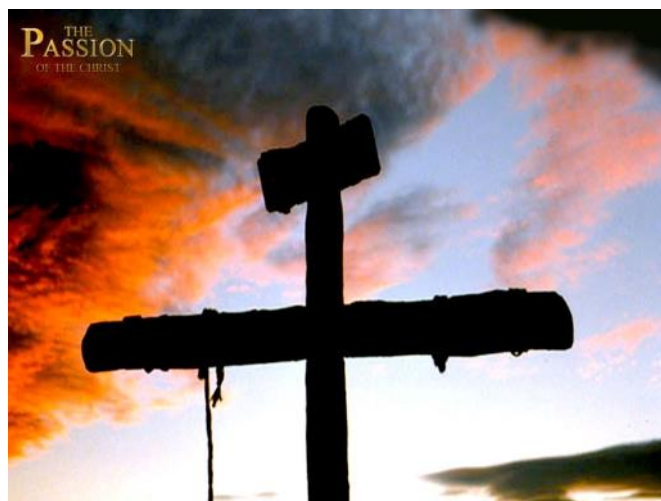
You give me life, you give me love, you give me yourself;

May I give my life, my love, myself to you.

In the power of your cross, deliver me from all evil

and lead me into life and peace, O Christ, who died and rose for us and lives forever and ever. Amen

Rowan Nunnerley,



MUSIC AT MIDDAY

Please be advised that the recital at St. Martin's on 4th April has been cancelled due to the ongoing uncertainty of the coronavirus. Hopefully the recital in May - Yoon Seok Shin on the piano will take place.

Well, I am writing this on day 1 of our enforced quarantine measures (I think that any phrase that uses the word 'isolation' is problematic and, in any case, any current phrase will probably have been superseded by the time that you read this)... in any case the world is indeed a changed place. We find ourselves in a novel situation, one without parallel... uncharted waters. All public worship has been suspended - even outdoor worship - until further notice as part of the raft of measures that has seen the closure of all venues where folk might gather socially. Having said that, the sun is shining as I write this and the sky is blue... even if it is still a bit chilly and the streets are looking oddly quiet for a Saturday!

By the time that you read this we will, I suppose, be into the fifth week of Lent... and the second/third week of quarantine (or whatever it's now called). We face the unusual prospect of a Good Friday without the usual Walk of Witness in Dorking, and an Easter without the usual festive services. This, along with cancellation of all other events meant that we suddenly found ourselves with a half-empty weekly news sheet; one of my wardens asked me if I could quickly pen something to fill the space, and I drew my inspiration from one of the readings scheduled to be used at the coming Sunday worship... a reading taken from a letter written by St Paul to the early church in Ephesus... a people known as the Ephesians.

Put very simply Paul's letter tells those in Ephesus that they are to be 'different'... they are to live as children of light, not children of darkness: "...the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true." Eph 5:9.

The same is demanded of us; and it is, I think, particularly poignant when you think of what we have seen in our shops and supermarkets in the week prior to my writing this piece: panic buying... first of hand sanitizer and toilets rolls... then things like UHT milk, tinned foods, pasta and rice... and now, just about everything!

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for

everyone's greed." In the week prior to my writing this we have been seeing the truth of that statement everyday in the media: shots of rows of completely barren shelves. I know that it is difficult but... the challenge, firstly for us as Christians and, more broadly, for everyone, is to try to live as children of light... not allowing ourselves to get caught up in the potentially destructive spirals of panic.

The even greater challenge, not just for this faith community but for all faith communities, is to demonstrate that we are truly a Church for all... not just a Church for ourselves... to become a radically different kind of Church - one rooted in prayer and practical service to the wider community... to be truly children of light.

I am known, I suspect, for always saying that Lent is a time when the pace, the rhythm, should change... well, they do say that one should be careful what one wishes for! This is, without doubt, a Lent where a change of pace is occurring. That being the case, I want to close by saying that I believe the Church has a real opportunity to be at the forefront of providing practical care and support for those most in need during the crisis. As Archbishop Justin has said, "Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the coming days and weeks, with our faith lives characterised less by attendance at a church building on a Sunday and more by our prayer and day-to-day practical service to others." Although this may already appear in this WNS I am, nevertheless, going to end with the prayer penned by The Rev'd Dr Sam Wells of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square:

"God of healing and hope, in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new virus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger. Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worst in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other, and of the strength that comes from being one body in you. Through Christ our wounded healer. Amen."



WILL WRITING SERVICE

If you are over 50 and live in the Mole Valley area, you can use Age Concern Mole Valley's Will Writing Service.



Once a month local solicitors, Meaby & Co (formerly Hart Scales & Hodges) are taking appointments for Will Writing at the Age Concern Mole Valley offices in Dorking. A donation of £100 can be given to Age Concern Mole Valley for the service. A solicitor would normally charge over £250 per Will plus VAT).

