



SPOTLIGHT

The magazine of Offington Park Methodist Church



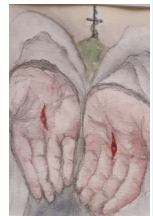
April 2020

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Cover Picture

Our cover picture was painted by Jenny Guy from a picture appearing on the 'Preach the Story' Sermon Resources website. The original painting by Jenny is in Dawn's office. Viewed from the context of visualising the nail prints within the palms of Jesus, we can't help feeling intimately loved by God. We can trust that though the way may be difficult, we are safe and secure in his hands. We are also fully protected and can't be driven out of his hands by others. No one can snatch us away from the Father's love and safekeeping.



FRIENDS OF BROADWATER & WORTHING CEMETERY

Sadly, our April tour will no longer go ahead. Decisions on future tours will be made nearer the due dates of each. However, clearance work is going ahead on Saturday 28 March as usual. **If you are in need of some fresh air and exercise,** meet at the Chapel at 10.00, but please avoid close contact.

Dear Friends,

The speed with which things change makes it difficult to keep up, but the leadership team and I are committed to keeping you informed about the changing circumstances. All the decisions made by the circuit and connexion have been made prayerfully and with a deliberate focus on keeping as many people as safe as possible.



All church groups, church meetings and public worship is temporarily suspended until further notice. This will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

Services may have ceased, but worship has not. We are suggesting that at 10.30 each Sunday morning we spend some time praying and worshipping as usual in our own homes. We will be sending resources to help you, with a message from me or from the team, so that we can continue to 'be church.'

For those who are fit and well, i.e. showing no symptoms, the church building will be open on Monday – Thursday between 10am—11am for private prayer. There will be a prayer station for your reflection. Please sit at a safe distance from each other.

We have set up a pastoral caring system which reflects the level of need we think you might require, e.g. if you live alone you will be offered regular phone contact and help with shopping should you need it. This will also be offered to those who live with others but do not have close family near to hand. All of our 'helpers' will be approved by the church. Sadly, we must remind you that there are some very unkind people who may try to persuade you that they are going to help with shopping and need payment beforehand. Please be wary of this.

If you are a member of Tuesday lunch club, we will continue to deliver food to your door weekly for as long as we are able, if you have requested it. If you find this becomes a need further down the line, please ring the office and leave a message.

The office will now remain closed, but Mary will be working office hours at home and answering emails and directing people to the appropriate person as usual. Our website and Facebook pages will be updated to reflect this.

With love and prayers

Dawn

ROADMAP — HAVE WE LEARNED?



We hope that you have learned (and maybe taken on board) a thing or two from the 'Roadmap' series of articles we have run in Spotlight over the past five editions.

It was quite clear from some of the articles that there are ambitious plans to curtail our use of energy and natural resources, but we also hope that tucked away in there were some insights into the smaller steps we can personally take to retrain ourselves in the way we live our lives. No longer should we be saying, 'where do we start?'

We recently had Veganuary, which encouraged people to have a try at a wholly plant-based diet rather than sticking to meat products, the rearing and eating of which is adding to global warming, as well as requiring further deforestation and loss of natural habitats.

We have a church minibus which can seat thirteen people. To reduce pollution, could you come to church by minibus and not car, or offer someone a lift. Better still, why not walk or cycle instead? Walking in particular is good for the health and very environmentally friendly.

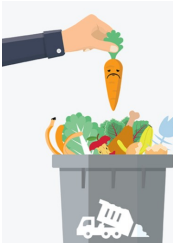
At the shops, do we buy loose fruit and vegetables, or do we buy it packaged? And do we buy locally-grown? Less packaging and shorter transportation routes means less carbon emissions. What about growing our own — probably tastier and no nasty chemicals either!



In church, for example, do we challenge each other on the need for excessive lighting? Do we always turn off the lights? In the home, we sincerely hope nobody is still brushing teeth under a running tap!

We can all choose who gets our custom, so choose providers that support sustainable businesses, such as energy providers and banks.

