

# *St. Peter's Ardingly*

## **Parish Magazine**

**July 2020**



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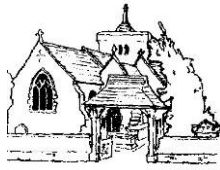


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A community project managed by St Peter's Church

Visit our web site [www.ardinglychurch.org.uk](http://www.ardinglychurch.org.uk)



## **St Peter's Church, Ardingly**

### **Who's Who at St Peter's**

Rector	Revd John Crutchley	892332
Associate Priest	Revd Chris Sutton	07903 068366
Readers	John Witherington	892277
	Philip Kelly	892540
Wardens	Nigel Cheater	892769
	John Witherington	892277
Secretary to the PCC	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Treasurer	Jean Jeffery	440979
Music Coordinator	Sue Laker	892117
Organist	Jill Veasey	892442
Safeguarding Coordinator	Caroline Steer	892108
Church Centre Manager	Jill Veasey	892442
Church Centre Bookings	Carol Grossman	416707
Magazine Editor	Sue Laker	892117
Pastoral Care Authorised	Kathy James	891047
Lay Ministers	Sue Laker	892117

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**All services are currently suspended  
but the church is open Thursdays and Sundays for private prayer  
between 10am and 6pm**

***Parish Magazine note: Normally we would have a joint magazine for July/August but this year there will be a separate magazine for August.***

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



An email 'pinged' into my inbox this morning reminding me that this week is Loneliness Awareness Week [15<sup>th</sup> – 20th June 2020]. As the authors of the email reminded me, amidst the continuing coronavirus lockdown this is more topical than ever. But even before the lockdown, loneliness was a profoundly serious issue. When we think of the lonely our thoughts perhaps instinctively turn towards that older person, now living on their own. But in truth, anyone can feel lonely and at any age; even when surrounded by people, and even when they have many friends or acquaintances. The sad truth is that loneliness is a much broader problem than we may often realise or appreciate.

As a part of the gradual easing of the coronavirus lockdown the Government recently announced that single adults who are living alone could form a 'support bubble' with one other household. This has come as a welcome blessing for many who have shared with me the joy of being able to see family members again for the first time in months. For my part, I'm looking forward to seeing my eldest son for the first time since February other than via Zoom. But for many who are still shielding and isolating the challenge of loneliness continues and for others loneliness is a part of their life - lockdown or not - and this should be a cause for concern for us all, particularly given research that suggests that there are established links between loneliness and health status and that loneliness and social isolation can increase mortality risk quite substantially.

During the lockdown many of us have made much greater efforts than ever before to be in touch with those we know who are alone, as well as with those others who perhaps we didn't previously know at all. The telephone has been rediscovered and new ways of gathering have been found. I know of someone who has really appreciated that gentle, passing 'tap' on the window, that has reminded them that they are not alone, that there are others right by them. But as the lockdown restrictions are further eased and as life for many resumes some sort of pre-virus normality there needs to be increased awareness from us all for those around us who may still be struggling with loneliness.

Quite interestingly, the Bible doesn't say anything directly about loneliness. However, loneliness often occurs in the lives of those we read about in the scriptures. King David spoke of his loneliness and of his longing to be connected to God: "Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted" he said (Psalm 25: 16). And Jeremiah, a prophet who faced enormous struggles as he tried to deliver the message given to him by God for the people of Israel, cried out to God in his anguish and through his tears: "I never sat in the company of revellers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me" (Jeremiah 15: 17). Even Jesus knew the desolation of loneliness, at his crucifixion, and when he was deserted by his friends and subjected to the mockery and scorn of the crowds: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Mark 15: 34). Personally, I have always found reading or listening to scripture a source of huge comfort whenever I may be feeling down or alone and never least because at its foundation, as God's Word, it reminds me of the truth that I am never alone. Take the great words of Psalm 23 as an example; they speak of an absence of fear because 'for you (God) are with me' (Psalm 23: 4). The writer of the psalm then goes on to assure us that to be God's guest is to be more than an acquaintance, invited for a day. It is to live with him forever (Psalm 23: 6). So, when I read scripture or hear it read I am reminded that the truth is that God is faithful and no matter how we feel, no matter how alone we are, he is there offering love that is deeper and richer and more lasting than anything we can even begin to grasp.