To book an appointment for the Will Writing Clinic, please call 01306 899104/ 07442 017169 or by email: info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1111678

As a result of the Covid 19 situation The Know Your Blood Pressure Day scheduled to be held on Saturday 4 April at the Christian Centre has been cancelled. Dorking Rotary apologises for this cancellation and we hope to be back in action in 2021."

Old Pixham School Community Centre is closed until further notice.

DORKING MUSEUM

In the light of the developing epidemic, Dorking Museum Committee has taken the decision not to re-open the Museum this week or for the immediate future.

We have a duty of care to the public and to all our volunteers, many of whom fall into vulnerable categories or have family members who do. Current Government advice is for people to work from home and to avoid all non-essential contact.

Talks due to take place within the Museum, including this week's talk by Tessa Boase, will be postponed and ticket monies refunded. The start of the cave tour season in April will also be postponed and the guided walks schedule will be suspended. The oral history team has already cancelled all home visits. The situation will be monitored on a weekly basis.

The Museum will continue to be active online and on social media so please keep following us on Facebook and Twitter, in the press and via the website, where details on events and activities will be updated as this situation evolves.

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Chaplain's Corner for April

In light of the fact I have also written a 'Reflection' article in this month's Church magazine I will try and keep the Chaplain's Corner a little shorter!

There are several positives to talk about and the first is to say that the Ecumenical Prayer Group is thriving. As aforesaid in March the group has been meeting for prayer on a regular basis since the five week course that was held in Autumn 2019. The people in the group come from at least four to five different Dorking churches which is healthy and also valuable. The group has really developed a real friendship and trust that results in sharing quite personal and confidential information and this is an encouragement to all of us. One of our group is having a hip replacement on Saturday the 14th March 2020 so we pray for God's healing hand to be upon him.

Secondly, Cathy Merrikin one of the St Martin's Pastoral Assistants is going to start 'Listening' in The Christian Centre on Monday mornings (10:30 – 12 midday). We pray that she will be given guidance and wisdom as she starts this new Listener's role. Nicole from St John's Church is also thinking of providing some 'Listening' at The Centre too (probably on a Wednesday morning), so we thank God for answers to prayer for more 'Listeners'.

Thirdly there is new flooring in the Café and entrance area. All the old carpet tiles have been replaced with a special type of flooring that appears like 'wood'. The walls have been painted and the Café certainly looks a lot brighter and lighter.

Chef has not been at all well this last week. Nothing serious – just a nasty cold. He has been missed but people have stepped in to do the cooking so lunches continued to be served and we thank them for this.

Currently The Christian Centre is following all the necessary national advice and guidance concerning the Corona Virus (CVD 19) and is open as usual, unless we are instructed otherwise. It is important to reassure people of this fact and hopefully we can continue to

provide a service, particularly lunches to our Café guests. Thorough and frequent hand washing is paramount at this time. It is hard to understand why this pandemic is occurring but as I have said before in previous articles, we have to, and must trust God is in control and that He cares for us.

We continue to pray for the elderly, frail, ill and needy. We also pray for protection of The Centre, the clergy, and our centre guests at this national and international viral time.

Holy Week and Easter are approaching. We remember Jesus' crucifixion on that dark Friday over 2,000 years ago but rejoice in the fact that He has risen from the dead and is now sitting at the right hand of God (the Majesty) in heaven. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. What a reason to celebrate Easter Sunday!



Jesus is alive today and He is with us as we go about our daily lives. Let us shine out for Jesus this Eastertide so that the people we meet will commit their lives to our Lord.

We pray for peace and healing in the world, between nations, within all our communities, in our hearts and in our lives. May God bless you at this special time of the year – Easter.



Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid'.

Rowan Nunnerley (Centre Chaplain)
Contact details:- 01306 886830 (09:00-14:00) /
centrechaplain@gmail.com

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
should set his love upon the sons of men,
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that he was born of Mary
when Beth'lem's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun will shine in splendor
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when every heart with love and joy is filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer,
'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

Words: William Young Fullerton (1857-1932)
Tune: Londonderry Air (Traditional Irish Melody)

William Young Fullerton, the writer of this hymn was a Baptist preacher, administrator and writer. He was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1857 and raised as a Presbyterian, but on moving to London on business in 1875 as a young man, was influenced by the preaching of the Baptist Charles Spurgeon, who



became his friend and mentor. William went on to serve as President of the Baptist Union and Home Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society. He wrote several biographies including one of John Bunyan, and Spurgeon.' He also compiled several hymnals.

The tune we sing this hymn to is the well known Irish Traditional melody - The Londonderry Air arranged by English organist and teacher John Barnard (b 1949), I sang it recently at the funeral of an elderly well loved member of his church. It is a hymn that is a powerful confession of Christian faith, trust and hope.

It begins expressing wonder at how God could love us sinful humans so much that he sent his Son Jesus to be our Saviour by being born into the world as a human baby (stanza 1), to live amongst us and then to die for our sins, on a Roman Cross, (Stanza 2)

In stanzas 3 and 4, the hymn looks forward in hope to that time when God's Kingdom will come on earth and Jesus as Saviour will appear in glory, the storms of life will be stilled and the hearts of men will be filled with love, as earth and heaven rejoice together. The hymn believes this but acknowledges that we cannot fully understand how that will come about.