The point is, small lifestyle changes that often hardly impact our way of life at all can really help to promote sustainable living, and more gains will be made if millions of us implement gradual changes and sustainable habits than if a few 'professional environmentalists' do it really well.



One thing is certain—something must be done. Another simple but effective way to start is by looking at what we throw away. We have to be good stewards and consider where that waste is going. It is a sobering thought that (maybe) every computer that was ever bought is still in existence, somewhere, probably in a landfill!

Reducing waste is one thing—creating waste by inconsiderate purchasing is quite another. Before we buy something, we should ask ourselves “Do we really need it? If so, can we get it second-hand?” Similarly, before we throw something away, do we consider if someone else can use it (e.g. give it to a charity shop) or if it can be recycled somewhere? There are lots of places that take all sorts of things, if we only took the time to seek them out.

Recycle before landfill is the watchword, even though recycling items brings issues of contamination and costly processes. We can help again here by observing the rules of the recycling providers to ensure that they can be easily received and recycled without much additional work.



Small steps - big changes!



God doesn't look at how much we do,
but with how much love we do it.

Mother Teresa

SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT!

The Smiles
FOUNDATION



We don't want this edition of Spotlight to be all doom and gloom because of you-know-what, so here is something to smile about and give grateful thanks for. It is a timeline showing how rapidly the Smiles Foundation in northwest Romania has grown from nothing in 1990 to the large, widespread and caring organisation it is today.

It all started in earnest when CEO Kevin Hoy invited a young boy begging on the streets of Romania in 2001 to come and chat with him over a pizza.

What if Kevin had just dropped a coin into the boy's hand and walked on....?

1990

Kevin Hoy first visited Romania following the Revolution

1996

Kevin took his first Mission Team to Romania to assist with the Humanitarian and Outreach work.

2001

By visiting poor families in need of support, Smiles established the **Family Care Project** with a small Mission team in Romania. Kevin met Victor Rostas from Tileagd begging on the streets of Oradea

2002

Agreed with Tileagd Gypsy Community to provide education to children who had never been to school.

2003

Having purchased a disused Pentecostal Church: redesigned, renovated, and built **Community School**

2004

Began supporting after-school programme in Gepiu Community for children from impoverished families

Opened the **Tileagd Nursery School** for 3-6 years olds

Started the **SOS Project** for Christmas – **Sack of Smiles**

Purchased **Boga Mountain Camp Site** for camping and outreach amongst our Project Kids

Opened the Smiles purpose-built **Mission Centre in Cihei** to accommodate 50 Mission Trip Guests

2005

Established the **Homeless Project** in Oradea

2006

Opened **Cihei Children's Centre** for abandoned, abused and neglected children

Opened the **Gepiu Community Centre**

Opened the **Emergency Housing Unit**

Opened **Phase One** of **Tileagd Community Complex**,
a Christian School for 6-11 year olds

The Smiles
FOUNDATION



2007

Established the work with **Salard Community**

2008

Opened **Phase Two** of **Tileagd Community Complex**
comprising Sports Hall, Medical Wing and Church

2010

Converted Cihei Children's Centre to **Cihei Elderly Care**
Facility to trial ability to meet elderly needs

Purchased **Arpasel Farm** for Pig Breeding and Arable farming

2011

Built **Arpasel Glasshouse** for Vegetable and Flower growing

2013

Opened **JFL (Joint Facility of Love)** Phase One in Salonta
for Residential Elderly Care (30 beds)

2014

Opened **Elderly Care Oradea (ECO)** – Residential Facility (46 beds)
Project in **Rapa Community** began with building the Hygiene Unit,
followed by 12 Houses and a Church

2016

Opened **JFL Phase Two** for Dementia Suite (12 beds) and Disability Care

2017

Opened **Tileagd Assisted Living (TAL)** for Residential Care (38 beds)
Established the **COP's Programme** – Children's Outreach Programme
for kids during School Holidays

2019

Opened **Dezna Outreach Centre** for Camps, Retreats and Conferences

God really can do amazing things through those who trust him

To find out more about Smiles, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klj4_fOY04&feature=youtu.be



South Sudan is in the grip of civil war and is one of the world's poorest countries. It comes as no surprise that the UN rates it as a country where the people are among the least happy.