It's all about being united with another. As the easing of lockdown continues, we must all relate to and remain close to those who may be lonely, but aware too of those who are lonely but who may be much less obvious to us. And to anyone experiencing loneliness, well, let me encourage you to be connected by speaking out and telling others of your loneliness - please, do be in touch with me if you think I may be able to help (01444 892332). At the very least, we can have a chat.

And if loneliness isn't something that you know for yourself right now, well, one day you may. So, perhaps it is something to give some extra thought to today. What I have learned from my own experience is that being connected with the Lord Jesus means that

we will never be alone and that all of those who seek him will know for themselves the love he has for them, a love that lasts forever. Now, that must be worth at least thinking about.

With my love and prayers,

John



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Nature has provided peace and cheer for many during the lockdown period, which coincided with the breeding season for birds when they seem to become much more daring and tame. This Blackbird visits my backdoor many times each day and certainly knows how to get my attention and therefore a treat! (Sue)



## WARDENS' WORDS

We are pleased to say that from Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June we have been able to partially re-open our church for private prayer and worship. The building will be open on **Sunday and Thursday each week between 10am and 6pm.**

You are very welcome to visit the church during this time. Some areas have been cordoned off for visitor safety and to reduce the amount of cleaning. We ask that you follow the posted guidelines there and maintain the current social distancing. We pray that the church will be a haven of tranquility amid the many challenges of life at the moment and that you will find the peace and comfort you seek.

Until we are able to hold services in church again, we are continuing to post a 'Worship @ Home' service each Sunday on our website. We have also introduced Sunday worship via Zoom. These are being held most Sundays at 10.30am. If you would like to join us, please email [HomeWorship@ardinglychurch.net](mailto:HomeWorship@ardinglychurch.net) for login details.

Throughout the week the Rector, together with others in our leadership team, will be praying each day for our village, country and the world. So, please email any prayer requests you may have to the Rector at: [HomeWorship@ardinglychurch.net](mailto:HomeWorship@ardinglychurch.net).

Whilst the restrictions are in place the following resources may be of assistance to you: Each day the Church of England offers daily prayers online at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Or if you prefer just a single prayer for the day, this can be accessed at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer/todays-prayer>

And all Church of England services of Daily Prayer are available in both contemporary and traditional forms and for all times of day as a 'prayer app' – just search 'Daily Prayer' and download for free in either Apple or Google Play.

We are called to pray for and to serve EVERYONE in this village. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you think that we can be of any assistance to you or anyone locally you know.

John and Nigel

## **What's in your cup?**

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.



Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me!!"

*Wrong answer.*

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

***Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.***

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to take it, until you get rattled.

So we have to ask ourselves ... "what's in my cup?"

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation; and kindness, gentleness and love for others.

What's in your cup?

*(sent in by a reader)*

# NEWS FROM HEATHER IN TANZANIA

## May 2020



Dear friends,

I have started and restarted this newsletter, but the situation changes almost daily and since I last saw you in the UK, as you all know, the entire world has been taken over by events out of all human control with COVID-19. So much information, fact and an overload of "fake news". Emotions are ranging from panic, fear and great sorrow to heart-warming stories of selfless kindness! It is such an insane time in our lives and is honestly all rather overwhelming.

### Home leave

I thank God for the most encouraging and rewarding time spent visiting my supporters and link churches in the UK. It was fabulous visiting friends, old and new, forging new links, and having the opportunity to share the Rehema story. The timing couldn't have been more perfect. My contemporaries starting home leave after me are not so lucky as they entered a very different United Kingdom, where churches have shut their doors to contain the spread of the virus.

### Generosity of spirit

When I left Tanzania at the beginning of October, I had multiple gifts thrust at me to somehow squeeze into my already bulging baggage. The Rehema women had, with great love and out of their own limited resources, made gifts for my whole family. Shorts for my brother, nephews and brother-in-law, a doll for my niece and placemats for my sister. My family were astounded, my sister was in tears – how could these women they had never met, who come from such marginalised backgrounds, give them such generous gifts? They were humbled and learned a valuable lesson about the gift of giving.