It seems an appropriate hymn for April and Easter time when the church reflects on the meaning of the Crucifixion and we try to understand why Jesus had to die and also how, as the risen Lord, he will return to the earth, as was promised after his Ascension.

We can indeed sing this hymn with awe and wonder as well as in all humility, as none of us can tell exactly how and when God's kingdom of justice, mercy and peace will come to all the world.

Christians in many churches have been using Lent this year as a time to think about God's creation - particularly our own planet earth. We are seeking to know how God want us as Christians to be living and caring for, not

Hymn of the Month contd.

only ourselves and our fellow humans, but the rest of the earth and its creatures, at this time of Global Warming and Climate Change.

How do we cherish and restore God's beautiful earth and bring justice to the poor who suffer the most from the actions of those who are greedy for riches and our exploitation of the earth's resources and the destruction of its environments We recall that the Lord requires us to "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God". (Micah 6 v8).

It might seem from the news that the world is on fire, drowning in floods, people are starving because of drought and pestilence and that politicians are ignoring the poor and oppressed. and that is all hopeless.

Gideon Heugh says in the Tearfund Lent Devotional "There is hope. History has an ultimate trajectory, one that is guided by the hand of God. Heaven hears the cries of the oppressed; the heart of the kingdom is liberation. Empires rise, but they also fall. In the end power will be proved powerless against love, which is the only thing that lasts forever".

So let us encourage those around us in these difficult times, which has suddenly been made more difficult and uncertain by the Corona Virus pandemic, and turn to God and pray that

together, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are given strength to act wisely and creatively to find solutions that will bring hope, peace and justice to all those who inhabit God's wonderful earth.

'Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven' Amen

Diana Burges

EASTER DAWN

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light
crept

Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love
say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to
Day.

Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)

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Sight for Surrey receives funding from Toyota GB

Sight for Surrey has received a wonderful donation of £1,800 from Toyota's Fund for a Better Tomorrow. The money will help fund an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) at Epsom Hospital, a vital link between the Ophthalmologist and accessing benefits and services for anyone diagnosed with a vision impairment.



Once diagnosed with a vision impairment, many are left without on-going support and advice not knowing where to turn to access support and help. This is where Sight for Surrey's ECLO step in providing a bridge and supportive helping hand.

To help boost Sight for Surrey's fundraising we apply to various charity foundations for grants and donations towards specific projects and items. The application to Toyota GB was to help fund our ECLO service. Currently, Sight for Surrey has one ECLO, who covers five major hospitals in Surrey. Without Sight for Surrey's service many thousands of blind and vision impaired people would be left without care and support including information on benefits and access to services to allow them to continue living and operating independently. Lisa Fletcher, Head of Fundraising at Sight for Surrey said, "The money from Toyota GB will go directly to the heart of the organisation, helping to support people recently diagnosed with a sight loss."

Toyota CSR & Environmental Affairs said, "Toyota GB is delighted to be able to support Sight for Surrey via the 'Toyota Fund for a Better Tomorrow'. The 'Eye Clinic Liaison Officers' (ECLOs) project is undoubtedly a worthy recipient and we know the contribution will go towards helping people to overcome day-to-day challenges and achieve their full potential." Toyota's Fund For a Better Tomorrow has donated over £950,000 to charitable causes since its inception in 2011. Sight for Surrey supports anyone in Surrey with a vision impairment, who are blind, Deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing.



A huge thank you to all the wonderful Waitrose Dorking shoppers for voting for Sight for Surrey last December in the Waitrose Dorking, Community Matters green token scheme.

Sight for Surrey has just received a cheque for £320, this money will go directly towards a residential weekend away for our blind and vision impaired children and their families, giving many of them a welcome break they just don't get the opportunity to take.

Lisa Fletcher, Head of Fundraising at Sight for Surrey said, "as a charity that relies heavily on donations from members of the public and organisations, the Waitrose Community Matters Scheme is a vital source of income that allows us to put on events like this".

The last children's residential trip took place in August 2019 and 11 children and their families, many with complex needs, stayed at Sayers Croft, an activity centre in Surrey. Here a group of blind and vision impaired children and their families took part in various activities over the weekend, including archery, creek crawling and caving, many dabbling with new experiences and activities they never thought possible with a visual impairment.

Jane Morris & Sarah Newall, Community Champions from Waitrose Dorking said, "we are delighted to support this worthwhile local charity".

Sight for Surrey support people who are blind, vision impaired, Deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing. To help us continue our work and make a donation visit www.sightforsurrey.org.uk

Lent Eco-Church



R is for Resurrection

Plastic pollution is destroying our planet, and we need to resurrect our World.

Here are the 4 Rs to help reduce how much plastic we use.

- RETHINK** Is there something better we could use that isn't made of plastic ?
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- RECYCLE** It could be made into something new.

Rejoice! He is Risen !



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