In size, the country is just over 2.5 times larger than the UK, but has a population less than Greater London, Birmingham and Manchester combined. South Sudan has borders with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, DR Congo, Uganda and the Central African Republic.

The official language is English, although Arabic and other regional languages are spoken. Less than 1 in 3 people in South Sudan is literate.

Please pray for South Sudan, particularly for the end of the ethnic violence that has claimed hundreds of lives and made many more homeless. Pray also for an improved economy and a better education system across the land.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY 2020



Due to the coronavirus, normal Christian Aid house-to-house collections are not going ahead. Other options are being investigated, including street collections, delivery-only envelopes and online giving.

Please do not forget other aid organisations at this time. There is still much suffering elsewhere in the world and the current pandemic will have serious implications for the world's poorer nations which will still be there after the pandemic has passed.

You can still donate to Christian Aid online by visiting their website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Select an amount then click on the red 'donate' button. Enter your details and don't forget to claim gift aid if you are a taxpayer.

Thank you

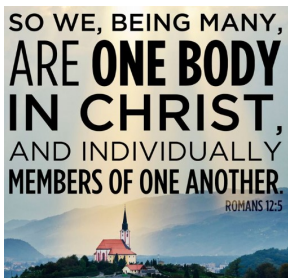
Liz & Chris Lance

Christian Aid Week 2020

'I pray to God that
the rain will fall'

Rose, 67 years old.

Drought is pushing Rose and her family to the brink. Your gift this Christian Aid Week could help her community build a long-lasting source of water, so not a single drop is wasted.



A DIFFERENT WAY OF BEING CHURCH

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. They have put together some suggestions of how we can still worship while not physically meeting as 'church', which you may find helpful.

[Join an online church service which is livestreaming for people to join in at home. You can find livestreamed services via Facebook or Periscope.](#)

Find a daily reading on social media, or join an email daily reading group such as Bible Gateway. Watch one of the many videos from the "Thy Kingdom Come Video Library" or You Tube meditative videos.

[Start or join a prayer meeting via conference call \(phone or video\) or offer a prayer service over the phone using Zoom or Skype.](#)

Consider starting or joining a church WhatsApp group to share daily readings, videos and encouragement with others in the 'online congregation'. Share prayer requests and testimonies too.

[Pray for the wellbeing of five other people you know who are vulnerable.](#)

Start or join an online Bible study, looking deeper at the Lord's Prayer.

[Start or join a prayer chain and all commit so there is continuous prayer for a period of time \(24 hours?\) or hold a prayer moment where everyone in the group commits to pray at a certain time of the day. You don't have to have special prayers—just use the Lord's Prayer?](#)

Develop (or continue) a habit of praying together as a family, at meals times and before bed, reading the Bible together.

[Set up a prayer space in your home, and light a candle there. Commit to lighting up the world in prayer so that others would come to know and experience the hope of Jesus.](#)

And, very importantly, keep an eye out for those in our congregation who won't necessarily use social media as a means of communication and give them a call to see how they are. This particularly applies to the isolated, elderly and vulnerable people.

[Above all - keep yourself safe!](#)

VARIETY CERTAINLY SPICED UP OUR LIFE!

by Shaune King

We always knew there was an amazing amount of talent at Offington Park!



This was showcased for us with the wonderful Variety Show on the afternoon of 29 February.

We were treated to a diverse assortment of acts ranging from musicians and singers, through to comedians, puppeteers and - would you believe it in Church - synchronised swimmers!! Not forgetting of course the tutu-wearing Grumpy Old Men who, despite their name, are always game for a laugh.

The afternoon was ably compered by Mike and we in the audience were also able to join in with a bout of community singing!

But it wasn't just those on the stage. Where would we have been without the fantastic technical input and enthusiasm, as well as the folk who organised the whole show and helped with refreshments?