### Where in the world?

On 1 March I arrived in South Africa to spend some time with family and friends before returning to Tanzania at the beginning of April. A national state of emergency was declared in South Africa by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 15 March. The next day CMS suggested I deploy to Tanzania within 48 hours if my work permit



and residence visa had been approved – they hadn't. In fact, I had discovered a couple of days earlier that they had not even started processing the paperwork, so I had a choice of remaining in South Africa or quickly returning to the UK, as borders were closing. I chose to remain in a "locked down" South Africa with family and I have a tourist visa which expires 30 May 2020.

### Challenging times

Unfortunately, I don't have good news to report from the project. Due to the coronavirus, the volunteer groups that were travelling to Musoma have cancelled their trips. The foreign nationals who live in Musoma have all left – instructed to return "home" by their organisations. The heart-breaking reality is that without these customers we have no choice but to close the business at least until the end of June, when the situation will be reviewed, but probably for longer. Please pray for us all. When I told the women this devastating news, they told me not to worry, God would provide. They humble me! Fortunately, we were able to pay the wages at the end of March and have enough money to pay wages in April as well. From donations raised whilst I was in the UK, I have funds available to buy basic food parcels for those who need them and hopefully pay for medical treatment as required.

These are exceptional times. I don't want the ladies to be without a wage and without hope of an income, but as a project we simply cannot afford to continue to pay their wages every month, especially if the indications are that this might only "right" itself in 2021. To give the women hope and the chance of survival, I hope to be able to give a small investment to each of the women to enable them to start a business or somehow be resourceful in providing for themselves and their families.



At the time of writing the number of reported COVID-19 cases in Tanzania is 21. We pray earnestly for Tanzania, which reportedly has one of the poorest healthcare systems in the world. Social distancing and isolating for people that live so near to one another, sharing every part of their lives, from mattresses to latrines to water supply, is almost an impossibility. Many people in Musoma have limited access to clean water and no access to hand sanitiser, so keeping hands scrupulously clean will be a challenge. So many people live in extreme poverty and cannot afford to stock up on supplies or stay at home as many of us have been asked to do.

### Hope

The world has been brought to its knees with COVID-19 and I pray that while we are on our knees, we seek mercy from our living and loving God. He alone can bring us real and lasting hope.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Mungu awabariki. God bless you all.  
Heather

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## Clap for the NHS on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July

We are all being encouraged to celebrate the NHS's 72nd birthday and thank key workers for their support during the coronavirus pandemic with a nationwide clap on 5<sup>th</sup> July.



NHS England boss Sir Simon Stevens and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby are among the influential figures supporting the initiative, which would make 5<sup>th</sup> July an official day to pay tribute.

Dutch-born Clap for Carers founder Ms Annemarie Plas was credited with starting the nationwide applause for NHS staff and key workers, and she has called for it to be replaced by an annual event, uniting everyone countrywide in a big "Thank you".

## St Peter's C.E. Primary School



Staff and pupils alike looked forward to the end of half term and the reopening of our school. For some pupils, this meant they were actually returning to classes, able to see their friends and learn with their teachers and teaching assistants. Others remained at home, unable to come back into school but still learning at a distance.

All those who were able to come back to school came back to their normal surroundings but with some marked differences! A one way system around the school, separate play areas for each class and lunch in the classrooms are just some of the changes that everyone is getting used to. Safety and welfare have always been paramount in the school and this is even more true in the current situation.

With the help of all the staff in the school, the children have acclimatised very quickly and are enjoying every day as much as ever. Seeing Mr Savage on the television screen for a virtual assembly every day has been quite a novelty but even that has become normal!!

Care for the pupils unable to come back to school has continued, with lessons being uploaded onto the website on a regular basis. Links with staff are always important and the school is continuing to maintain these as far as possible. We long to have all of our pupils back with us, enjoying their days at school, but until we can all be together, we think of all our families and pray for you all. Keep well and stay safe.

Kathy James

**T**here was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer. When asked to define "great" he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level. Stuff that will make them scream, cry, and howl in pain and anger!"

He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.

## TRAVELLERS' TALES Part 3

*(This is the concluding story of Jill and Mike Veasey's 5 weeks of travelling in Sri Lanka, Australia and New Zealand, told by Jill)*

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February, Sydney: Today started very early – my phone alarm duly went off at 5am. A taxi delivered us to the airport and we were checked in by 7am. After a much needed coffee and some Duty Free shopping – gin and red wine for our New Zealand hosts (honest!) we flew, somewhat later than expected, to Wellington in New Zealand. Yet another delay as only half the bags from our flight arrived. The rest came half an hour later!! Then, because of virus fears, more queuing to be screened etc before we could pick up our car.