A big thank you to the cast, but also to Romy, Tim, Caroline, Ben, Aaron and Stephanie and everyone else who helped in any way, big or small, to make the afternoon such a success. Over £1200 was raised for Church Funds!!

Are you hiding YOUR talent under a bushel?

We're pretty sure there are others out there with a talent for organising something equally as spectacular.

Dear Reader, how about YOU thinking up an idea - we need lots more events to take place once we're 'back to normal'

Romy & the Eds

Please also see Adam's 'unbiased' report of the show on pages 18-19 - the Eds

Grumpy? You bet!



As if we needed anything else to be grumpy about, the coronavirus has put paid to our future events for now. This includes our proposed visit to the Ford Materials Recycling Facility. Viridor's operational processes are important to protecting public health and the environment and the company needs to ensure that all site staff are protected as well as reducing risk to visitors.

Once visits are operational again we will be offered an alternative date.

EVERY CLOUD....

And the people stayed home.

And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.

And listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.

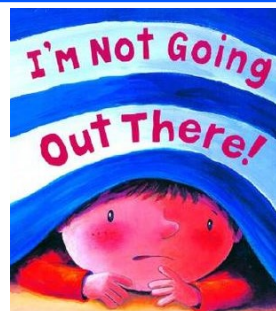
And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara



OFFINGTON BELLS

David and the Offington Bell Ringers would like to thank all those who attended the Bell concert and tea on Saturday 14 March.

The audience appreciated the variety of musical styles performed as well as the various bell techniques demonstrated.



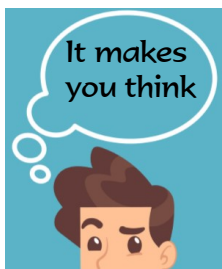
An opportunity was given at the end of the concert for anyone in the audience to 'have a go'. Several people came forward and made a veritable attempt at a version of *Old MacDonald had a farm*.

This was followed by an excellent Afternoon Tea prepared by Hilary Colbourn and her faithful band of helpers. Offington Bell Ringers would like to thank them for providing this feast - as one member of the audience was heard to remark: *this is better than the Ritz!*

Hopefully the afternoon provided a means of lifting everyone's spirits in these strange and very difficult times. For those who were unable to attend because of health concerns in the present climate we hope to be able to provide further musical entertainment sometime in the future when things have returned to a sense of normality. Hold on to your tickets!

Please note that, in common with many other groups and in line with Government advice, Offington Bell Ringers will not be meeting until further notice.

David Gibbs



How great is it that the same God that created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought the world needed one of you too?

A prayer in times of challenge

God of Love, we turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives.



We stand before you as a people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

Generous and Merciful God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear.

Healing God, bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and neighbours. We pray especially for those who are isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

God of Strength, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

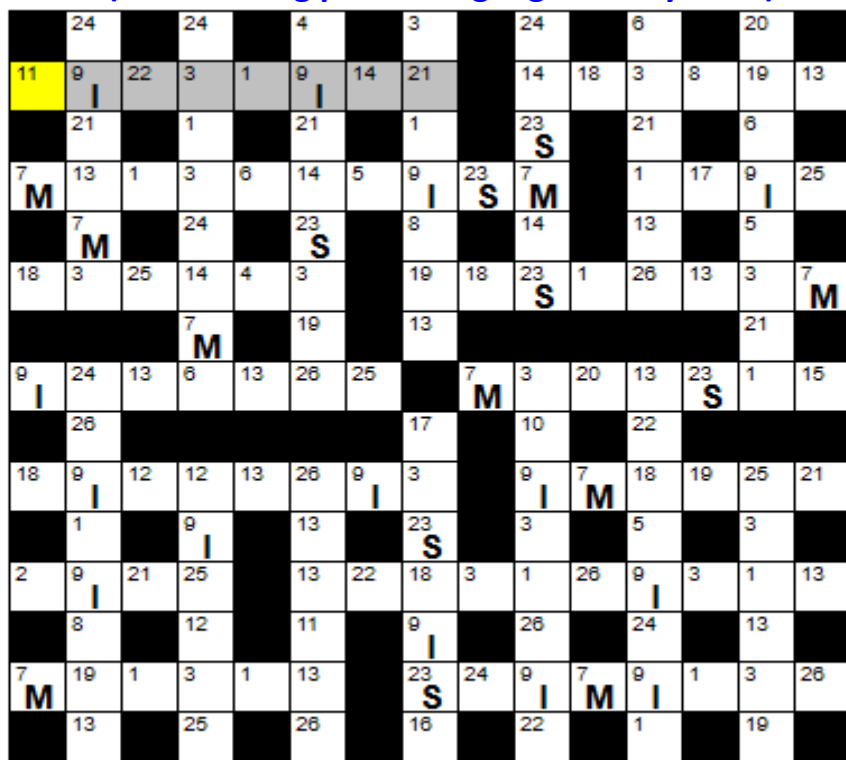
God of Wisdom, guide the nation's leaders in healthcare and Government; that they may make the right decisions for the wellbeing of all people.