Having discovered how to start it (!) we drove for about an hour to Martinborough and met our hosts – friends of Mike's daughter – and were treated to a lively dinner – much appreciated!

The next day, having got organised in our little chalet in the garden, we set off to find the local Sunday Farmers' Market – very rural, with lots of stalls (and good doughnuts!) and produce of all kinds. We munched our way round and bought a bottle of wine to take on to our next host, Ann, then set out due South to Lake Ferry. This was really wild and not very populated, but boasted a hotel which provided our lunch. We then found a really quiet valley where we walked and went back to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> childhood and dammed a little stream!

Our hosts, Di and Dean, had a business in Martinborough, which



included hiring out electric scooters for folk to travel around the local vineyards etc. We, of course, went into town on them the next day and generally explored the area and all it could offer shoppingwise etc. Needless to say, this involved eating and sampling the delights of the old fashioned sweetshop. They had sherbert lemons!!

We drove further afield and found lovely scenery along very quiet roads, till we arrived back for a G & T with Di before packing, in readiness for the next day.

3<sup>rd</sup> March: We drove up to Taupo, which is in the centre of North Island, and where Ann, an old friend who played hockey with me in Hong Kong, now lives. The journey was painless and we stopped here and there to admire Woodville (an old gold mining town). We had a minor panic near Napier when petrol was needed, but BP to the rescue ...

After a lovely drive inland over mountain roads we eventually found Ann's house and there was a lot of chat and catching up, in between throwing the tennis ball for Scooby (dog) to fetch!

As we left in the morning we had the first rain of our trip! We stopped at a thermal area for coffee, but the heavens opened so we went on and explored the Okhere Falls. From there we drove on and arrived at Tauranga to stay with Keith and Margaret, more Hong Kong friends of mine, who live in a retirement village. We walked, had a swim, went to a chapel service and did a lot of talking, eating and drinking!



During our stay we walked round Mount Maungatapu in the sunshine, explored the Maclaren Falls and took our hosts out to a very nice fish restaurant as a thank you, and really enjoyed the open air and lovely scenery.

One evening we went to visit family friends, Gael and Graham, who also live in Tauranga and they have the best view of all from their balcony. I don't think I would ever do any work if I lived there!



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>: Our last day. We drove to Auckland via a mining town, Waikihore, and explored a walking route in the Karangake Gorge. Beautiful! The route to Auckland was easy, but much busier than anywhere else in New Zealand. The normal traffic is rather like over here in lockdown.

We returned the car and checked in for our 17 hour flight to Dubai, which was followed by 7 hours to Gatwick. It seemed to go on for ever! At Gatwick we had the excitement of our taxi being hit by a car, whose driver (we reckon) thought he was still in France!!

Looking back over our travels, we can see how its timing was perfect as regards the coronavirus, and we thank God for that. There were no real problems and it all went very smoothly. When will the next trip be? Who knows?!

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## **The Serenity Prayer**

God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

*(prayer attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr, 1892-1971)*

## **CARRY ON - VOLUNTEERING**

The corona virus catastrophe has brought out the best in us. Immediately the lockdown started notes were slipped through the doors of people who had been instructed to self-isolate. They were from younger, able-bodied individuals, who were taking the initiative to identify vulnerable neighbours and make arrangements to help them during their self-isolation. It demonstrates that there is a massive amount of goodwill in the community for volunteering to help others.

This spirit has been tapped for the last 37 years by Cuckfield and Lindfield Rotary. In the beginning a bunch of 43 year-olds got together and started out to make a difference in the community. Over the years they have raised close to half a million pounds for local causes and for their international projects. They have also done some serious practical work for local mental health care and other establishments. They major in challenging youth from reading assistance in primary schools to teenage competitions and sponsoring candidates for leadership courses.

The great thing is that all this is done with friends, and so it is a lot of fun too. Not only that, but the same things are being done with like-minded people all over the world, 1.2 million of them. Take the campaign to rid the world of polio. This was an initiative by Rotary, who prodded the World Health Organisation into action, then got the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to contribute matched funding. It has taken a long time, but the job is nearly finished with only a handful of cases left in just two countries.

Back in the here and now, Rotary in Cuckfield & Lindfield has remained strong, currently with 43 members. New people join us every year and, as the members who started it are now CV19 vulnerable aged, a younger team has taken over the running and is full of ideas for the future.

During the last twelve months we have made 22 donations, totalling over £30,000. Large ones went to the local hospices and mental hospital. Many donations were made to a wide range of smaller causes which fall through the cracks of official funding, including responding to desperate needs caused by CV19.



Also, in Haiti, we are directly supporting a school and orphanage. We pay the salary of a school teacher every year and we are currently building a library and IT facility for them.

If you find that you enjoy volunteering, why not join with a well-organised, fun-loving bunch of others in your area. We have now also started a Satellite Club for those with less time which meets on social media as well as physically. Or we have the traditional style of club which meets (when permitted) regularly with a meal and speaker. The choice is yours. **Email us on [RCCL@gmx.com](mailto:RCCL@gmx.com) and we will come and chat with you about it.**

George Ruse

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### **FSW June update**

Practitioners have got used to a new way of working with families, but are also thinking ahead to what might change as and when the lockdown rules change.

They have been keeping up with all of their families via phone and Zoom, making deliveries of food and other items and keeping motivated as a team with regular Zoom meetings. As some children have been able to return to school, there has been some anxiety about what is best to do and our practitioners have been particularly focused on making sure that each family is supported to make the right decision for them.

Many of you will be aware that we have been supported by the Mothers' Union for the past fortnight, who have taken on the task of collecting donations for our foodbank now that our support from the building company has finished. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of MU members and are receiving a van load of donations every week. Thank you to everybody who has supported us in this way and is continuing to do so.

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing





# PRISON FELLOWSHIP



## Prisoner's Lament

How deserted lie the landings, the gym and recreation areas,  
once so full of people!

How still she now is,  
whose corridors once flowed with the energy of life.

Bitterly she weeps at night,  
tears are on her cheeks.  
there is no one to comfort her.

No visitors enter her doors – no wife, no husband, no children  
to soften the harsh walls with their love and comforting smiles.

Even the chore of our simple labour is missed,  
The humble tasks which hid the ticking clock for just a few hours  
have gone.

Pride in a job well done is overtaken in the midst of distress.

23 hours of the same. 23 hours only in my head. 23 hours in these  
four walls.

My prayers bounce back from the cell ceiling  
like sand on a pyramid's mighty wall.

Are you there, God? Have you deserted me?

Have you finally turned your face from me and left me to languish  
here?

My body aches and groans from my confinement,  
Oh how I wish to run, to stretch and to feel fresh air against my  
face,

But I sit. I just sit.

This invisible enemy has taken the remnant of humanity left to me  
in this place.

Even the food consumed in this cell is a reminder  
of the trace of civility of past meals taken together.

The clanging doors, once grim reminders of imprisonment are  
stilled.

But closed.

This is why I weep  
and my eyes overflow with tears.

No one is near to comfort me,  
no one to restore my spirit.

My family are sorrowful – exiled from me  
this sickness steals the very fabric of connection with those I  
love – contact.

Despite this.

God, I think you are still there.

I believe that you care.

Father have mercy,  
Take this burden from around my neck,  
Open the windows of heaven and pour out your love.

Please be my comfort when no one else is near,  
Restore my spirit and do not let me be crushed,  
Look upon my suffering and comfort me.

Wipe my eyes, strengthen my bones and lift my heart  
so that I may praise you again.

*This Lament was written by Prison Fellowship CEO, Peter Holloway, loosely based on Lamentations 1 in the Bible. It is informed by the current situation in prisons where, in an attempt to keep the coronavirus from spreading rapidly, men and women are currently confined to their cells for 23 hours a day on average; most work, education and social activities are suspended and all outside visits have stopped.*

## Not so seriously ...



Have you heard that Snow White is down to 6 dwarfs?

Yes, Sneezy is in quarantine.

Why do ants never get ill?

Because they have ant-i-bodies

Is a kangaroo able to jump higher than the Eiffel tower?

Of course. The Eiffel can't jump.

What is the best way to tell if a snake is a baby or adult snake?