God of Creation and God of Life, we place ourselves and our world in your protection and love this day. May your peace enfold us today, tomorrow and during the difficult times ahead.

Amen

CODEWORD — SIMPLY FILL IN THE BLANKS

(best starting place is highlighted in yellow)



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

While the coronavirus pandemic continues, Mary will be working from home. To enable her to get important messages for the office, we have set up a remote email address for the office: administrator@offingtonpark.org.uk



The existing email address is still operational and messages will still be received. However, if you don't receive a response in a reasonable time (Mary is efficient!), please resend to the above email address.

There is also a new email for our Treasurer, Alison. Please send future finance-related emails to treasurer@offingtonpark.org.uk.

ODE TO A GRUMPY OLD MAN

I'm old and I'm grumpy, I've 'got the T-shirt'
So forgive me if I seem discourteous and curt.
I have one joy in life – just accept it or not.
And that's being grumpy - so I don't give a jot.
I've grumbled and moaned since my old age began
And I'm proud to be labelled a grumpy old man.

The older I get, the more often I doze,
And any number of things just get right up my nose.

I don't like using Tesco's auto machine.
I'd much rather speak to a real human being.
As for online shopping that comes in a van,
It's just not for me – I'm a grumpy old man.

I can't stand young drivers who must overtake
And speed away fast, leaving dust in their wake.

I don't like tailgaters or middle-lane sitters
And don't sound your horn at me - that makes me bitter
So here's why I'm driving as slow as your nan -
I'm looking for potholes, I'm a grumpy old man.

There's food down my jumper and stains on my tie
And what if I occasionally forget my fly?

I lounge in my armchair and rant – BBC!
There's nothing worth watching and the licence ain't free!
"Oh, look, it's him – married to whatshername Anne"
The memory's not great on a grumpy old man.

To be brutal and frank, I just don't give a damn
About messaging, emails, and that thing Instagram
The Queen's English is lost, I'm sad to relay
Now there's 'awesome' and 'wicked' and 'Have a nice day'
'I'm like' and 'he's like' are the first things I'd ban
But nobody listens to a grumpy old man.

And when I at last reach those big pearly gates,
I expect I'll meet up with my grumpy old mates
We'll all compare notes on how grumpy we've been
And how often we thoroughly vented our spleen.
Though I failed to be cheerful, St Peter if you can
Please let me go through – I'm a grumpy old man!



I am a registered domestic electrician, providing a quality and friendly service in the Worthing and surrounding area, including:

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- Replace Fuse Boards; House Rewires; Smoke Detectors
- Additional power sockets and renewing light fixtures
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Chris Ludlow 07899 980090 chrisludlow6@gmail.com



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An insight into The Variety Show by Adam Cook (an impartial bystander)



After months of preparation the day was finally here - our Variety Show - but I found myself very anxious and my mind was drawn to the line in that Christmas hymn about the shepherds: 'for mighty dread has seized *my* troubled mind!'