The baby snake has a rattle

Being the office supervisor, I had to have a word with a new employee who never arrived at work on time.

I explained that her lack of punctuality was unacceptable and that other employees had noticed that she was walking in late every day. After listening to my complaints, she agreed that this was a problem and even offered a solution.

"Is there another door I could use?"



## **TEARFUND bringing light in the darkness in Tanzania**

Joyce and Lamec used to fear for the future of their grandchildren. And for their safety. Sasajila, their village in Manyoni district in rural Tanzania, had no electricity. The power lines which ran high above them supplied electricity to nearby cities.

No power meant no light. And being near to the equator, there are consistently 12 hours of darkness every day from around 6pm. The alternative to darkness was to use candles, charcoal or kerosene lamps – all expensive and a huge risk in their dry, wood-framed and thatched-roofed homes. So when the sun set on Joyce and Lamec's home – where they live with their children, grandchildren and extended family – almost everything stopped. No light meant no cooking, no time to sew or make things to sell, and no opportunity for children to read or do their homework.

And while they slept other dangers emerged... Thieves might come and steal their chickens and goats. Natural hazards such as hyenas, leopards, lions and scorpions would also emerge. So the safest place was at home in the dark.

But, of course, alongside the 12 hours of darkness there are also 12 hours of (usually) consistent sunshine. This provides a clean, natural energy source that could be tapped into. So Tearfund's partners, working with the local diocese, introduced its solar light scheme. Group members save up to pay for half of the cost of a



solar lighting system. When they have done this, they are given a solar panel, lamp and battery so they can start to enjoy the benefits of light at night and electricity all day. Then, as their income and opportunities start to increase, they continue to pay back the cost of the light.

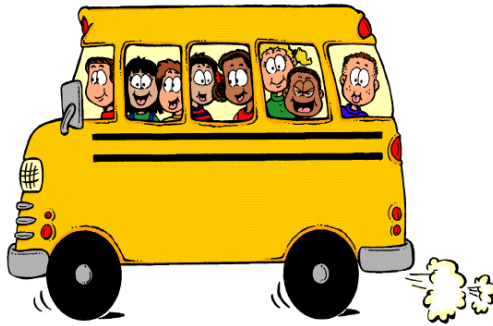
Joyce and Lamec, their family and their community are enjoying all the benefits of the solar lighting system: they can now work in the evenings and prepare food.

The children can study and read at night and their grades have improved at school. Nocturnal animals and scorpions are deterred by the light, so the family are feeling much safer. And the church has lights now as well, and services can be held at night. "It's so much better than using a torch!"



*(taken from TEAR TIMES)*

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A kindly coach driver called Ray  
Took a whole congregation away  
To a brewer's convention,  
Which was not their intention,  
But Satnavs, like sheep, go astray

*(by Rosemary Clemo)*

## **SAMARA'S AID – NEW FARMING PROJECT:**



Our team in Syria is now dealing with the paperwork for almost two and a half hectares of land. We hope it will be finalised in the next few weeks, after which we are planning to start a farming project growing wheat for the local community there. Please could I encourage you to pray for this process? The field is smaller than we hoped, but was a brilliant opportunity in a very fertile, well-watered area, as you can see from the photo above. We intend to use this fruitful land, while also searching for more, to plant this essential, life-sustaining winter crop this Autumn. It will create employment as well as providing the most essential food for people in the community.

In recent weeks and months, we have become increasingly concerned about Syria's reliance on imported foreign wheat, which accounts for 50% of their national wheat consumption, yet bread is their most important staple food. Especially for the poorest who may not have gas to cook other carbohydrates. After their main wheat supplier, Russia, announced they had reached their quota for wheat exports for the year and would stop exporting in May, coupled with the UN's World Food Programme warning that many countries, including Syria, will face famines of 'biblical proportions' because of disruptions to the food supply chain caused by the Covid-19 crisis, we prayed and felt we should act quickly.

It has been on our hearts for more than nine months to start a farming project, but I am always cautious about how many demanding projects we have at one time, especially those of a new nature. In the end, the clear risk and need has driven this project forward quickly with a sense of urgency. The Syrian people are so vulnerable, in far too many ways, and this is one thing we *can* do to create and support a level of self-sufficiency for the community.

Based on local productivity figures, this land should yield over nine tonnes of wheat next year. In the bigger scheme of things, this is a small amount, but we also hope to take on another similar sized plot. We also hope that by implementing what we have learned through our research of farming wheat, we can improve on this yield through using the correct inputs of fertilisers and herbicides and using evidence-based planting and farming methods which, according to the current research, many farmers in Syria have been unable to utilise effectively for maximum benefit over recent years.

Wheat is the equivalent of 'nutritional gold' for the Syrian people, especially if the international threats become a reality. We don't want to watch this potential crisis unfold without doing everything we can to be prepared. For many Syrian farmers, wheat is not the most profitable crop. But its importance makes it a strategic crop which therefore brings many restrictions on it, which is why we are keen to support local growing of this essential, life-sustaining food source for the local community we are serving.

Samara

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## **PUZZLE CORNER**

How many words of 4 letters or more can you make from the following word?

### ***LEVITICUS***

What is the longest word you can make?

It's possible to make over 50 words. There are several with 5 letters, a handful with 6 and at least 1 with 7 letters!



## AROUND THE VILLAGE

Things are slowly changing as lockdown eases ...

### Wakehurst

The lovely gardens at Wakehurst are now open to a limited number of people each day but you have to book a time slot online. This is for safety reasons - to stagger the entry flow, reduce queues and limit the numbers of visitors to the gardens. (People who have not booked a time slot will be turned away.)

### Ardingly Reservoir

The Reservoir seems to have become a hotspot for visitors following the easing of lockdown! Some people, however, have been swimming, boating and jumping into the water, which is not only banned but very dangerous. One hot weekend cars were parked alongside the road all the way from the reservoir turning to the College after the car park became full. A lot of rubbish was also left behind, which had to be cleaned up by kind volunteers. South East Water say that security guards will now be on site to ensure visitors follow the rules and social distancing guidelines.

Hopefully all our village businesses will be able to recover and survive the effects of the pandemic. It was a surprise to many, though, to see that the **Antiques shop** is suddenly standing empty in the middle of June.



*Fields behind Lodgelands  
resplendent with buttercups  
in May*



# Parish Register

There are no entries for the parish register this month.

*God of love and hope,  
you made the world and care for all creation,  
But the world feels strange right now.  
The news is full of stories about the virus.  
Some people are worried that they might get ill.  
Others are anxious for their family and friends.  
Be with them and help them to find peace.  
Thank you that even in these anxious times you are with us.  
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.  
Amen*



## PRAYER DIARY July 2020

*"For there is nothing that God cannot do"*  
(Luke 1 v 37)



1. John and Sally Crutchley and their family
2. Chris Sutton and his interim work in Nuthurst & Mannings Heath
3. Community relations in the USA, UK and across the world
4. Our Prime Minister and all members of Parliament
- 5.** Praise God that we can know Him. Pray for those who don't
6. Countries in Africa, suffering from plagues of locusts
7. Our Parish Council and all who serve on it
8. All who provide food and support to those in need
9. Companies in difficulty following the pandemic. All who are facing redundancy
10. All who work in the NHS. Those striving to find a vaccine
11. Chaplains working in prisons, hospitals & our defence forces
- 12.** Pray for God's presence and blessing in our worship today
13. All who serve God overseas, especially those we know
14. All who are housebound or ill and those who care for them
15. Refugees around the world and those crossing the Channel
16. Praise God for sight and sound and music
17. Police Officers and all who maintain law and order
18. Street pastors and those who patrol Beachy Head
- 19.** "Thy Kingdom come, O Lord". Pray for the church & Ardingly
20. Those who are dying and all who have lost loved ones recently
21. Pray for safety on the streets of our towns and cities
22. All who struggle with mental health or dementia
23. Children who are leaving school this term
24. Village businesses, Wakehurst, the Showground and Reservoir
25. Milan and Shusma and the work of the Aanandit church in Nepal
- 26.** Praise God for His grace and for new life. Pray for all Christians
27. Children whose education is on hold following the pandemic
28. All bishops and clergy. Justin Welby, Martin, Ruth and Will
29. Praise God for the wonders of His creation
30. The children supported by IMARA. Pray for its leaders
31. Praise God that He is with us, and for us, and that He will never change

**The deadline for copy for the August magazine is midday on 25<sup>th</sup> July**