We all took our seats and then decided they were best left where they had been put out, so we returned them. We were greeted with a rather amusing countdown and then the first act began, which was the puppets called the Proclaimers. They opened appropriately with the song, 'Another Opening, Another Show.' I was particularly drawn to the first puppet who sang, the mastery of the lip-syncing and the wonderful fluid movement of the arms, just brought that puppet to life; clearly a very talented puppeteer!

Pam's marvellous monologue of Joyce Grenfell on a plane visiting family in America paralleled our own Joyce doing the same around that time. Our Joyce doesn't have a Yorkshire accent, though, except (I am told) after two pints of Newcastle Brown!

We were wowed by the amazing musical talent of Tim and Hazel, who later joined our very gifted and talented Worship group Offbeat for more music and song.

Halfway through the proceedings we wandered, it seemed, into a Geordie nightmare, which had a surreal hypnotic quality about it. After a few goes at rubbing my eyes, I concluded that what I was seeing really was happening and, more importantly, it was continuing.

The ladies of the Pilgrim Drama group treated us to some synchronised swimming. As the ladies walked down to the front to perform wearing their towels, I held my breath, as I thought if a towel accidentally drops, we could lose the entire cast of the Grumpies!

Tim treated us to his holiday snaps - this was much funnier than it sounds.

The curtain of halftime pulled a metaphorical veil over proceedings and we all queued up for FREE ICE CREAM!

The brain freeze helped dull the sensation of certain acts I had witnessed and the anticipation of certain acts yet to come.

Gill and Mike opened the second half with a wonderful nostalgic sketch of times gone by. This sketch was brilliantly written by Gill's father, and the period characters were executed perfectly by Mike, Gill and Sylvia. It also gave us a window on the Powell relationship and their date nights!



In the second act there was Tim again this time with his comedy sidekick Mike, delivering their comedic wit with the usual accurate..... timing.

The audience were led in singing by Hazel, Carolyn, her sister (who was an international artiste flown in especially from the United States) and Charlotte.

Then there was the 'pièce de résistance' a delightful display of the most graceful ballet dancers led by a very elegant well-spoken French ballet mistress; whose grasp of the French language was a delight to the 'oreilles'. The arm and leg movements of each of the five ballet positions were exquisitely performed. A sight for sore eyes! The best act so far.

Dawn and Carolyn entertained us with their purrrfect rendition of the Cats chorus. Coincidentally Dawn has suffered with laryngitis ever since, but she could give Catwoman a run for her money.

Then Jubilate rounded off the whole show with some songs old and new. Consider yourself.... lucky you weren't standing next to John Carr.

The show was designed as a fundraiser for Church funds but ended up being a most wonderful, talented, creative and enjoyable afternoon that will live in the memory of all those who were fortunate enough to be able to attend.

Special thank you to Romy whose idea it was and saw it through to fruition. And, to the Cooper family without whom there wouldn't have been a show to see.

In the interests of balanced reporting, we have to question whether Adam's insight is completely impartial! The Eds.



**"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone."
Shannon L. Alder**

SUDOKU

	3		1			6		8
9	7							5
	6		4	9		1		
8	5	3	9	6			1	4
1	4			3	7	2	8	9
		2		5	9		7	
3							6	1
6		7			4		5	

CONNECTING WALL

**Can you work out the connections
to get four rows of four connected words?**

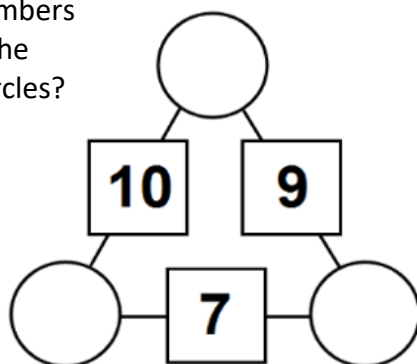
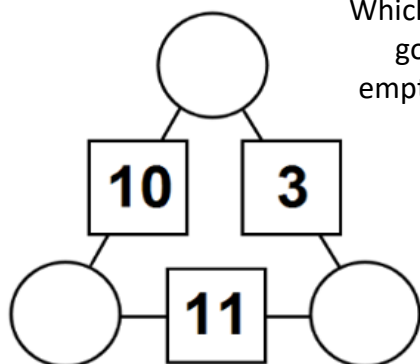
Central	Bareback	Maltese	Circle
English	Red	Southern	Jumping
Western	Victoria	Pacific	District
Jubilee	Northern	Mountain	Eastern

TRY YOUR HAND WITH THIS TRICKY (BUT FUN) WORDSEARCH

E	I	S	R	E	M	R	O	F	S	N	A	R	T	TITANIC
S	E	E	A	C	I	S	U	S	E	E	A	I	N	GLADIATOR
A	B	M	R	R	V	A	E	D	A	W	U	H	A	ROCKY
E	R	R	M	N	A	W	E	O	M	T	F	O	C	ALIEN
R	A	A	A	E	G	L	A	D	I	A	T	O	R	GREASE
G	V	T	G	J	A	W	S	T	M	O	V	J	H	BRAVEHEART
L	E	W	E	J	E	T	A	E	N	L	N	U	A	EVITA
W	H	I	D	I	J	N	A	M	U	J	V	N	N	TWILIGHT
O	E	L	D	A	I	S	E	V	E	N	D	O	C	SAW
O	A	I	O	C	N	E	M	H	C	T	A	W	O	ARMAGEDDON
E	R	G	N	E	A	A	T	I	V	E	A	O	C	TRANSFORMERS
E	T	H	H	C	N	E	I	L	A	E	R	C	K	WATCHMEN
T	W	T	C	Y	K	C	O	R	U	E	U	W	H	HANCOCK
B	O	L	S	N	A	I	E	I	O	J	M	A	A	SEVEN
														JUMANJI
														JUNO
														JAWS

Triangle Arithmagons

Which numbers
go in the
empty circles?



Numbers in square boxes are made by adding together the numbers in the circles either side. But be careful - numbers must also add up on the other edges!

JC's LITTLE NUGGETS

Lest We Forget

April 30 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the death of Adolf Hitler. You may ask why we should remember this? Simply because we must never forget the horrors of war and the pain that comes from conflict and persecution.

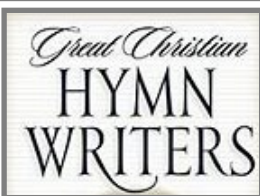
Currently, there are 45 neo-Nazi groups known to the UK authorities and fascism and racism across the world seems to be on the rise, but in subtle ways that aren't often recognised. The Bishop of Truro has issued a report about Christian persecution which can be read here:

<https://christianpersecutionreview.org.uk/report/>



Please keep in your prayers those Christians who over the years have defied people like Hitler and who now are fighting persecution of all the Abrahamic faiths each day. We must be careful in the current pandemic not to forget that the world also has other troubles.

John Carr



Edmond Louis Budry

Edmond Louis Budry was born in Vevey, Switzerland, on August 30, 1854. He is most famous for writing the lyrics to the hymn "Thine be the



Glory" which he set to music from Judas Maccabeus by Handel. He originally gave the hymn the title "A toi la Gloire".

It is reported that he was inspired to write the hymn after the death of his first wife, Marie de Vayenborg, in Lausanne. The hymn is based on the Resurrection and uses elements of Isaiah 25:8 - *He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.*

The hymn was first translated into English by Richard B. Hoyle in 1923, after Budry granted authorisation to reproduce it from the French version.

Budry was a pastor at Cully and Sainte-Croix and then pastor of the Free Church in Vevey for 35 years. He retired in 1923 and died in Vevey in 1932.



FUNDRAISING

Update



TARGET
£11,000

Fortunately, we were able to hold two fundraising events before the social distancing proposals came into force.

TO DATE
£5,230.73

We have to accept now that our target is at risk as any planned events for the foreseeable future are either cancelled or postponed.

We hope and pray that these strange times will end soon and we can again focus on being more social and friendly and raising money to boot!

RECENT SUCCESS STORIES:

Variety Show £1250.00

Bells Concert £421

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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



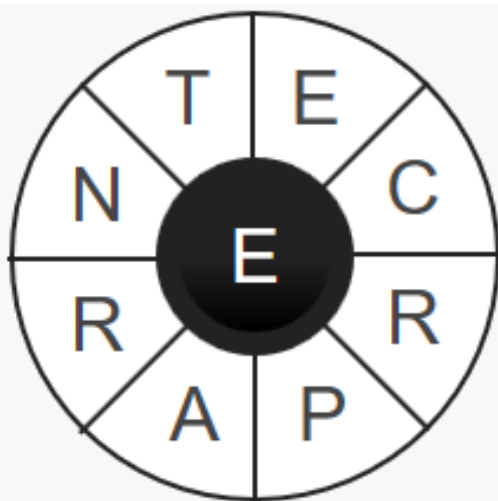
Coronavirus

This is an occasion for all of us – especially in families – to pray more intensely for each other and especially for those who have succumbed to the coronavirus illness.

We should pray also for those at the frontlines – especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers, including clergy – that the Lord will protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all.

OFFERTORIES

23 February	£432.87	8 March	£416.81
1 March	£738.87	15 March	£247.03
<i>Thank you for all you give - both financially and with service</i> <i>Please remember to Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer</i>			



WORDWHEEL

How many words of three letters or more can you make from the letters in the wheel?

All words must include the middle letter and proper nouns are not permitted.

Can you find the 9-letter word?

TARGET: 144 words



Offington Park has received a personal letter of thanks for supporting the **Love in a Box** campaign again in 2019, enclosing a certificate of appreciation which can be seen on the main notice board.

Over 30,000 Christmas boxes were distributed in 2019 to disadvantaged children in Moldova, and over 1m have been distributed over the 26 years that Mustard Seed has been running the Love in a Box project. These children would not have had any Christmas presents without the kind and generous support of churches such as ours. So, if you filled a box or contributed financially or in any other way to our donation of boxes, a big thank you.

But let's remember that Love in a Box, although it happens for Christmas, isn't just a Christmas event. As their project manager, Michael, explains:

Love in a box starts in June each year, when letters are sent to supporters asking if they are again willing to contribute and, if so, how many leaflets are needed.

We ask for replies by the end of July to start planning collection dates, but this never happens! We only have a short time to collect boxes - the four weeks of November - in order to get them delivered in time. Collection dates are notified to supporters with the leaflets at the beginning of September and normally by the end of that month we are ready to roll. October is all about warehouse preparation, drumming up the usual band of loyal volunteers, hiring vans and the like.

In November, we have three vans out collecting every day in an area stretching from the Midlands down to the southern extremities of the UK. Every day at the warehouse there is a constant stream of boxes to check and repack onto the lorries.

After a final check that no collections were missed, the last box is loaded onto the last lorry and we can relax - for a few weeks, anyway!

30,000 boxes: 30,000 smiles!

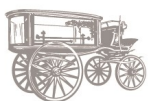


**The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.**



**Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Psalms 23



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NEXT EDITION

Copy Deadline

Publication Date

Wednesday 15 April

Sunday 26 April

Please submit material for the next edition
to the Editors at:

offingtonspotlight@gmail.com

A man was going through the pockets of an old coat when he found a ticket from a local shoe repair shop. By the date on the ticket he saw it was eleven years old. He couldn't remember ever leaving the shoes in for repair, but wondered if they would still be there after all this time.

Curious, he visited the shoe repair shop and, with a straight face, handed the ticket to the assistant behind the counter.

The assistant looked at the ticket and, with an equally straight face, said, "Just a minute. I'll have to look for these". Then he disappeared into the back of the shop.

About two minutes later, the assistant called from the back of the shop, "Here they are! I've found them!"

"Really?", said the man. I didn't think they'd still be here after all these years".

The assistant came back to the counter empty-handed and gave the man back his ticket. "They'll be ready Thursday". he said.



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